

ABSTRACT

GAYATIN, ALLETTE CLEOFAS. University of the Philippines in the Visayas, April 2012. Fisherfolks' Perceptions of Marine Protected Area Effectiveness in Pandan, Antique: Why it Matters in CRM.

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The fisheries and coastal resources in Pandan Bay are important for coastal communities like Botbot and Idiacacan, whose sustenance, livelihood and stability depend on it. However, these resources are rapidly being degraded and destroyed predominantly due to human activities. Sound management is hindered by poverty and the lack of political will of both the government and the community to enforce the law.

This study presents the fisherfolks' perceptions on Marine Protected Area (MPA) effectiveness. Results show the fisherfolks' awareness of how anthropogenic interventions can affect future conditions of their coastal and marine resources indicates that they are amenable to establish an MPA. Findings reveal majority are aware of the MPA concept and its potential contribution to biodiversity conservation. However, knowledge gaps for both areas are documented, underlining the need for further training, education and capacity building.

It is recommended to exert efforts to establish effective MPA management systems with the active engagement of local communities and other stakeholders, aiming for sustainable, community-based MPA management for people to gain benefits and to foster a sense of ownership. Multiple livelihood strategies may be encouraged as a means to reduce pressures on the marine environment. Likewise, government support in terms of technical, financial and legislations support, is important for MPA sustainability.