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SEAFDEC/AQD launches seafarming and coastal enhancement program

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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Packaging

Banana leaves and low density polyethylene bags are used for packaging the traditional shrimp cakes. Packing studies showed that the use of low density polyethylene bags results in better quality products with longer shelf life.

Storage

The traditional shrimp cake lasts for one to two years when stored at room temperature. Using the modified process, the shrimp cake can last even longer than two years.

Product evaluation

Shrimp cake using the modified process was found to be highly acceptable. Sensory evaluation tests revealed that the color, flavor, and general acceptability of the products were better with the traditional process.

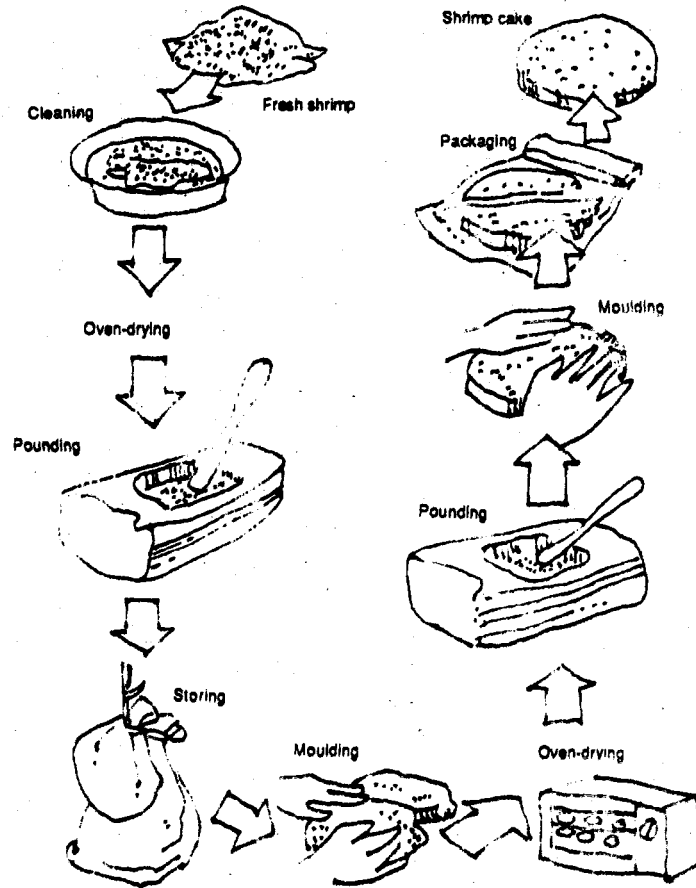


Fig. 2. General procedure in shrimp cake-making using an artificial dryer.

Source: The PCARRD Monitor, Vol. 17, No. 10, October 1989.

SEAFDEC/AQD LAUNCHES SEAFARMING AND COASTAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

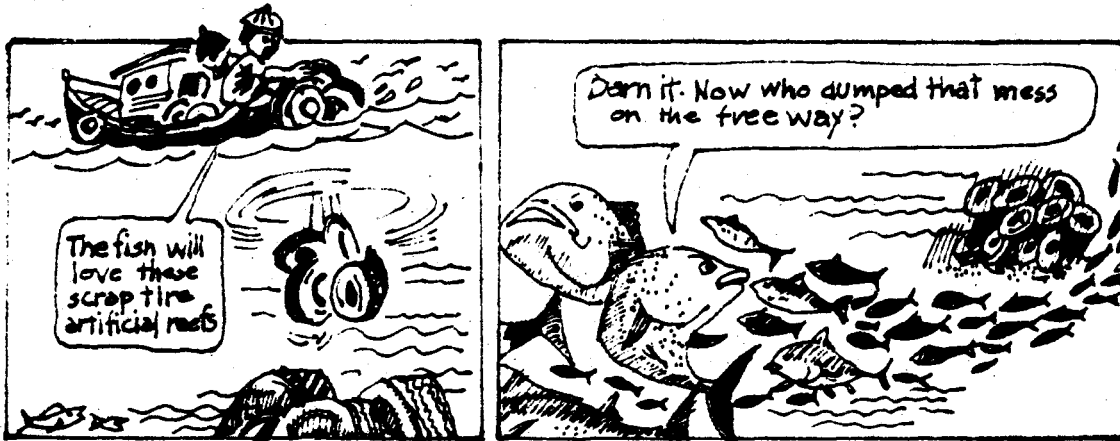
The Aquaculture Department of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC/AQD) recently launched an integrated seafarming and coastal enhancement program. Hailed as an effective measure to close the worsening gap between fish demand and fish supply, it has the support of the Department of Agriculture and is funded partially by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada.

Currently underway is Phase I of the project which shall establish a pilot seafarming and coastal enhancement center at a suitable location. Already, five candidate sites in Panay and Guimaras Islands have been identified.

The center will spearhead the following activities: (1) marine culture of selected finfishes, molluscs, shrimps, and seaweeds; (2) breeding of the selected species for release into coastal

Lore of the Sea

by Pongase



Source: Naga, The ICLARM Quarterly, Vol. XII, No. 1, January 1989.

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waters; (3) placement of concrete artificial reefs for fish habitat enhancement; (4) organization of coastal fishermen into a strong association or cooperative; and (5) formulation of extension programs for other provinces in the country.

For the ideal site of the pilot center, the following biological criteria are applied: (1) firm and hard bottom surface (coralline, rocky); (2) nearness to coral or past reef growth; (3) away from large river outflow or adverse land influences such as mud flat, rice paddy, or mining site; (4) extensive shelf area of at least one sq km (100 hectares) and a depth of 10-30 meters; (5) presence of subsidiary site types in the area (mangroves, corals, seagrass beds); (6) current flow patterns permitting cross-reef metabolic exchange; and (7) the site should be safe from intense wave action.

Socioeconomic criteria are likewise considered in evaluating the pilot site. These are: (1) existence of a fishermen's association in the area and also of non-government organizations (NGOs); (2) local fishing and aquaculture systems; (3) availability near the site of alternative means of livelihood; and (4) peace and order condition.

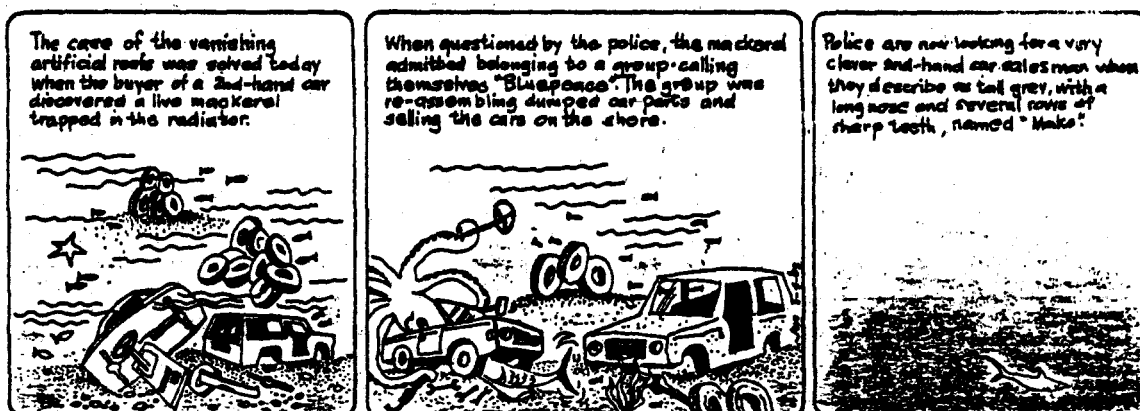
According to Dr. Flor Lacanilao, SEAFDEC/AQD Chief and project leader, "this seafarming and coastal enhancement program addresses the national issues concerning our degraded coastal environment, depleted fish stocks, failure in law enforcement, and alternative job opportunities for small fishermen."

The program offers possible effective solutions to the issues. Among them, Dr. Lacanilao stressed the crucial importance of giving fishermen's associations or cooperatives territorial use rights over their traditional fishing grounds. Through this exclusive privilege granted by the government, coastal fishermen as a group will have strong management powers, including self-regulating rules it can impose upon its members.

Municipal fishermen can then more effectively block the entry of unauthorized commercial fishing vessels into coastal waters. By themselves, self-regulations such as on catch quota for stock conservation can be better enforced.

Lore of the Sea

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Exclusive territorial right for coastal fishermen could be the most effective approach to the conservation of our nearshore fishery resources. It could at the same time be the best strategy for law enforcement as the concerned fishermen themselves will have the motivation to protect their occupational area against intruders and those among them using illegal fishing methods.

The program has four components which must be implemented together, otherwise the whole program will be in vain. These projects are: (1) the construction of artificial reefs that will provide habitat for marine organisms; (2) seeding the coastal waters with fish juveniles; (3) grant of territorial use rights to fishermen's associations; and (4) creation of alternative job opportunities.

To take up these four projects as separate actions would be contrary to the desired end, Dr. Lacanilao said. For instance, implementing the artificial reef project without the effective control obtained from the grant of territorial use rights can result only in minimal or even negative effects.

The negative result will come in terms of encouraging overfishing since artificial reefs also serve as fish attraction devices. Thus, if everybody will be allowed to fish in the area of the installed artificial reefs, this will only worsen our country's coastal fish stock depletion problem.

In addition to its local importance, SEAFDEC/AQD's integrated seafarming and coastal enhancement program is expected to serve as model for other countries in Asia and elsewhere in the world.

SEVENTEEN GRADUATE FROM FISH HEALTH MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

Seventeen participants from Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and the Philippines graduated from SEAFDEC/AQD's fourth Fish Health Management Training Course March 29 at the Tigbauan Main Station.

The graduates were: Arif Bin Rizali, Ng Hoc Sun - Malaysia; Vanada Komwech, Arunee Manakla, U-Malai Saduakdee - Thailand; Amelia Aguas, Simeona Regidor, Ligaya Cabrera, Annabelle Cariaga, Fe Ferrer, Lydia Morales, Edwin Panosos, Judith Silapan, Ricci Tipon, Emil Aralar, and Remia Traviña - Philippines; D.Y. Fernando - Sri Lanka. Nine of the participants (two from Malaysia, three from Thailand, and four from the Philippines) were supported by the SEAFDEC Fellowship Fund contributed by the Japanese Government. Participation of Sri Lanka was shouldered by its Export Development Board. The rest were sponsored by their respective agencies.