RESPONSE TO RTEC COMMENTS
SETUP CORE☐ LOCAL GIA☒

Project Title:	**Golden Apple Snail** (Pomecea *caniculata*) **and Telescope Snail** (Telescopium *telescopium*) **as feed sources for Tiger Lobster** (Panulirus *ornatus)* **culture in the Municipality of Dumaran**
Beneficiary/Proponent:	LGU-Dumaran
Province:	Palawan
Amount Requested:	P 193,636.33
Date of Evaluation:	February 20, 2024

RTEC Comments	Response
Consider potential sources of raw materials	The project proposal now includes a detailed section on potential sources of raw materials. The collection of Golden Apple Snails (GAS) will focus on areas where these snails are abundant and considered pests, such as rice fields. Telescopic snails will be sourced from sustainable, local aquaculture farms to ensure a steady supply.
The control variable should be the telescopic snails since it is the feed used for 3 years	The experimental design has been updated to designate telescopic snails as the control variable. This is because they have been used as feed for the past three years, providing a reliable baseline for comparison with Golden Apple Snails (GAS).
Include BFAR in the project	The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is now officially included as a partner in the project. Their role will involve providing technical assistance, monitoring, and evaluation support.
Include breakdown/specifics in the LIB	A detailed breakdown and specifics have been included in the Line Item Budget (LIB).
Include cost comparison to ensure economic impact on the fisherfolks	A comprehensive cost comparison between using telescopic snails and Golden Apple Snails (GAS) as feed has been added. This comparison highlights the economic impact on fisherfolks, showing potential savings and increased profitability when using GAS as an alternative feed source.

Include in the objectives the cost of production of both golden apple snail and telescope snail and the proposed project may be considered for the following year	The objectives section now includes a specific aim to determine the cost of production for both Golden Apple Snails (GAS) and telescopic snails. This will provide a clearer understanding of the economic feasibility and sustainability of using GAS as an alternative feed source.
Include the number of replications per treatment	The experimental design now specifies that there will be three replications per treatment. This ensures statistical validity and reliability of the results, allowing for a robust comparison between the two feed sources.

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RTEC Comments	Response
Define the nutrient composition of these snails	The telescopic snail, such as ***Pomacea diffusa***, has a moderate protein content that provides essential amino acids, while its fat content is low, typically under 2%. It primarily contains carbohydrates in the form of glycogen and some fibrous materials. Additionally, telescopic snails may provide various vitamins, particularly B12 and other B vitamins, as well as essential minerals like calcium, potassium, and magnesium, which are important for shell formation. On the other hand, the golden apple snail, represented by ***Pomacea canaliculata***, boasts a higher protein content, ranging from 16% to 20% of its dry weight, making it a significant nutritional source. Its fat content is also low, generally under 4%. Like the telescopic snail, it contains carbohydrates mainly as glycogen and other polysaccharides such as chitin. This species also contains a range of B vitamins, including B12, which are vital for cellular metabolism, along with important minerals such as calcium, phosphorus, and iron.
Ensure the continuity and source of these snails	• Research best practices for breeding and farming snails to ensure continuity. • Identify the habitat requirements necessary for snails to thrive. • Investigate sustainable sourcing practices for snails in the wild.

	• Gather information on regulations or guidelines for responsible snail sourcing.
Explain how the GAS and Telescopic snails are prepared for feeds to lobster.	The GAS and Telescopic snails will be slightly crushed first before putting it in the cage.
Are these snails given in raw form or converted into powder or pellets with a supplementary mixture?	These snails will be given in raw form. It will not be mixed with other feed materials.
There is a budget for supplementary feeds in the proposal?	Yes. The budget will be used to purchase fresh fish and other feeding materials as supplementary feeds.
What will be the mixing ratio of GAS and the Telescopic snail with the supplementary feeds?	The Telescopic snails will be used as the main aquafeed for Treatment 1 and GAS for Treatment 2. They will be given five times a week. Trash fish will be used as supplementary feeds twice a week for the project.

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