

**ASSESSMENT OF AQUACULTURE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
OF FISH CAGE FARMS IN TALISAY, BATANGAS**

THESIS

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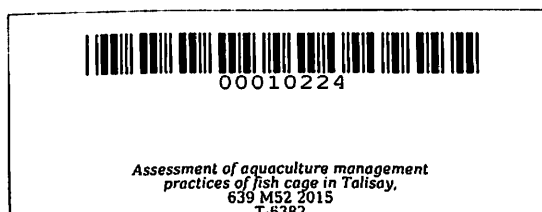
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**Undergraduate Thesis
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ABSTRACT

MENESES, ARMELYN S. Assessment of Aquaculture Management Practices of Fish Cage Farms in Talisay, Batangas. Undergraduate Thesis. Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Engineering. Cavite State University, Indang, Cavite. April 2015. Adviser: Dr. Leyma L. Cero.

The study was conducted in the Municipality of Talisay, Batangas from November 2014 until February 2015 to assess the management practices of fish cage farms in the area. The study generally aimed to describe the site selection, components and layout, design and construction of fish cages; analyze the monthly water quality measurement in 2014 in the area; and to identify the problems encountered by the fish farm operators.

Actual field observations and personal interviews were done to gather information related to the study.

Fish cages in Talisay, Batangas are commonly square and circular in shape and made of bamboo, HDPE, and steel with a size of 10x10x10 m for square cages and 16 m in diameter with 10 m depth for circular cages. The units are modular consisting of four connected square cages or two circular cages. Two species were cultured in the area: tilapia and milkfish. Water quality assessment based on the monthly monitoring of BFAR-4A, IFTOS showed abnormal levels of dissolved oxygen, ammonia, nitrite, and hydrogen sulfide in January, February, November, and December 2014. The major problems encountered by the fish farm operators were fish kill and sulfur upwelling.

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INTRODUCTION

Fish is very important resource of human economically as food, by-products and many other things while aquaculture industry contributes to food security, employment and foreign exchange generation in no small way.

Aquaculture has been developing rapidly over the year. It is now contributing a significant supply of quality food for humanity and is provider of employment and economic benefits to those engaged in this activity especially in Asia. With the increasing population, the supply must also increase to satisfy the needs of consumers. Due to this, man creates structures that can be used to make the production bigger with the use of water-based culture systems such as pens and cages.

Aquaculture in the Philippines is an important part of rural development, poverty alleviation and source of livelihood in rural areas. However, aquaculture activities are not