

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON THE STRUCTURAL CHARACTERISTICS, PRODUCTION AND TRADING PRACTICES OF COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATIONS

By

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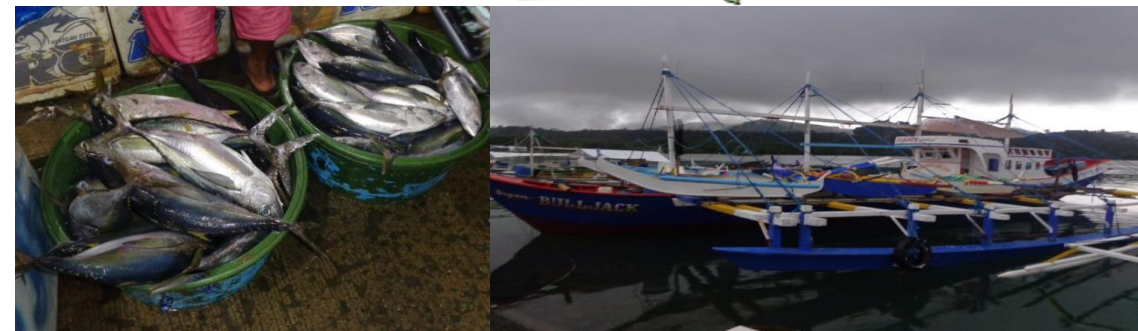
Presented by

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Outline of the Presentation

- I. Background
- II. Methodology
- III. Results and Findings
- IV. Recommendation



Background and Methodology

- **Preparation for the 2022 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries**
- **Marine fish production in Caraga is declining**
- **Regional Statistics Committee (RSC) Resolution No. 3 (S. 2017)**
“PSA to spearhead the conduct of the research on the factors affecting the decline of annual fish production”
- **Focus Group Discussion and Key Informants Interview (Qualitative) and Personal Structured Questionnaire (Quantitative)**
- **3 major Fish Landing Centers: a) Barobo, Surigao del Sur; b) Placer, Surigao del Norte; and c) Bislig City, Surigao del Sur**



Results and Findings

➤ Capacity of the Fishing Boats

- **Some respondents have limited knowledge and understanding about “gross tonnage of the boat”. Some boat owners/operators had a hard time in determining the gross tonnage of their commercial boats.**

"Bisan ug dugay na ko nag hawid ug mga banca pero dili man kaayo mi interesado ana nga panghuna-huna. Amo lang tinan-awan pag daku-daku na gani automatic na nga commercial fishing na gyud na siya."

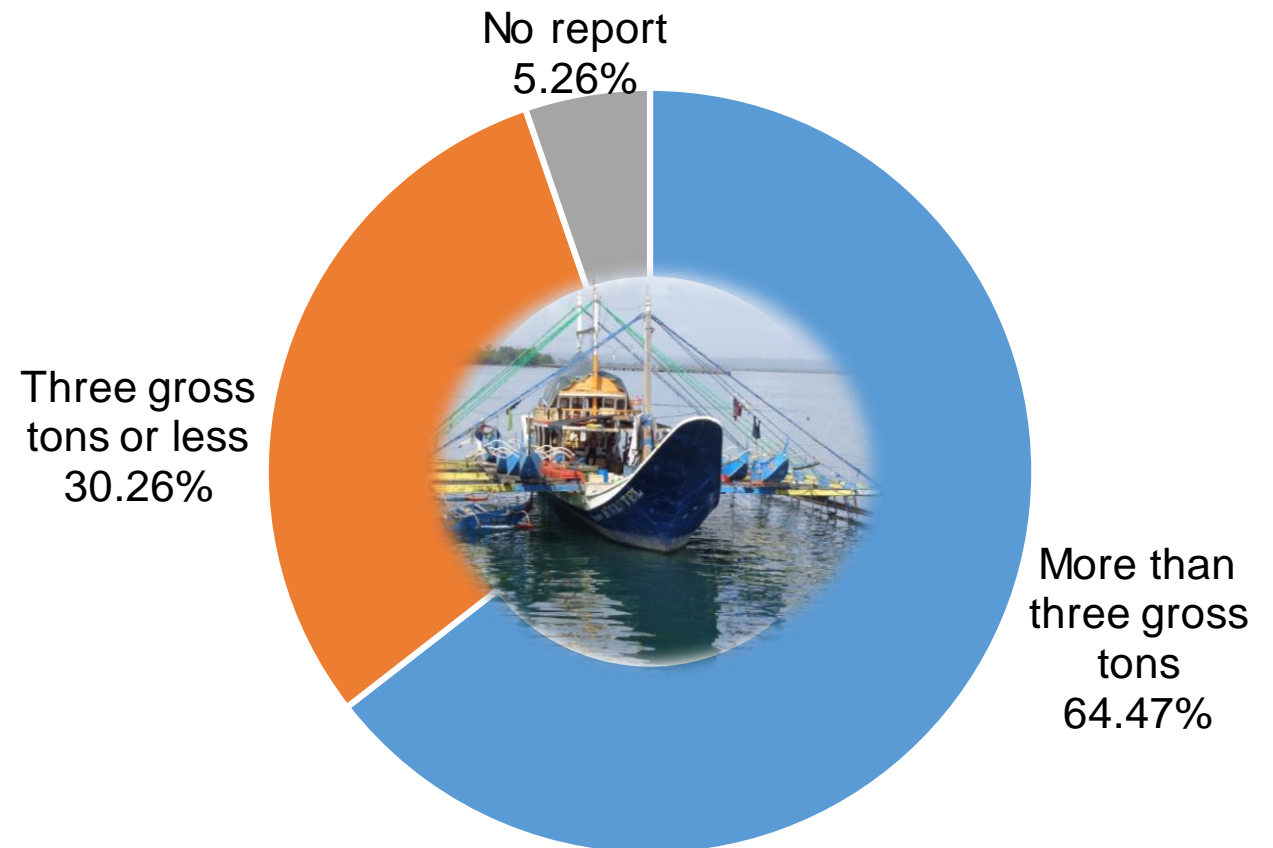
("Even though we're handling fishing boats for some time but we're not interested in its measurement. We determine it by just looking with the boat, when the boat looks bigger then we can automatically say that it engages in commercial fishing.")

-FGD Participant

Results and Findings

➤ Capacity of the Fishing Boats

- There were fishing boats with a capacity of three gross tons or less that have been fishing in commercial waters. These boats are considered municipal fishing boats since these are fishing vessels weighing three gross tons or less.



Results and Findings

➤ Capacity of the Fishing Boats

- Use of “*pakura*” to catch fish near the fish aggregating device or locally known as *payao*. The “*pakura*” are carried by the mother boat and its number depends on the capacity of the mother boat.
- Use of fish aggregating device which is locally known as “*payao*”

➤ Trading Practices

- There was no trading of their fish catch in the middle of the sea. However, some of the respondents shared that if they will find driftwoods with abundant fish species, they will look and bargain these with the fishermen of the big commercial boats.



Results and Findings

➤ Trading Practices

- All operators have their respective buyers or “suki” brokers. In return, the brokers will also cater to the financial needs of their fishing operations and will have a share from the income of the fishing boat.

"Unang-una Ma'am, ang broker kung naay mga kakulian pananglitan, andam gyud na siya mu suporta sa amoa Ma'am. Sa panagat Ma'am sa financial okay, mao gyud nay ampay sa panagat Ma'am".

("First of all Ma'am, the broker is willing to extend their support to us in times of need. In fishing operation, it's very advantageous if they satisfy our financial needs").

-FGD Participant



Results and Findings

- **Factors affecting the decision where to unload their fish catch**
 - Residence/location of the operator, financier, broker, buyer
 - Nearest to the fishing ground; high buying prices
 - Nearest Fish Landing Center (FLC) when the boat engine encountered problems, bad weather condition and need to purchase ice and other goods
 - Limitations of the FLCs, e.g. fishing boats cannot dock and unload their catch alongside a quay during low tide



Results and Findings

➤ Factors affecting the decision where to unload their fish catch

- **Commercial fishing boats preferred to unload their fish catch in General Santos City because of the following:**
 - **Accommodate big volume of fish**
 - **Presence of canning manufacturers**
 - **Medium to large-scale commercial fishing boats are owned by a company in General Santos City**
 - **Offered higher buying prices**



Results and Findings

➤ Factors affecting overall fishing operation

- Financing
- Weather condition (typhoon, LPA, strong winds, hot weather condition)
- Navy/BFAR regulatory
- Earthquake
- Big waves and strong ocean current
- Fuel/oil prices
- Availability of supply and prices of ice
- Illegal fishing
- Engine condition
- Boat condition
- Fishing gear condition



- Prevailing fish prices
- Health condition of the crew esp. boat captain

Recommendations

➤ Regional Line Agencies (DTI, BFAR, DA)

- Conduct feasibility study and market research to encourage commercial fishing boats to unload their catch in the region
- To consider establishing processing centers and implement fishery programs

➤ Local Government Units (LGUs)

- To improve the condition of the Fish Landing Centers managed by LGUs
- To encourage investors to put up fish processing establishments/centers
- To improve the recording system on the volume of fish catch unloading

➤ Private Sectors

- To tie-up with the government sector and be a partner in promoting the potential of the fishery sector in the region



Salamat Karajaw

“Give me a fish and I eat for a day. Teach me to fish and I eat for a lifetime”