

Status of Seaweed Industry in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao

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This paper briefly describes the *Kappaphycus/Eucheuma* production in the Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). Likewise, it reports the key production areas in the region (Figures 1-6). Three methods of culturing the seaweed are practiced by the fisherfolk: (1) bottom stake, (2) bamboo raft, and (3) floating monoline. Culture of seaweed is year-round at 45-60 day culture period, with 4-5 harvests/year. 'Seedling' usually weighs 200-300 g. An average of 8 t (fwt) of seaweed is harvested at 0.25 ha (32 t/ha). The 'suki' system of selling/buying dried seaweed is practiced in the region.

Despite the success story of the seaweed industry of this region, it is still faced with problems such as: control of traders in the purchase of seaweed; lack of technical know-how in seaweed processing; inadequate financial assistance from the government; deterioration of the quality of seedlings; absence of zoning in some areas; losses due to theft and pilferage; inadequate drying facilities and warehouse; and natural calamities.

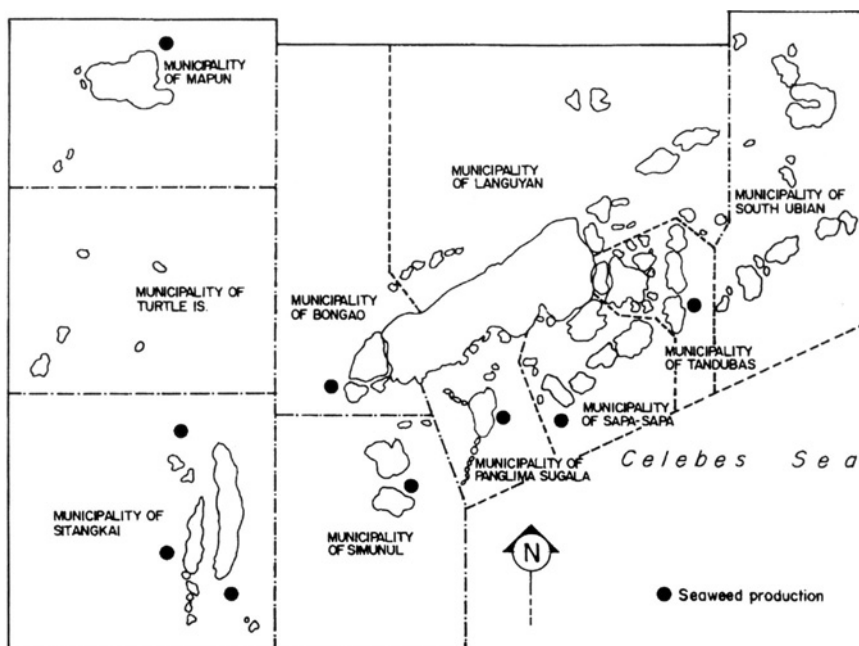


Figure 1. Map of Tawi - Tawi

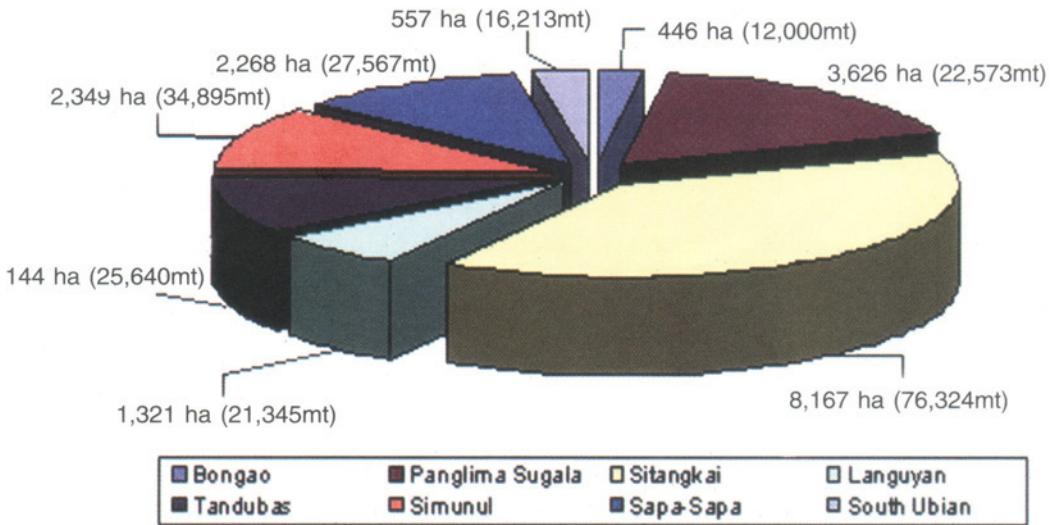


Figure 2. Seaweed production/area in Tawi - Tawi year 2000

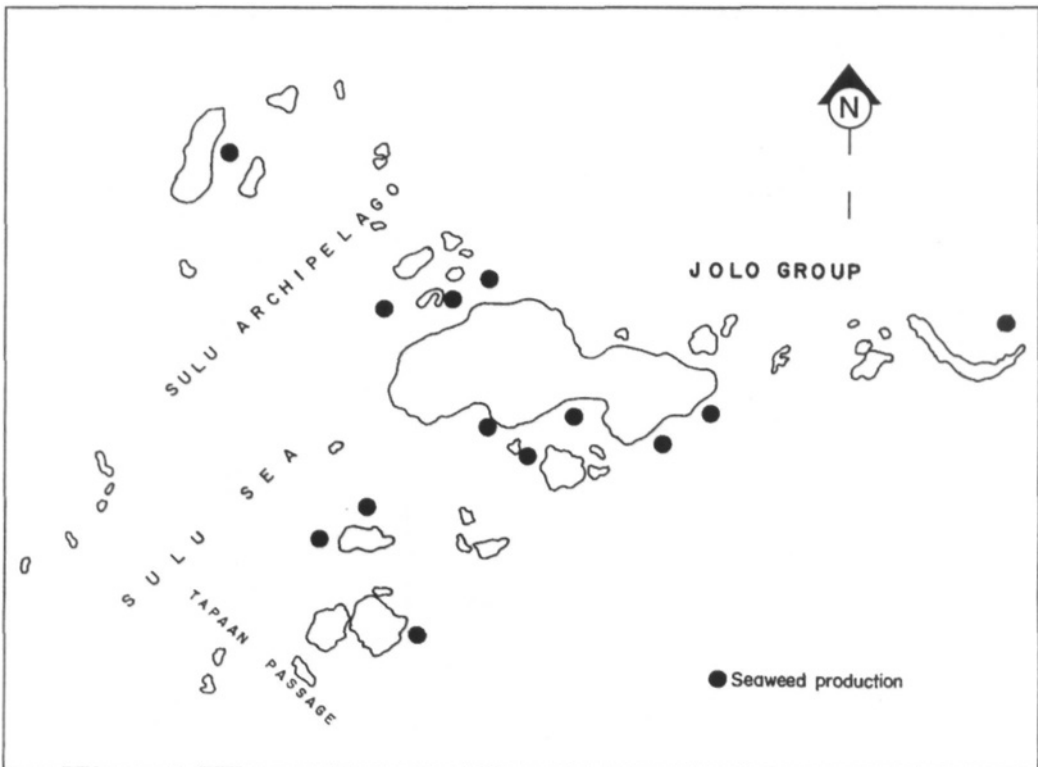


Figure 3. Map of Sulu province

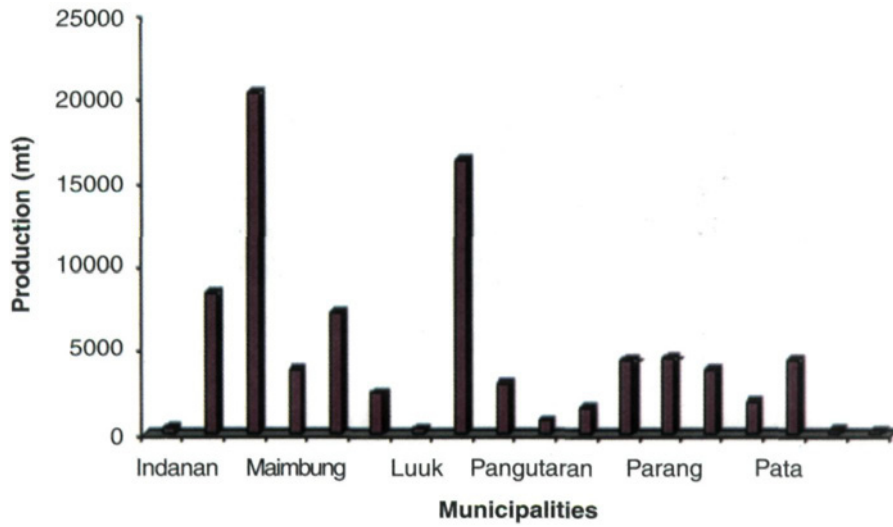


Figure 4. Seaweed production (mt) in Sulu year 2000

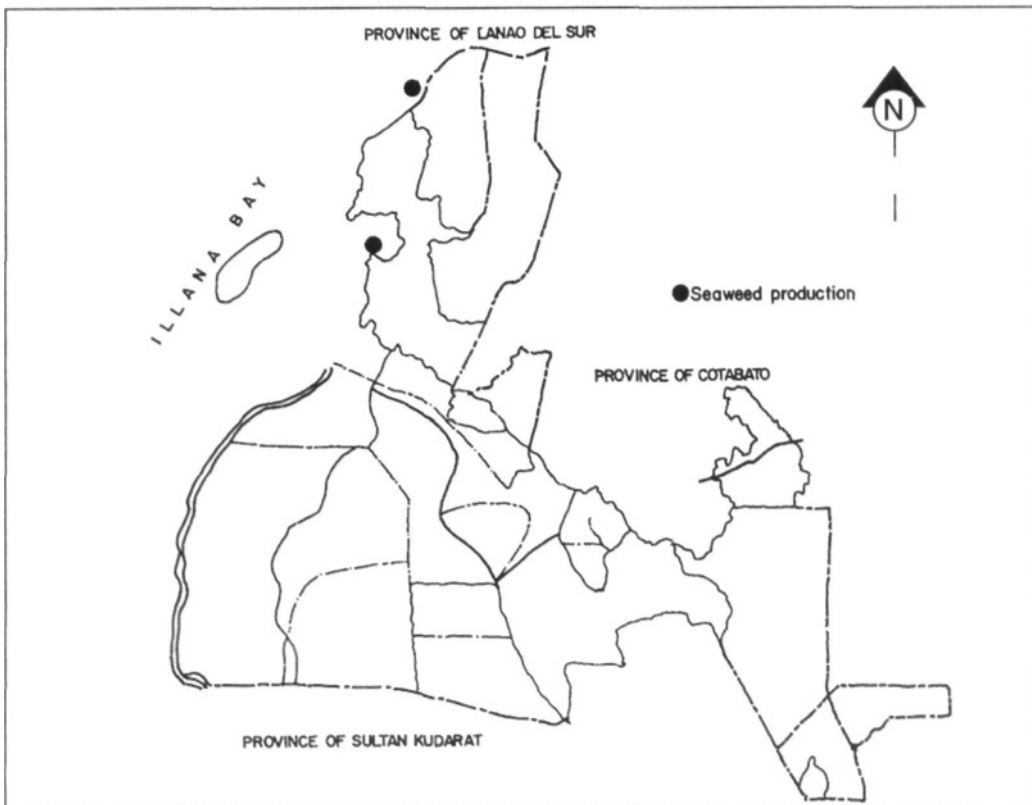


Figure 5. Map of Maguindanao province

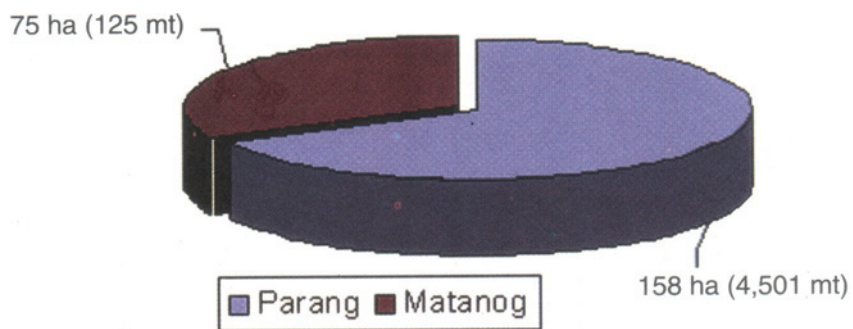


Figure 6. Seaweed production/area in Maguindanao year 2000