

FISHERIES SITUATION January-March 2003

Abstract

The performance of fisheries sector during the first quarter of 2003 improved by 0.44 percent compared to the same quarter last year. Production growth from the commercial and municipal sectors posted 3.64 percent and 0.93 percent, respectively. On the other hand, output from aquaculture dropped by 2.51 percent.

The increment of Eastern Visayas by 17.31 percent and CALABARZON by 16.57 percent was realized as a result of good weather condition during the quarter enabling most fishermen to increase the frequency of their fishing activities.

Production of aquaculture drop by 2.51 percent mainly because some farmers refrained from seaweeds culture due to water pollution, intense heat, ice-ice disease and the seasonal appearance of siganid that destroyed the seedlings.

Of the total fisheries sector, commercial fishing contributed 31 percent, municipal, 32 percent and aquaculture, 37 percent.

Fig. 1 Fisheries Production by Sub-sector, Philippines, January-March 2001 - 2003

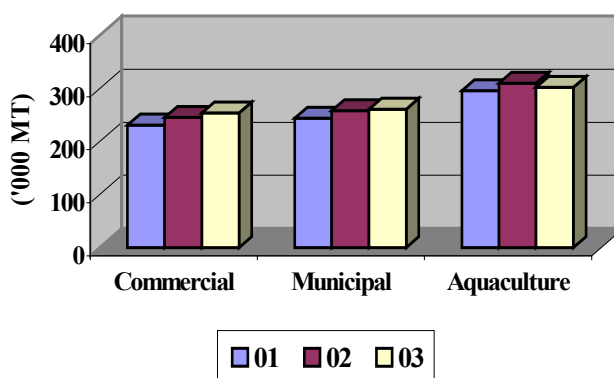
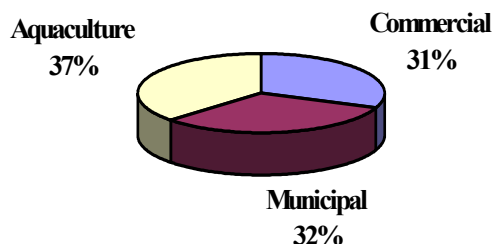


Fig. 2 Percent Distribution of Fish Production by Sub-sector, Philippines, January-March 2003



Commercial Fisheries

Commercial fisheries production surpassed last year's first quarter performance by 3.64 percent from 244,957 metric tons in 2002 to 253,884 metric tons in 2003.

Fish catch unloaded in private, traditional and Local Government Unit (LGU) managed landing centers increased while fish catch unloaded at the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA) landing centers went down. However, the decrease in unloadings by 2.31 percent or a drop of 1,311 metric tons at the PFDA landing centers more than offset the production gain in unloadings from private landing centers by 13.87 percent (15,723 MT), LGU landing centers by 2.57 percent (139 MT) and traditional landing centers by 3.09 percent (4,376 MT). The increments were largely due to good and generally fair weather that prevailed during the quarter enabling most fishermen to increase the frequency of their fishing activities. Likewise, the production increase was attributed to the early occurrence and abundant catch of in season species like frigate tuna, roundscad, Indian mackerel, big-eyed scad, Indian sardines and anchovies. Moreover, fishing vessels which were previously dry-docked for repair were back in operation resulting in more commercial fishing vessels which operated this quarter. The stability of peace and order in some regions enabled the fishermen to go out for fishing. Meanwhile, fish catch unloaded in private landing centers, showed remarkable performance due to higher demand from canning factories in Zamboanga City.

Majority of the regions (10 regions) managed to outdo their last year's production performance. Regions I, VIII, IV-A and II indicated high percentage changes in production with 49.91 percent, 19.24 percent, 16.25 percent and 14.30 percent, respectively.

The rest of the regions (6 regions) posted production decrease during the reference period. Commercial fish unloadings in NCR-Metro Manila went down by 9.54 percent due to higher cost of bunker oil used by commercial fishing boats, forcing some operators to limit their fishing trips. Similarly, production in Region III dropped by 9.09 percent despite the repair of some boats. Fish catch in Region XI went down by 8.41 percent mainly due to lean month season for tuna. The other regions experienced minimal decline in their unloadings.

Municipal Fisheries

An increment of 0.93 percent was realized from municipal fisheries during the first three months of the year due to good weather. Marine sub-sector gained 5,202 metric tons this quarter over the same period of the previous year. On the other hand, inland sub-sector decreased by 9.65 percent or a drop of 2,814 metric tons from the production of the same period last year. The decreasing volume of gathered shells brought the decline in the total production of inland fishing from Laguna Lake.

The regions that posted high increments from marine fishing were Regions VIII, III, ARMM and II at 11.55 percent, 6.94 percent, 6.60 percent and 6.10 percent, respectively. In terms of absolute values, Regions V, VI and IX reported higher volume of fish landed compared to other regions with additional 1,160 metric tons, 1,355 metric tons and 768 metric tons, respectively. Iloilo, Eastern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Misamis Occidental and Camarines Norte registered big increases in volume of fish landed brought about by favorable weather experienced during the first quarter of the year. This encouraged fishermen to increase the number of fishing trips and fishing days. Abundant catch of roundscad, skipjack, yellowfin tuna, anchovies, flying fish, garfish, Indian and fimbriated sardines, frigate tuna, big-eyed scad, squid, Indian mackerel were noted in different provinces. It was also observed that the active participation of Bantay Dagat also contributed to the good performance of municipal fisheries in several provinces. On the other hand, the decrease of 7.39 percent recorded in Region IV-B (MIMAROPA) during the first quarter was attributed to strong winds which restricted fishing operations specifically in Palawan. In like manner, the uncontrolled illegal fishing in Cebu brought down marine fisheries production by 4.96 percent, affecting the region's output to diminish by 1.34 percent.

Meanwhile, shell production around Laguna Lake continuously diminished due to decreasing demand from fishpond operators in Central Luzon and Bicol. This resulted in the output decline in Rizal by 30.26 percent and Laguna by 19.22 percent. Shell is a major contributor to the total production of inland fishing. Water pollution and intense heat during the period dried up rivers, creeks and swamps also contributed to the decline in inland fishing. However, increase in freshwater fish caught was noted in Regions VIII (62.58%), XI (35.56%), I (24.09%), V (23.05%), IX (22.50%). This was attributed to the stocking of tilapia fingerlings in communal bodies of water and setting up of more fish traps and season of goby fry which are in line with the BFAR-LGU fishery program.

Aquaculture. The volume of production from aquaculture declined by 2.51 percent during the first quarter of 2003 compared with same quarter last year. The growth in production from brackishwater and freshwater fishcage and pen, marine fishpen, oyster and mussel farms did not offset the losses of seaweeds produced which contributed 65 percent of the total aquaculture. The major producing provinces of seaweeds suffered a setback since some farmers refrained from seaweeds culture due to water pollution, intense heat, ice-ice disease and the seasonal occurrence of siganid which destroyed the seedlings.

Culture Environment/Type of Aquafarm	% Increase (Decrease)
Brackishwater Fishpond	(6.65)
Brackishwater Fishcage	170.61
Brackishwater Fishpen	9.73
Freshwater Fishpond	(12.11)
Freshwater Fishcage	12.38
Freshwater Fishpen	377.52
Marine Fishcage	(13.98)
Marine Fishpen	8.97
Oyster	16.74
Mussel	6.66
Seaweeds	(5.37)

Milkfish. Milkfish production increased by 6.44 percent this quarter against same quarter last year. The increment was realized from fishpens in all culture environment and brackishwater fishcage. On the contrary, production from brackishwater fishpond, freshwater and marine fishcages was reduced.

Production of milkfish from freshwater fishpens increased by 520.94 percent brought about by the expansion in area in Rizal and Metro Manila as well as the installation of new fishcages in Sultan Kudarat. With the opening of Napindan gridlock, fishpen operators around Laguna Lake were encouraged to stock their rehabilitated fishpens with fry. This enabled water exchange in the lake which brought natural food and enhanced growth of fishes. The improved harvest from brackishwater fishpens in Pangasinan registered a 10 percent increase as a result of enough supply and low-priced fingerlings that allowed operators to increase their stocking density. Likewise, area expansion of brackishwater fishcages in Agusan del Norte, Cagayan and other provinces more than doubled the production from this type of aquafarm.

The reduction in milkfish production were observed from brackishwater fishpond by 6.71 percent, freshwater and marine fishcages by 13.80 percent and 16.26 percent, respectively. Some fishpond operators from the topmost producing province of Bulacan shifted to tiger prawn culture due to high cost of milkfish production and low market price brought about by the additional production from fishpens around Laguna de Bay. Similarly, farmers in Negros Occidental temporarily utilized some areas of their fishpond for salt making and tilapia culture. Operators from Bataan, Pampanga, Iloilo, Pangasinan and Quezon noted that the intense heat in March caused high salinity of water that stunted the growth of their stocks. In Capiz and Aklan, fishpond operators were able to produce more due to availability of fry.

Milkfish production from freshwater fishcages in Sultan Kudarat dropped. This was caused by the shifting of culture to fishpens in Lutayan Lake due to high maintenance cost of the farmer. Production from marine fishcages plummeted to 16.26 percent for the reason that some cages were under repair while a few temporarily stopped operation. The intense heat during the quarter also stunted the growth of fishes in cages.

Tilapia. A meager 0.51 percent increase in tilapia production was registered during the first quarter of 2003 compared to a year ago. The increment of 14.43 percent from freshwater fishcage was attained through the usage of GIFT fingerlings, better management and good water temperature in Batangas and Camarines Sur. Some farmers in Laguna availed of the Stock Now, Pay Later Program of BFAR, thereby enabling them to improve the quality of their stocks.

Farmers in Isabela and Ifugao suffered losses due to fish kill as a result of receding water in Magat Dam and the presence of water pollutants. Operators in South Cotabato extended their culture practice from a period of 3-4 months to 5-8 months to minimize the cost on feeds. On the other hand, operators in Quezon attributed the decrease in their output to the cold weather during the first two months of the quarter causing the stunted growth of tilapia. Moreover, while waiting for a better price they have delayed their harvest. Fishpen operators in Rizal and Laguna were able to surpass their last year's harvest due to the opening of the gridlock which allowed water exchange in Laguna Lake and thus brought natural food and enhanced growth of fishes.

Tilapia harvested from freshwater fishpond dropped by 12.94 percent due to climatic change that caused fish kill in Pampanga. Moreover, some operators in Bulacan shifted to catfish culture owing to the high cost of commercial feeds. In Nueva Ecija, some fishponds were kept idle due to financial constraints. Operators in Tarlac and Quezon attributed the cold weather in January and February to have caused the stunted growth of tilapia. On the other hand, the increment of about 54 percent in Pangasinan was realized due to increase stocking to avail of better price.

Tiger Prawn. The production of tiger prawn diminished by 9.56 percent during the first quarter of 2003 compared with same quarter last year. The drop in production was attributed to high salinity of water caused by hot temperature thereby, affecting the growth of prawn specifically in Pampanga and Bataan. Moreover, some operators temporarily stopped their operations due to inadequate capital. However, production from other provinces grew because of the assistance from LGU through dispersal of quality post larvae in Zamboanga del Sur and technology adaptability in Lanao del Norte. Newly opened areas were noted in Davao City, Davao Oriental, Sarangani, Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

Mud Crab. The production of mudcrab over the years continuously dwindled. The production of this species went down by 2.38 percent from last year's output due to insufficient supply of crablets in Sorsogon, Pangasinan and Bulacan. Furthermore, some farmers in Sorsogon had inadequate operating capital for mud crab culture. On the contrary, the growth in the harvest of mud crab from Pampanga, Camarines Sur, Quezon, Eastern Samar and Surigao provinces was realized as a consequence of additional area and usage of quality crablets.

Carp. All provinces producing carp in all types of aquafarms experienced decline in their January - March 2003 production compared with same period last year except for Lanao del Norte which posted a gain of 2.78 percent. Notably, producers in Metro Manila and Rizal shifted to milkfish culture to meet the preference of the consumers for other species. Meanwhile, the additional production from Lanao del Norte was due to additional areas with supplemental feeding.

Catfish. The catfish produced during the quarter grew to a hefty 55.06 percent. Operators in Nueva Ecija improved their feeding and management practices, which consequently boosted their produce. Some operators in Bulacan and Sultan Kudarat shifted from tilapia to catfish culture to meet the demand of barbecue stands and restaurants. Iloilo farmers gained about 62.78 percent with expansion in areas in the municipality of Leon.

Seaweeds. Seaweeds production contributed about 65 percent to the total aquaculture output. The seaweeds produced during the quarter dipped by 5.37 percent compared with last year. The major producing provinces of Tawi-Tawi, Zamboanga City and Palawan showed a downward trend. The decline in the production of seaweeds in Tawi-Tawi was caused by decrease in area due to ice-ice disease and the migration of some farmers in Malaysia. The presence of ice-ice disease was also observed in the provinces of Palawan, Antique, Bohol and Camarines Norte. On the other hand, some farmers in Zamboanga City refrained from undertaking seaweed culture due to water pollution, intense heat and the seasonal occurrence of siganid. Seaweed farms became the habitat of siganid that subsisted on seedlings which condition was also noted in Zamboanga del Norte. On the other hand, production in Sulu and Zamboanga del Sur grew by 3.72 percent and 7.55 percent, respectively. More farmers ventured in seaweed culture in Sulu to avail of good market price. Farmers in Zamboanga del Sur were encouraged to produce more through the assistance extended by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the LGU.

Oyster. Oyster's output for the quarter recovered from last year's losses. The production of oyster this quarter gained 16.74 percent versus last year. The upswing was recorded in Bulacan at 40 percent, Capiz at 4.25 percent and Cavite at 85.71 percent. The production growth was due to fair weather, which was conducive for oyster propagation. However, production of oyster in Pangasinan was reduced to 18.85 percent brought about by water pollution. The river-clearing ordinance in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental decreased the province's output by 7.07 percent.

Mussel. The mussel producing provinces of Capiz, Negros Occidental, Western Samar, Aklan and Cavite showed an upswing in their output registering about 6.66 percent increase during the quarter as against last year. It was commonly observed from these provinces that the good weather condition during the period had been a plus factor for the growth of spats. Operators from these provinces were encouraged to produce quality mussels to meet the demand of restaurants.

TABLE 1. FISHERIES PRODUCTION BY SUB-SECTOR AND BY REGION, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY - MARCH 2001 - 2003 *

(METRIC TONS)

REGION	FISHERIES			COMMERCIAL			MUNICIPAL			AQUACULTURE						
	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02				
PHILIPPINES	770,228.4	812,910.2	816,456.9	0.44	231,059.0	244,957.0	253,884.0	3.64	243,605	258,060	260,448	0.93	295,564.4	309,893.2	302,124.9	(2.51)
CAR	952.0	1,100.0	994.2	(9.62)					295	311	310	(0.32)	657.0	789.0	684.2	(13.28)
I	12,436.0	14,630.5	15,788.4	7.91	675.0	587.0	880.0	49.91	5,638	6,652	7,008	5.35	6,123.0	7,391.5	7,900.4	6.88
II	9,749.3	11,846.0	12,996.4	9.71	3,994.0	4,406.0	5,036.0	14.30	4,905	6,318	6,823	7.99	850.3	1,122.0	1,137.4	1.37
III	50,316.0	50,560.1	44,795.1	(11.40)	3,986.0	3,376.0	3,069.0	(9.09)	3,502	3,720	4,068	9.35	42,828.0	43,464.1	37,658.1	(13.36)
NCR - M.M.	32,768.0	40,098.0	36,559.0	(8.83)	32,052.0	39,316.0	35,565.0	(9.54)	690	645	541	(16.12)	26.0	137.0	453.0	230.66
IV - A	66,538.0	64,361.6	75,027.0	16.57	24,463.0	22,924.0	26,649.0	16.25	31,514	29,104	25,885	(11.06)	10,561.0	12,333.6	22,493.0	82.37
IV - B	58,023.0	68,580.0	64,044.7	(6.61)	8,705.0	8,373.0	8,118.0	(3.05)	29,387	34,801	32,233	(7.38)	19,931.0	25,406.0	23,693.7	(6.74)
V	37,647.0	44,222.0	46,576.7	5.32	8,229.0	10,057.0	11,260.0	11.96	20,737	24,464	25,701	5.06	8,681.0	9,701.0	9,615.7	(0.88)
VI	82,091.0	81,385.3	81,255.8	(0.16)	26,063.0	23,538.0	24,810.0	5.40	34,524	34,019	35,363	3.95	21,504.0	23,828.3	21,082.8	(11.52)
VII	53,434.0	53,852.4	51,080.9	(5.15)	19,155.0	20,000.0	19,859.0	(0.71)	11,395	13,275	13,094	(1.36)	22,884.0	20,577.4	18,127.9	(11.90)
VIII	21,815.1	24,464.6	28,698.3	17.31	8,502.0	9,238.0	11,015.0	19.24	10,443	11,937	13,395	12.21	2,870.1	3,289.6	4,288.3	30.36
IX	92,807.0	100,274.9	101,647.8	1.37	31,992.0	36,451.0	40,270.0	10.48	31,731	31,515	32,301	2.49	29,084.0	32,308.9	29,076.8	(10.00)
X	18,942.0	20,177.6	20,808.8	3.13	7,888.0	8,151.0	8,216.0	0.80	6,701	7,165	7,592	5.96	4,353.0	4,861.6	5,000.8	2.86
XI	9,742.0	11,368.3	11,446.9	0.69	2,115.0	2,651.0	2,428.0	(8.41)	5,544	6,734	6,890	2.32	2,083.0	1,983.3	2,128.9	7.34
XII	48,281.0	49,933.7	50,674.9	1.48	36,837.0	36,979.0	36,897.0	(0.22)	8,605	8,611	8,918	3.57	2,839.0	4,343.7	4,859.9	11.88
ARMM	150,995.0	151,243.0	148,186.0	(2.02)	15,265.0	17,794.0	18,667.0	4.91	18,068	18,654	19,867	6.50	117,662.0	114,795.0	109,652.0	(4.48)
CARAGA	23,692.0	24,812.2	25,876.0	4.29	1,138.0	1,116.0	1,145.0	2.60	19,926	20,135	20,459	1.61	2,628.0	3,561.2	4,272.0	19.96

* - Preliminary

TABLE 2. COMMERCIAL FISH PRODUCTION BY REGION AND BY TYPE OF LANDING CENTER, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY - MARCH 2001 - 2003

(METRIC TONS)

REGION	COMMERCIAL			% CHANGE 03/02	PRIVATE			% CHANGE 03/02	PFDA			% CHANGE 03/02	LGU			% CHANGE 03/02	TRADITIONAL			% CHANGE 03/02
	2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003	
PHILIPPINES	231,059	244,957	253,884	3.64	36,585	41,254	46,977	13.87	50,949	56,774	55,463	(2.31)	5,174	5,419	5,558	2.57	138,351	141,510	145,886	3.09
CAR																				
I	675	587	880	49.91					263	340	236	(30.59)					412	247	644	160.73
II	3,994	4,406	5,036	14.30													3,994	4,406	5,036	14.30
III	3,986	3,376	3,069	(9.09)													3,986	3,376	3,069	(9.09)
NCR - M.M.	32,052	39,316	35,565	(9.54)					30,782	38,176	35,014	(8.28)					1,270	1,140	551	(51.67)
IV - A*	24,463	22,924	26,649	16.25					1,419	1,741	3,576	105.40					23,044	21,183	23,073	8.92
IV - B**	8,705	8,373	8,118	(3.05)													8,705	8,373	8,118	(3.05)
V	8,229	10,057	11,260	11.96	3,478	3,079	3,260	5.88									4,751	6,978	8,000	14.65
VI	26,063	23,538	24,810	5.40	1,037	617	1,171	89.79	2,483	2,576	2,154	(16.38)	4,320	4,651	4,835	3.96	18,223	15,694	16,650	6.09
VII	19,155	20,000	19,859	(0.71)													19,155	20,000	19,859	(0.71)
VIII	8,502	9,238	11,015	19.24													8,502	9,238	11,015	19.24
IX	31,992	36,451	40,270	10.48	6,095	11,502	16,810	46.15	5,119	2,994	3,678	22.85					20,778	21,955	19,782	(9.90)
X	7,888	8,151	8,216	0.80									854	768	723	(5.86)	7,034	7,383	7,493	1.49
XI	2,115	2,651	2,428	(8.41)	14	19	26	36.84	1,033	1,012	729	(27.96)					1,068	1,620	1,673	3.27
XII	36,837	36,979	36,897	(0.22)	25,961	26,037	25,710	(1.26)	9,850	9,935	10,076	1.42					1,026	1,007	1,111	10.33
ARMM	15,265	17,794	18,667	4.91													15,265	17,794	18,667	4.91
CARAGA	1,138	1,116	1,145	2.60													1,138	1,116	1,145	2.60

TABLE 3. MUNICIPAL FISH PRODUCTION BY REGION, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY - MARCH 2001 - 2003

(METRIC TONS)

REGION	MUNICIPAL			% CHANGE 03/02	MARINE			% CHANGE 03/02	INLAND			% CHANGE 03/02
	2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003		2001	2002	2003	
PHILIPPINES	243,605	258,060	260,448	0.93	213,638	228,894	234,096	2.27	29,967	29,166	26,352	-9.65
CAR	295	311	310	(0.32)					295	311	310	(0.32)
I	5,638	6,652	7,008	5.35	5,430	6,266	6,529	4.20	208	386	479	24.09
II	4,905	6,318	6,823	7.99	3,850	5,000	5,305	6.10	1,055	1,318	1,518	15.17
III	3,502	3,720	4,068	9.35	2,844	2,956	3,161	6.94	658	764	907	18.72
NCR - M.M.	690	645	541	(16.12)	690	645	541	(16.12)				
IV - A	31,514	29,104	25,885	(11.06)	11,557	10,907	11,513	5.56	19,957	18,197	14,372	(21.02)
IV - B	29,387	34,801	32,233	(7.38)	29,254	34,650	32,090	(7.39)	133	151	143	(5.30)
V	20,737	24,464	25,701	5.06	20,508	24,130	25,290	4.81	229	334	411	23.05
VI	34,524	34,019	35,363	3.95	34,239	33,687	35,042	4.02	285	332	321	(3.31)
VII	11,395	13,275	13,094	(1.36)	11,376	13,248	13,070	(1.34)	19	27	24	(11.11)
VIII	10,443	11,937	13,395	12.21	10,299	11,782	13,143	11.55	144	155	252	62.58
IX	31,731	31,515	32,301	2.49	31,654	31,435	32,203	2.44	77	80	98	22.50
X	6,701	7,165	7,592	5.96	6,498	6,938	7,332	5.68	203	227	260	14.54
XI	5,544	6,734	6,890	2.32	5,496	6,689	6,829	2.09	48	45	61	35.56
XII	8,605	8,611	8,918	3.57	6,270	6,210	6,375	2.66	2,335	2,401	2,543	5.91
ARMM	18,068	18,654	19,867	6.50	14,411	15,077	16,072	6.60	3,657	3,577	3,795	6.09
CARAGA	19,926	20,135	20,459	1.61	19,262	19,274	19,601	1.70	664	861	858	(0.35)

TABLE 4. AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION BY CULTURE ENVIRONMENT AND BY REGION. JANUARY - MARCH, 2001 - 2003

REGION	(METRIC TONS)												% CHANGE 03/02	% CHANGE 03/02	% CHANGE 03/02	% CHANGE 03/02									
	AQUACULTURE			BRACKISHWATER FISHPOND			BRACKISHWATER FISHCAGE			BRACKISHWATER FISHPENS							FRESHWATER FISHCAGE			FRESHWATER FISHPENS					
	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02					2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	
PHILIPPINES	295,564.4	309,893.2	302,124.9	(2.51)	53,931.0	55,511.0	51,821.4	(6.65)	616.0	686.0	1,856.4	170.61	892.0	910.0	998.5	9.73	10,568.3	12,854.0	14,444.7	12.38	1,005.0	1,508.0	7,201.0	6.66	
CAR	657.0	789.0	684.2	(13.28)																					
I	6,123.0	7,391.5	7,900.4	6.88	2,452.0	2,337.0	2,227.2	(4.70)	428.0	447.0	381.0	(14.77)	892.0	910.0	998.5	9.73	3.0	2.0	8.0	300.00					
II	850.3	1,122.0	1,137.4	1.37	165.0	186.0	197.0	5.91	3.0	10.0	11.4	14.00													
III	42,828.0	43,464.1	37,658.1	(13.36)	25,389.0	25,454.0	22,008.0	(13.54)																	
NCR - M.M.	26.0	137.0	453.0	230.66	19.0	47.0	30.0	(36.17)																	
IV-A	10,561.0	12,335.6	22,493.0	82.37	1,453.0	1,272.0	1,115.0	(12.34)																	
IV-B	19,931.0	25,406.0	23,693.7	(6.74)	879.0	878.0	864.2	(1.57)																	
V	8,681.0	9,701.0	9,615.7	(0.88)	1,775.0	1,578.0	1,548.3	(1.88)																	
VI	21,504.0	23,828.3	21,082.8	(11.52)	10,174.0	10,098.0	9,981.9	(1.15)																	
VII	22,884.0	20,577.4	18,127.9	(11.90)	2,599.0	2,126.0	1,953.1	(8.13)																	
VIII	2,870.1	3,289.6	4,288.3	30.36	284.0	324.0	374.3	15.52																	
IX	29,084.0	32,308.9	29,076.8	(10.00)	2,632.0	4,772.0	4,836.0	1.34																	
X	4,353.0	4,861.6	5,000.8	2.86	2,597.0	2,667.0	2,701.0	1.27																	
XI	2,083.0	1,983.3	2,128.9	7.34	1,350.0	1,217.0	1,294.4	6.36																	
XII	2,839.0	4,343.7	4,859.9	11.88	1,268.0	1,339.0	1,326.0	(0.97)																	
ARMM	117,662.0	114,795.0	109,652.0	(4.48)	515.0	588.0	547.0	(6.97)																	
CARAGA	2,628.0	3,561.2	4,272.0	19.96	580.0	628.0	818.0	30.25	185.0	229.0	394.0	72.05													

REGION	(METRIC TONS)												% CHANGE 03/02	% CHANGE 03/02	% CHANGE 03/02	% CHANGE 03/02									
	FRESHWATER FISHPOND			MARINE FISHCAGE			MARINE FISHPEN			OYSTER							MUSSEL			SEAWEEDS					
	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02					2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02	
PHILIPPINES	17,272.1	18,833.1	16,551.7	(12.11)	587.0	1,413.0	1,215.5	-13.98	1,087.0	2,390.1	2,604.5	8.97	4,464.0	3,501.0	4,087.0	16.74	3,475.0	3,753.0	4,003.0	6.66	201,667.0	208,534.0	197,341.2	-5.37	
CAR	118.0	121.0	110.9	(8.35)																					
I	818.0	984.0	1,409.4	43.23	431.0	491.8	547.3	11.29	832.0	1,900.7	2,053.0	8.01	267.0	319.0	276.0	(13.48)									
II	382.0	551.0	580.7	5.39									26.0	48.0	53.0	10.42									
III	14,742.0	15,833.1	13,124.1	(17.11)	1.0	462.0	128.0	(72.29)	20.0	3.0	3.0		2,656.0	1,700.0	2,380.0	40.00									
NCR - M.M.																									
IV-A	287.0	321.0	266.0	(17.13)		34.0	94.0	176.47	8.0	44.6	81.0	81.61	13.0	7.0	13.0	85.71	41.0	82.0	143.0	74.39	109.0	702.0	4,737.0	574.79	
IV-B	158.0	171.0	168.5	(1.46)																					
V	28.0	57.0	69.6	22.11	6.0	24.0	26.8	11.67																	
VI	75.0	70.0	86.4	23.43	4.0	2.3	3.5	52.17																	
VII	2.0	6.0	6.5	8.33	7.0	11.2	11.1	(0.89)	3.0	0.2	0.2	(100.00)	16.0	14.0	15.0	7.14									
VIII	26.1	23.0	55.0	139.13	5.0	5.6	7.0	25.00																	
IX	4.0	20.0	23.0	15.00	8.0	8.0	6.8	(54.36)	24.0	14.9	6.8	(54.36)	146.0	127.0	137.0	7.87	3.0	2.0	4.0	100.00	26,267.0	27,373.0	24,070.0	-12.07	
X	157.0	164.0	161.3	(1.65)	2.0	2.6	4.4	69.23	10.0	10.0	10.0														
XI	138.0	117.0	120.0	2.56	70.0	112.6	201.5	78.95	185.0	176.7	186.0	5.26	256.0	264.0	195.0	(26.14)									
XII	326.0	369.0	323.2	(12.41)	50.0	262.7	184.7	(29.69)																	
ARMM	6.0	8.0	28.0	250.00					1.0																
CARAGA	5.0	18.0	19.1	6.11	3.0	4.2	7.2	71.43	4.0	3.0	16.7	456.67													

**TABLE 5. AQUACULTURE: MILKFISH PRODUCTION OF TOP PRODUCING PROVINCES
BY CULTURE ENVIRONMENT, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY - MARCH 2001 - 2003**

(METRIC TONS)

CULTURE ENVIRONMENT/ PROVINCE	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02
PHILIPPINES	44,418.1	48,199.6	51,303.2	6.44
Brackishwater Fishpond	40,308.1	41,065.1	38,310.1	(6.71)
Bulacan	11,373.0	10,748.0	10,377.0	(3.45)
Negros Occidental	3,633.0	3,428.0	3,273.0	(4.52)
Bataan	3,560.0	3,920.0	2,274.0	(41.99)
Pampanga	2,825.0	3,050.0	2,800.0	(8.20)
Capiz	2,526.0	2,763.0	2,909.0	5.28
Iloilo	1,930.0	1,806.0	1,674.0	(7.31)
Pangasinan	1,843.0	1,822.0	1,676.0	(8.01)
Aklan	1,575.0	1,612.0	1,677.0	4.03
Quezon	1,300.0	1,144.0	988.0	(13.64)
Other Provinces	9,743.1	10,772.1	10,662.1	(1.02)
Brackishwater Fishpen	884.0	900.4	990.4	10.00
Pangasinan	884.0	900.0	990.0	10.00
Other Provinces		0.4	0.4	0.00
Brackishwater Fishcage	616.0	679.0	1,513.0	122.83
Pangasinan	424.0	442.0	376.0	(14.93)
Agusan del Norte	185.0	229.0	394.0	72.05
Other Provinces	7.0	8.0	743.0	9187.50
Freshwater Fishpen	767.0	974.0	6,048.0	520.94
Rizal	762.0	914.0	5,024.0	449.67
Metro Manila	5.0	60.0	322.0	436.67
Sultan Kudarat			702.0	
Freshwater Fishcage	260.0	848.0	731.0	(13.80)
Sultan Kudarat	260.0	848.0	731.0	(13.80)
Marine Fishpen	1,056.0	2,379.3	2,577.0	8.31
Pangasinan	832.0	1,899.0	2,053.0	8.11
Other Provinces	224.0	480.3	524.0	9.10
Marine Fishcage	527.0	1,353.8	1,133.7	(16.26)
Pangasinan	429.0	489.0	541.0	10.63
Other Provinces	98.0	864.8	592.7	(31.46)

**TABLE 6. AQUACULTURE: TILAPIA PRODUCTION OF TOP PRODUCING PROVINCES,
BY CULTURE ENVIRONMENT, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY - MARCH 2001 - 2003**

(METRIC TONS)

CULTURE ENVIRONMENT/ PROVINCE	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02
PHILIPPINES	29,111.9	32,623.7	32,789.7	0.51
Brackishwater Fishpond*	1,869.6	2,077.4	2,131.0	2.58
Pampanga	778.0	825.0	780.0	-5.45
Bulacan	320.0	287.0	229.0	-20.21
Other Provinces	771.6	965.4	1,122.0	16.22
Freshwater Fishpond	16,799.0	18,371.3	15,994.0	-12.94
Pampanga	10,728.0	12,500.0	10,260.0	-17.92
Bulacan	2,100.0	1,507.0	1,041.0	-30.92
Nueva Ecija	965.0	963.0	913.0	-5.19
Tarlac	612.0	541.1	535.0	-1.13
Pangasinan	595.0	761.0	1,172.0	54.01
Quezon	190.0	219.0	143.0	-34.70
Aurora	160.0	120.0	96.0	-20.00
Sultan Kudarat	152.0	144.0	138.0	-4.17
Isabela	122.0	308.0	315.0	2.27
Other Provinces	1,175.0	1,308.2	1,381.0	5.56
Freshwater Fishcage	10,304.3	11,972.0	13,699.7	14.43
Batangas	5,940.0	6,524.0	8,535.0	30.82
Laguna	1,420.0	1,532.0	1,687.0	10.12
Camarines Sur	715.0	858.0	1,030.0	20.05
South Cotabato	695.0	700.0	677.0	-3.29
Ifugao	492.0	615.0	520.0	-15.45
Isabela	261.0	313.0	281.0	-10.22
Quezon	250.0	313.0	174.0	-44.41
Sultan Kudarat	240.0	825.0	306.0	-62.91
Albay	157.0	123.0	70.0	-43.09
Other Provinces	134.3	169.0	419.7	148.34
Freshwater Fishpen	139.0	203.0	965.0	375.37
Rizal	93.0	149.0	302.0	102.68
Laguna	37.0	40.0	41.0	2.50
Sultan Kudarat			610.0	
Other Provinces	9.0	14.0	12.0	-14.29

* Includes tilapia production from brackishwater fishpen and cage.

**TABLE 7. AQUACULTURE: BRACKISHWATER AND FRESHWATER FISHPOND
PRODUCTION OF TIGER PRAWN, MUDCRAB, CARP AND CATFISH,
BY PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY-MARCH 2001-2003**

(METRIC TONS)

SPECIES/PROVINCE	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02
BRACKISHWATER FISHPOND*				
Tiger Prawn	9,289.6	9,952.5	9,001.1	(9.56)
Pampanga	3,620.0	3,850.0	3,450.0	(10.39)
Bataan	1,747.0	1,263.0	542.0	(57.09)
Lanao del Norte	1,097.0	1,197.0	1,201.0	0.33
Zamboanga del Sur	999.0	815.0	855.0	4.91
Other Provinces	1,826.6	2,827.5	2,953.1	4.44
Mudcrab	2,121.6	1,892.1	1,847.0	(2.38)
BRACKISHWATER FISHPOND	2,110.6	1,886.1	1,839.6	(2.47)
Pampanga	400.0	450.0	505.0	12.22
Sorsogon	1,381.0	1,174.0	1,053.0	(10.31)
Pangasinan	120.0	18.0	16.0	(11.11)
Bulacan	25.0	21.0	16.0	(23.81)
Other Provinces	184.6	223.1	249.6	11.88
MARINE FISHPEN/CAGE	11.0	6.0	7.4	23.33
Zamboanga del Sur	11.0	5.4	6.0	11.11
Other Provinces		0.6	1.4	133.33
FRESHWATER				
Carp	156.0	433.1	267.6	(38.21)
Fishpond	53.0	70.1	67.6	(3.57)
Lanao del Norte	33.0	36.0	37.0	2.78
Pampanga	4.0	6.0	5.0	(16.67)
Other Provinces	16.0	28.1	25.6	(8.90)
Fishpen/Cage	103.0	363.0	200.0	(44.90)
Rizal	100.0	334.0	191.0	(42.81)
Metro Manila	1.0	27.0	9.0	(66.67)
Other Provinces	2.0	2.0		(100.00)
Catfish	294.0	211.6	328.1	55.06
Fishpond	294.0	211.6	328.1	55.06
Isabela	76.0	9.0	9.0	0.00
Bulacan	60.0	44.0	58.0	31.82
Nueva Ecija	40.0	32.0	66.0	106.25
Iloilo	40.0	36.0	58.6	62.78
Sultan Kudarat	17.0	27.0	41.0	51.85
Other Provinces	61.0	63.6	95.5	50.16

*Include data from brackishwater fishpen
FISHERIES SITUATION, January-March 2003

**TABLE 8. AQUACULTURE: MARICULTURE PRODUCTION BY SPECIES,
BY PROVINCE, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY - DECEMBER 2001 - 2003**

(METRIC TONS)

SPECIES/PROVINCE	2001	2002	2003	% CHANGE 03/02
SEAWEEDS	201,667.0	208,534.0	197,341.2	(5.37)
Sulu	47,102.0	51,011.0	52,911.0	3.72
Tawi-Tawi	66,843.0	59,831.0	52,490.0	(12.27)
Zamboanga City	19,063.0	16,204.0	13,053.0	(19.45)
Palawan	18,455.0	23,850.0	21,125.0	(11.43)
Antique	7,420.0	9,364.0	6,582.0	(29.71)
Zamboanga del Sur	4,409.0	3,800.0	4,087.0	7.55
Bohol	20,228.0	18,067.0	15,127.0	(16.27)
Zamboanga del Norte	2,795.0	4,324.0	3,879.0	(10.29)
Camarines Norte	4,900.0	5,900.0	5,235.0	(11.27)
Other Provinces	10,452.0	16,183.0	22,852.2	41.21
OYSTER	4,464.0	3,501.0	4,087.0	16.74
Bulacan	2,656.0	1,700.0	2,380.0	40.00
Capiz	485.0	541.0	564.0	4.25
Negros Occidental	415.0	368.0	342.0	(7.07)
Pangasinan	202.0	260.0	211.0	(18.85)
Cavite	13.0	7.0	13.0	85.71
Other Provinces	693.0	625.0	577.0	(7.68)
MUSSEL	3,475.0	3,753.3	4,003.0	6.65
Capiz	1,210.0	1,766.0	1,810.0	2.49
Negros Occidental	1,085.0	792.0	861.0	8.71
Western Samar	570.0	530.0	565.0	6.60
Aklan	392.0	432.0	459.0	6.25
Cavite	41.0	82.0	143.0	74.39
Other Provinces	177.0	151.3	165.0	9.05

WHOLESALE FISH PRICES

The decline in the average wholesale prices of milkfish, tilapia and tiger prawn ranged from about 0.20 -12.57 percent during the first quarter of 2003.

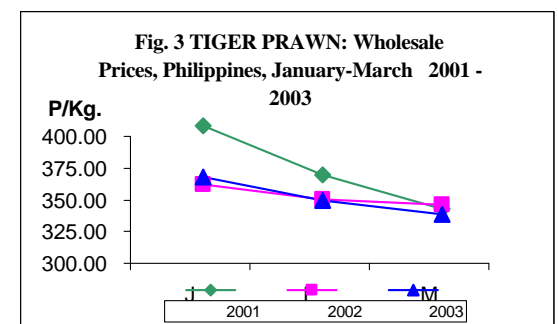
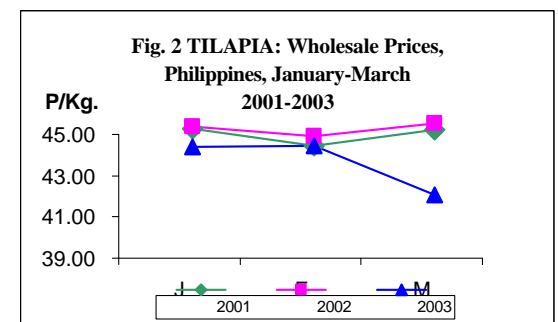
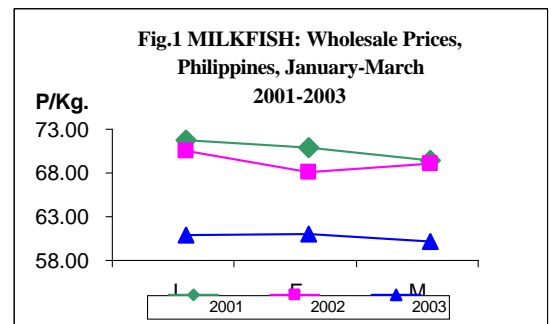
Milkfish reported big price decrement of 12.57 percent during the quarter. The average price per kilo was recorded at P59.39 compared with P67.93 in the same quarter of 2002.

Meanwhile, the price decrease of tilapia was smaller in January and February than in March which was registered at 7.75 percent. The average price this quarter was 3.67 percent lower than in last year from P44.49 per kilo in 2002 to P42.85 in 2003.

Among the aquaculture species, tiger prawn gave the slightest decrease of 0.20 percent in its average price. Price quotations in February and March went down by 0.24 and 2.25 percent, respectively. However, a price increment of 1.80 percent was attained in January. Tiger prawn was sold in the wholesale market at P351.41 per kilo in January 2003.

TABLE 9. WHOLESALE PRICES OF MILKFISH, TILAPIA AND TIGER PRAWN, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY-MARCH 2001 - 2003

SPECIES/MONTH	WHOLESALE PRICE (P/KG)			% CHANGE (03/02)
	2001	2002	2003	
MILKFISH				
January	70.40	69.19	59.56	(13.92)
February	69.57	66.78	59.71	(10.59)
March	68.08	67.81	58.89	(13.15)
Average Price	69.35	67.93	59.39	(12.57)
TILAPIA				
January	44.50	44.59	43.60	(2.22)
February	43.67	44.12	43.68	(1.00)
March	44.42	44.75	41.28	(7.75)
Average Price	44.20	44.49	42.85	(3.67)
TIGER PRAWN				
January	391.71	345.19	351.41	1.80
February	352.62	333.22	332.41	(0.24)
March	325.67	329.04	321.65	(2.25)
Average Price	356.67	335.82	335.16	(0.20)



The average price of roundscad at the wholesale market was P44.02 per kilogram in the first quarter of 2003 against P43.93 in the same quarter of 2002. The increase of 5.86 percent attained in February offset the price decrease in January and March price quotations.

On the other hand, price of frigate tuna declined by 4.80 percent in the first quarter of 2003. An increase of 5.44 percent was observed in February but a 16.46 percent decline in price was noted in March. The price of frigate tuna in March 2003 was at P39.12 per kilogram as against P46.83 in 2002.

Wholesale price quotation of indian mackerel increased in January and February 2003 at 0.76 and 0.19 percent, respectively. However, a 4.14 percent price decrease was observed in March 2003 which brought down the average price to P63.40 from previous year's P64.05 per kilogram.

TABLE 10. WHOLESALE PRICES OF ROUNDSCAD, FRIGATE TUNA AND INDIAN MACKEREL, PHILIPPINES, JANUARY- MARCH 2001 - 2003

SPECIES/MONTH	WHOLESALE PRICE (P/KG)			% CHANGE (03/02)
	2001	2002	2003	
ROUNDSCAD				
January	46.25	47.82	47.72	(0.21)
February	44.79	43.00	45.52	5.86
March	43.32	40.96	38.83	(5.20)
Average Price	44.79	43.93	44.02	0.22
FRIGATE TUNA				
January	47.83	53.52	52.04	(2.77)
February	47.93	42.68	45.00	5.44
March	46.73	46.83	39.12	(16.46)
Average Price	47.50	47.68	45.39	(4.80)
INDIAN MACKEREL				
January	61.98	65.73	66.23	0.76
February	58.68	64.16	64.28	0.19
March	56.06	62.27	59.69	(4.14)
Average Price	58.91	64.05	63.40	(1.02)

