

**FIP for Philippine Blue Swimming Crabs
Workplan 2014 2015**

Status of the fishery (As of 07 February 2015)

- There is a need to encourage the implementation of the Joint Administrative Order on BSC Conservation which encompasses minimum size limit, trade of egg-bearing crabs and fishing gear limitations.
- There is a need to address data deficiency.
- There are signs of growth overfishing as indicated by stock minimization in some areas.
- There are incidence of both retained and discarded bycatches.

Considered together, poor management and the impact of overfishing may lead to BSC fishery collapse if no reforms and robust implementation of ordinances are made.

Specific improvement needs for this fishery include: changes in fishing practices (no take of small crabs/juveniles, no take of egg-bearing females), increase the stocks through stock enhancement programs (holding gravid crabs, hatchery program), protect and sustain crab habitat (including protection of nursery ground, spawning area), support research and stock assessment, and last but not the least: robust implementation of the approved JAO on BSC Conservation.

Workplan Summary

The goal of this FIP is to promote sustainable blue swimming crab fishery. The actual work started in 2010 through the support of NFI-USCC and Allfish. Blue swimming crab fishery improvement project is led by the Philippine Association of Crab Processors, Inc. (PACPI).

In the past, PACPI identifies the following as program components: 1) holding gravid crabs in cages or improvised tanks; 2) Protect BSC nursery and launch educational programs; 3) stock enhancement; and 4) support research development and stock assessment.

For 2014 to 2015, PACPI shifted to MSC sustainability criteria as a basis for its activities. These include 1) Stock Status & Data Collection (Example: Stocks Assessments, Harvest Control Strategies, Stock Rebuilding) 2) Fisheries Governance (Example: Fisheries management planning); and 3) Ecosystem Impacts (Example: By catch, ETP species, habitat degradation).

This workplan may be modified after results of the Action Planning workshop with BSC stakeholders in February 2015 is released.

Workplan and Updates

Component	Specific Activity	Deliverables/Expected Output	Responsible Group	Targeted date of completion	Status
Stock Status & Data Collection	SPR testing in Danajon Bay	Training of Enumerators	ECOFISH	June 2014	Completed
		Data Collection	ECOFISH	May 2015	Ongoing
		Presentation of partial results	ECOFISH	October 2014	Completed
		Full Report with Policy Recommendations	ECOFISH	June 2015	-
	Encourage inclusion of BSC as one of the species of focus in National Stock Assessment Program	Present in the Phil. Council for Agriculture and Fisheries Quarterly Meeting	PACPI/BFAR	September 2014	Completed
		Submit Position Paper	PACPI	January 2015	Delayed
		Resolution for inclusion of BSC in NSAP released	BFAR/NFARM C/PCAF	October 2015	-
	BSC included in NSAP studies	BFAR/NSAP	January 2016	-	
Fisheries Governance	Conservation of Blue Swimming Crab	Joint Administrative	BFAR	January 2014	Completed

Component	Specific Activity	Deliverables/Expected Output	Responsible Group	Targeted date of completion	Status
		Order(JAO) on Conservation of BSC published			
		Creation of JAO implementing Committee	BFAR	April 2014	Completed
		Meet and discuss implementation plans for JAO	BFAR	April 2014	Pending
		Adoption of JAO by LGUs	BFAR/PACPI/LGU	December 2015	
		Studies on Livelihood Opportunities for Fishermen in case of fishing closure	BFAR/PACPI	December 2015	
	MSC Pre-Assessment	Stakeholders Meeting and Gap Analysis	PACPI/MRAG	September 2014	Completed
		Draft Pre-assessment report	MRAG	October 2014	Completed
		Stakeholders Comments on Pre-Assessment Report	PACPI/Other Stakeholders	January 2014	Delayed
		Pre-Assessment Report Review and Action Planning	PACPI/MRAG	February 2014	Planned
		Final Pre-	MRAG	April 2015	Planned

Component	Specific Activity	Deliverables/Expected Output	Responsible Group	Targeted date of completion	Status
		Assessment Report			
		Final Action Plan	PACPI	March 2015	Planned
	BSC Management Framework	Draft Concept paper on governance of the BSC in the Visayan Sea	PACPI	June 2015	Ongoing
		Final Concept paper on governance of the BSC in the Visayan Sea	PACPI/BFAR	December 2015	
Ecosystem impacts	Studies on impact of crab fishery on the ecosystem	Investigation on effect of fishery on Irrawady Dolphins and other ETPs completed	PACPI/Academe/BFAR	December 2016	
		Study on impact of existing crab fishing gears completed with recommendations	PACPI/Academe/BFAR		
		Studies on other fishery alternativeS to reduce fishing pressure on BSC Stocks	PACPI/ACADEME/BFAR/SEAFDEC/DOST-PCAAMMRD	December 2016	

Component	Specific Activity	Deliverables/Expected Output	Responsible Group	Targeted date of completion	Status
	Forum for BSC-related Researches and Projects	Call for papers released	PACPI/UPV	May 2015	
		Forum Conducted	PACPI/UPV	December 2015	
		Compendium of studies	PACPI/UPV	January 2015	
Others	Drafting of a proposal for the new funding cycle for submission to NFI	Proposal and Budgetary Outlay	PACPI	March 2015	Planned
	Hatchery Operation	Continue production trials to improve survival from larval to juvenile stages	PACPI	December 2015	
	An Enhancement workshop and tagging training back to back with FIP review will be conducted within the first semester of 2015.	Enhancement procedures/protocols and monitoring tools established.	PACPI	December 2015	
	Philippine National Standards on Pasteurized Blue Swimming Crab	Draft PNS	BAFS	August 2014	Completed
		Consultations conducted	BAFS	June 2015	Ongoing
		Final PNS on BSC	BAFS	December 2015	Ongoing

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		and approved			