

1993

# Fishing guidelines

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Aquaculture Department (1993). Fishing guidelines. Aqua Farm News, 11(4-5), 3-5.

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# Fishing guidelines

## Commercial fishing

No person shall operate in Philippine waters any fishing boat, motorized or non-motorized, of more than three gross tons without a license. (Boats used for transporting fish from the fishing ground to the market are included.) Licenses are for a year of operation. Special permits may be granted for fishing boats used exclusively for scientific, educational and research purposes.

Commercial fishing boats are not allowed to operate in areas declared restricted, e.g., overfished grounds.

Fishing boat operators are obliged to record fish catch, fishing grounds, and places of unloading fish.

No person shall seek employment as a fisherman without a license.

- PD 704; FAO 144, Series of 1983



## Dolphins

It is unlawful to take or catch dolphins in Philippine waters or to sell, purchase, possess, transport, or export the same whether dead or alive, in any state or form whether raw or processed. Special permits, however, may be issued to institutions engaged in research on dolphins, including those to be used for exhibition or show purposes.

It is likewise unlawful to wound or kill dolphins in the course of catching fish. Dolphin accidentally caught by any gear must be immediately released unharmed.

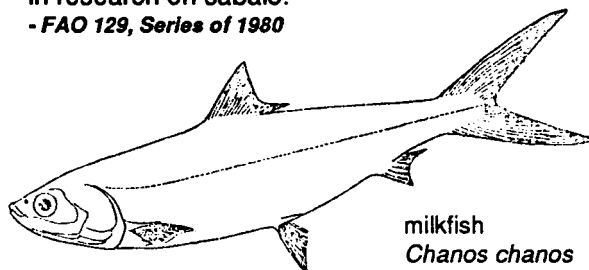
- FAO 185, Series of 1992



## Milkfish

It is unlawful to take or catch adult milkfish (sabalo) in all waters of the Philippines or to sell, possess or transport them whether dead or alive. Special permits may be issued in favor of government agencies and institutions engaged in research on sabalo.

- FAO 129, Series of 1980

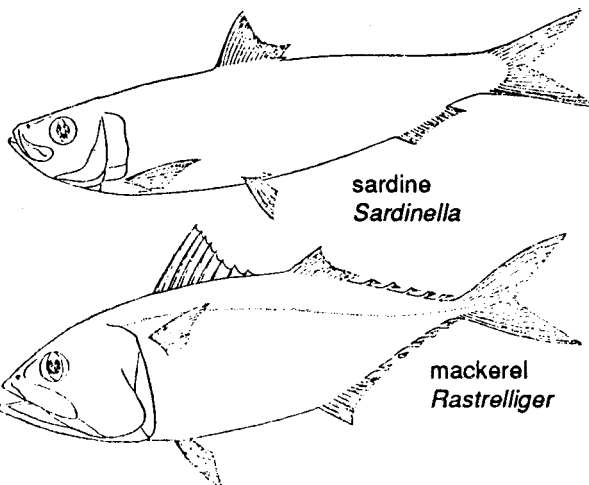


milkfish  
*Chanos chanos*

## Sardines, herrings and mackerels

It is unlawful to catch sexually mature sardines, herrings and mackerels or their larvae, fry or young (known locally as lupoy, silinyasi, linatsay, or manansi) during the closed season from November 15 to March 15, inclusive, of every year, in the Visayan Sea and adjoining waters.

- FAO 167, Series of 1989

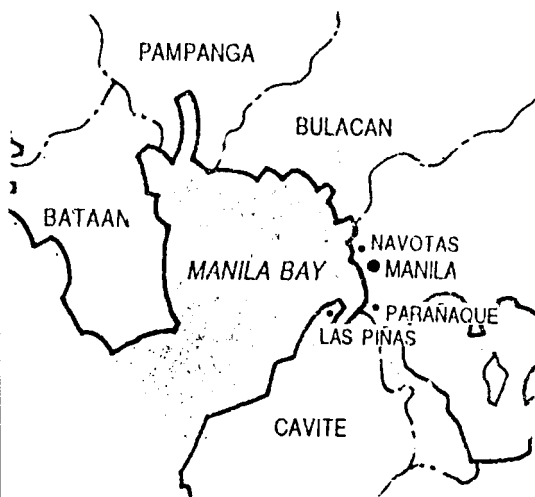


sardine  
*Sardinella*

mackerel  
*Rastrelliger*

Illustrations from: AF Umalil, 1936.  
*Edible fishes of Manila*. Department of  
Agriculture and Commerce, Manila.

# Five-year fishing ban in Manila Bay



The Department of Agriculture announced the ban on commercial fishing in Manila Bay for five years beginning May 1991.

The order was in response to a petition by the National Coalition of Fisherfolk for Aquatic Reform, an organization of more than half a million fishermen in the country. They noted that Manila Bay used to have over 200 kinds of fishes, but this dwindled to 140 in 1967, finally to 20 at present. The causes for the decline include overfishing and pollution. Among the fishes that disappeared are jacks, Spanish mackerel, sardine, striped mackerel, and shark. Consequently, the average fisherman's haul decreased from 120 kg in 1975 to about 3 kg or less at present.

- *The New Chronicle*, 22 May 1991

## Small-scale fishing

The highest qualified bidder has the exclusive privilege of constructing and operating fish corrals, oyster culture beds, or of gathering milkfish and other fry for five years. However, one-fifth of the area shall be designated fry reservation, and no fishing is allowed.

No fish corral shall be constructed within 60-200 m of another in marine waters or 60-100 m of another in inland waters.

Fishing boats of three gross tons or less can fish in municipal waters with nets, traps, or other fishing gears. - PD 704

## Corals

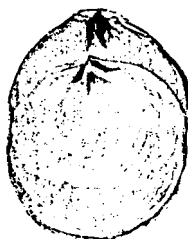
It is prohibited to harvest, transport, possess, sale or export ordinary coral either raw or processed without a permit. The use of corals in buildings and other man-made structures such as piers, dams and dikes is likewise prohibited.

Export of precious and semi-precious corals is prohibited, unless they are first processed and manufactured into finished products.

Coral reefs protect the shore and adjacent infrastructure against wave erosion. They also provide natural breeding grounds and habitats for fishes and other marine organisms.

Special permits may be granted for research. - PD 1219

## Window-pane oyster



It is unlawful to gather kapis (the windowpane shell *Placuna placenta*) in Philippine waters without a permit. Kapis of less than 80 mm in diameter (measured from the base perpendicular towards the top edge of the shell) may not be collected. Mechanical rakes and dredges, or the use thereof on board a motorized boat are also prohibited. Specific reserve areas will be designated where the gathering, taking, removing or collecting of kapis are prohibited.

- FAO 157, Series of 1986

## Trumpet and helmet shells

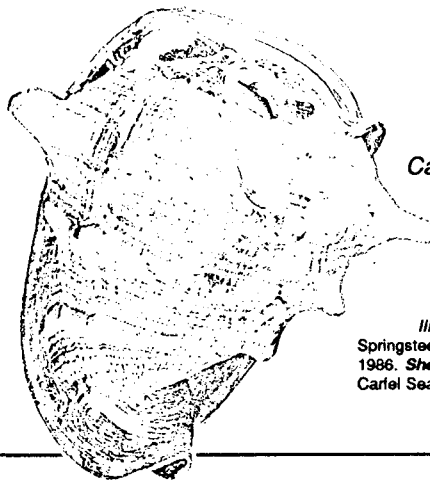
It is unlawful to gather mollusks of the genera *Triton* or *Charonia* (trumpet shells) and *Cassis* (helmet shells). Special permits may be issued to research and educational institutions.

- FAO 158, Series of 1986

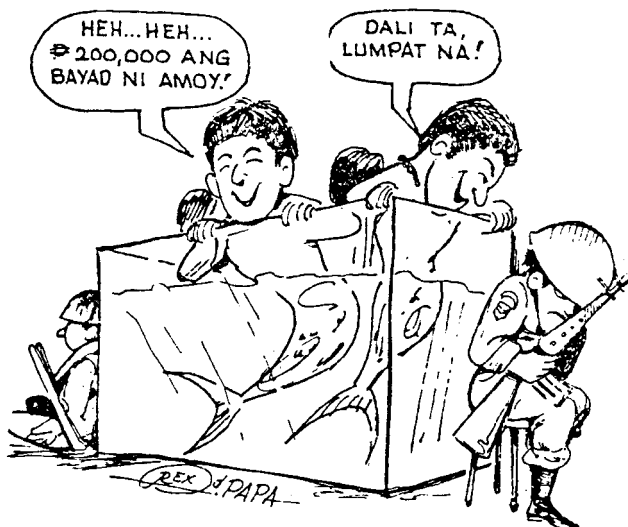
*Charonia*



*Cassis*



Illustrations from: FJ Springsteen and FM Leobrera. 1986. *Shells of the Philippines*. Carlel Seashell Museum, Manila.



**Evil triumphs because good men do nothing about it.**

Two men were caught fishing illegally, jailed, and "released":  
"He! he! My boss paid ₱200,000."  
"Okey, let's go!"

-Panay News, 2-4 July 1990

## What can ordinary citizens do to police illegal fishing?

- Inform the authorities about persons engaged in illegal fishing.
- Support the government's information campaign against illegal fishing.  
Talk with family, neighbors, and community about the hazards and adverse effects of illegal fishing.

**Source:** Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. 1988. *Primer on Illegal fishing*. Manila, Philippines. 11 pp.