

AN ASSESSMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCILS (FARMCS) EMPOWERMENT IN
MARIVELES, BATAAN, PHILIPPINES

LILIAN M. GUICO-BONDOC

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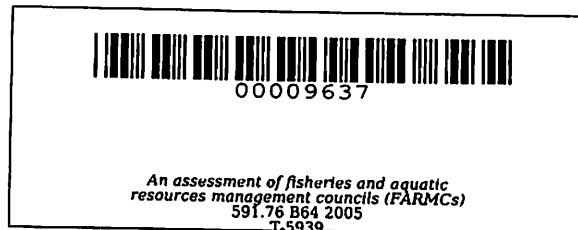
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**AN ASSESSMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT COUNCILS' (FARMCs) EMPOWERMENT IN
MARIVELES, BATAAN, PHILIPPINES**

LILIAN M. GUICO-BONDOC



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ABSTRACT

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December 2005. **An Assessment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management
Councils' (FARMCs) Empowerment in Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines.**

Major Professor: Dr. Federico A. Cruz

This study aims to analyze the dynamics of empowerment of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (FARMCs) in Mariveles. Specifically, it aims to: (1) describe the features of FARMC, establishment, roles/functions, structure, resources, and programs/activities; (2) assess the level, nature, and extent of participation of fisherfolk in the planning, implementation, and monitoring/evaluation of FARMC's activities; (3) analyze the factors that are related/associated to fisherfolk's participation and perceived FARMC's empowerment towards sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources; and (4) identify the problems/constraints encountered by the FARMC with regards to fisheries and aquatic resource management.

The study was conducted in ten coastal barangays in Mariveles, Bataan consisting of 272 fisherfolk. Data gathering includes individual survey, key informants interview, and secondary sources of information. Descriptive and inferential statistics were used in the data analysis.

Findings revealed that majority of the respondents did not participate in BD program and policy development for various reasons. This study concluded that: (1) the FARMC at the barangay level was not empowered and found to be ineffective for it

failed to sustain its own structure and transfer it to the community that would encourage fisherfolk to participate in its various programs and activities; (2) there is significant relationship between the attitude towards FARMC and organizational variables; (3) level and extent of participation in FARMC activities was significantly dependent on the attitude of the fisherfolk towards organization and organizational capacity; and (3) the empowerment of FARMC was significantly dependent on the attitudes towards FARMC, organizational variables (leadership, resources, communication, interactions within FARMC, coordination, and policy), and the level and extent of participation of the fisherfolk in the FARMC program. Hence, it is recommended that FARMC at the barangay level should be activated. This could be done through trainings, seminars, creation of alternative employment opportunities, resource generation (e.g. in-house fund raising campaign or establishment of endowment funds for sustainable management of fisheries and aquatic resources), develop feedback mechanisms especially from officers to the members, and continuous collaboration and synergy among agencies. In addition, full cooperation and support of the different stakeholders especially the fisherfolk is vital for the sustainable fisheries and aquatic resources management.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
AFMA	-	Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act
BBMB	-	Bigkis Bisig ng Mangingisda ng Bataan
BD	-	Bantay Dagat
BEZ	-	Bataan Economic Zone
BEPZ	-	Bataan Export Processing Zone
BFAR	-	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
BFARMC	-	Barangay Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
BOI	-	Board of Investments
BPC	-	Bataan Polyethylene Corporation
CBCRM	-	Community-Based Coastal Resource Management
CRM	-	Coastal Resources Management
CRMP	-	Coastal Resources Management Program
CSCD	-	College of Social Work and Community Development (CSCD)
DA	-	Department of Agriculture
DENR	-	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
DOF	-	Department of Finance
DOST	-	Department of Science and Technology
DTI	-	Department of Trade and Industry
EEZ	-	Exclusive Economic Zone
ELAC	-	Environmental Legal Assistance Center
EO	-	Executive Order
FAO	-	Fisheries Administrative Order
FARMC	-	Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
FCA	-	Fisheries Cooperative Associations
FPE	-	Foundation for Philippine Environment
FRMP	-	Fisheries Resources Management Project
FSP	-	Fisheries Sector Program
GOs	-	Government Organizations
IFAMRC	-	Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
ISO	-	Institute of Social Order
LABRADOR	-	Leyte Samar Rural Development Workers Association Inc.
LFARMC	-	Lakewide Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
LGC	-	Local Government Code
LGUs	-	Local Government Units
MAO	-	Municipal Agriculture Officer
MARINA	-	Maritime Industry Authority
MBEMP/		Manila Bay Environmental Management Project/Technical
TWG-RRR	-	Working Group for Refined Risk Assessment
M/CFARMC	-	Municipal/City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council

MFARMC	-	Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
M-MFARMC	-	Mariveles Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
MO	-	Municipal Ordinance
MOA	-	Memorandum of Agreement
NAMRIA	-	National Mapping Resource Information Authority
NEDA	-	National Economic and Development Agency
NFARMC	-	National Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council
NGA	-	National Government Agencies
NGOs	-	Non-Government Organizations
NIPAS	-	National Integrated Protected Areas System
NSO	-	National Statistics Office
OECF	-	Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund
PD	-	Presidential Decree
PEMSEA	-	Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia
PETROCORP	-	Petrochemicals Corporation of the Philippines
PMC	-	Program Management Center
PNOC	-	Philippine National Oil Company
PNP	-	Philippine National Police
POs	-	People Organizations
PS	-	Private Sector
PWMCI	-	Pinagapugan Women's Multipurpose Cooperative Incorporated
RA	-	Republic Act
REA	-	Resource Ecological Assessment
SAMMAT	-	Samahang Mangdaragat ng Townsite
SB	-	Sangguniang Bayan
SBrgy	-	Sangguniang Barangay
SDK	-	Samahang Damayan ng Kitangero
SMP	-	Samahang Maglalambat ng Pinagapugan
UP-MSI	-	University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
WRI	-	World Resources Institute

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Philippine archipelago is endowed with ecologically diverse and economically important fisheries and aquatic resources such as mangroves, estuarine areas, coral reefs, etc. It has a vast coastline of about 33,900 km with a continental shelf of around 244.5 thousand sq km in the year 2000 and exercises ownership over 679 million sq km of territorial ocean water aside from the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) that covers an area of 293.8 thousand sq km (WRI, 2001 as cited by Francisco and Harder, 2003). These resources are utilized by the municipal, commercial and inland fishing industries, and provide the major source of livelihood for majority of the population living in coastal areas. However, just like in other developing nations, the fishing industry at present is beset with problems. Problems include resource depletion in the coastal zone, widespread environmental damage, low productivity of aquaculture, and limited utilization of offshore and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) waters by the commercial users (Pomeroy and Pido, 1995). These have aggravated the sad plight of the municipal fishermen many of whom resort to the use of destructive fishing methods. Continuous resource degradation is likely to result to poverty among families dependent on these resources.

Several factors are attributed to the continued degradation of fisheries and aquatic resources. According to Carreon (2003), overpopulation and illegal and destructive means of harnessing resources add pressure to an already stressed environment. In