

An Environmental Assessment of the Aquaculture Potential of Lake Gawaan, Lake Lenneng and Lake Banao/Danum at the Mt. Province

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Abstract

This study reviews the existing conditions of the three Mt. Province lakes: Lake Gawaan, Lake Lenneng and Lake Banao/Danum. Three mechanisms were employed. First is the overview of the resource capabilities. This includes the geographical, physical and biological characteristics, as well as the identification of nearby communities and the possible market distribution channels. The physical characteristics are the watershed type, color of water, kind of shoreline, source of water, water fluctuation levels and transparency/turbidity. Biological and chemical characteristics comprise the primary productivity, dissolved oxygen, nitrate, pH, ammonia, and stock availability (catch composition, gear type, seasonal distribution and production rate). The second mechanism is the understanding of the limitations of the area and development prospects which could cater to the needs of the growing population. This tackles suitable aquaculture practices that may be adopted at the areas concerned in order to increase fish production at the Mt. Province. The last mechanism is to determine if the combined efforts of the non-government organizations, government agencies and other concerned groups could be improved to prevent a piece-rate resource development program. Results showed that favorable conditions for fish culture are present in the three lakes. Culture of fish in net cages and pens appears suitable for the lakes.