

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

Aquaculture Department

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Aqua Farm News

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Recommendations for a fisheries policy

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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Recommendations for a fisheries policy. Aqua Farm News, 11(4-5), 14.

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Recommendations for a fisheries policy

Nearly a million fisherfolk in some 10 000 barangays depend on the seas. It is necessary to **allocate municipal fishery use rights to small fisherfolk**. Local communities can adequately manage, develop and conserve fishery resources. (See p. 18 for Japan's experience in Territorial Use Rights in Fisheries.) Amendment of fishery legislation must reflect this.

The **organization of private fisheries groups** would strengthen the position of the fisheries sector and allow participation in the fisheries programs of the government. These groups can be of artisanal fishermen, commercial fishermen, aquaculturists, or members of ancillary industries.

Incentives for the commercial fisheries sector to fish farther in the EEZ can reduce the conflict between commercial and municipal fishermen. These can include tax credits and exemptions from duties and taxes on imported equipment.

Fisheries conservation and law enforcement must be strengthened through:

- Designation of fisheries as a strategic resource
- Recognition of fisherfolk as the defacto managers of fishery resources
- Expansion of the information campaign on fish conservation and wise resource use
- Outlawing the use of persistent poisons in aquaculture and agriculture
- Review and improvement of fisheries laws to improve efficacy of enforcement and success in convicting offenders
- Formation of composite surveillance and enforcement units composed of the Navy, Coast Guard, National Police, and municipal fishermen associations to combat illegal fishing
- Increasing the operating budget of the Coast Guard and Navy to provide adequate tactical strength and enhance mobility
- Retraining, upgrading, and enhancing the competence of fishery law enforcers

A rational research, development, and management program for the tuna fishery can contribute to economic recovery. The tuna fishery is the most important of all marine fisheries in the Philippines.

The fisheries education system must be relevant and responsive to the needs of the fishing industry. **The manpower needs of the industry must be determined, and fisheries education must be upgraded**. The proliferation of fisheries schools must be stopped. Fisheries schools should give quality education and equip students with desirable skills and competencies.

Fish marketing infrastructure such as ice plants and cold storage must be made available in the primary production areas.

The domestic fish trade must be protected. **Importation must be regulated to prevent unfair competition**. Increased tariff rates and seasonal quotas for imports may be imposed.

Aquaculture expansion is necessary to provide a reliable fish supply for domestic consumption and to increase foreign exchange. Expansion should not be done by opening new mangrove areas but by improving production techniques, using genetically superior species or strains and efficient feeds, and by extending credit to fishfarmers.

Fisheries is a growth sector which needs a strong organization — a Department of Fisheries — to service it. The Department will coordinate all agencies involved in fisheries work, and undertake cost-effective development, management, and conservation programs. The Department can be built around the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and other government agencies performing fisheries-related functions.

Source: UNDP-FAO-DA-BFAR. *National Conference on Fisheries Policy and Planning*; 16-20 Mar 1987; Baguio City. Vol. 1, 115 p.