



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources IV-A
Fisheries Management Area 12 Management Board
Purok 3, Barangay Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna



1 **MINUTES OF THE 3rd QUARTER MEETING OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD (MB) OF**
2 **FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AREA (FMA) 12**

3 Date : September 19, 2024

4 Time : 9:15 A.M.

5 Location: BFAR 4A Regional Office, Los Baños, Laguna (blended manner)

6 MB Members Present:

Chairperson : BFAR Region 4A - **Sammy A. Malvas**

Sectoral-

Representatives : Municipal Fishing Sector - **Rodrigo A. De Jesus**

Commercial Fishing Sector - **Melanie P. Catapang**

Aquaculture - **Atty. Immanuel I. Sodusta**

Academe - **Dr. Yasmin H. Primavera-Tirol**

NGO - **Rosalie G. Recaro**
Pacifico D. Beldia II (Alternate)

IFARMC (Balayan Bay) - **Wilfredo A. Hernandez**

IFARMC (Tayabas Bay) - **Zaldy E. Almanza**

PAMB
Carmela A. Reynoso
Levana Rae V. Parañaque
Felmar Cornel

PNP-Maritime Group - **PCPT Romeo L. Ogasna Jr.**

Philippine Coast Guard - **CG LTJG Gerna Rogena Sondia**
CG LT Atanasio Lucky C. Barba &
CG P/ENS Kristine Claire L. Gonzales

PFDA - **Diego C. Plata**

DILG - **Engr. Michael Casto A. Ras II**

Region MIMAROPA - **Brenda S. Labiaga**

Region V - **Richmar B. Villas**

Region VI - **Ryan E. Doronila**

7 Absent:

8 Local Chief Executive - **Hon. Matt Erwin V. Florido**

9 Other Attendees:



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources IV-A
Fisheries Management Area 12 Management Board
Purok 3, Barangay Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna



1. Trazarah Hanoof E. Argarin, Assistant Project Leader-NSAP4A
2. Jesreel M. Narido, FMA 12 Secretariat
3. Saturnino P. Miano Jr., FMA 12 Secretariat
4. Cyrenes M. Moncawe, Seoul National University / DA-NFRDI - Master's student / Training Specialist II (Observer)

Agenda:

1. Updates on the Action Plan for the Proposed Closed Season for Bali Sardinella in Tayabas Bay
2. Draft Resolution for the Establishment of the FMA 12 Technical Working Group (TWG)
3. Updates on FMA 12 Science Advisory Group
4. Capacity Building: Management Measures

The 4th quarter meeting of FMA 12 MB was conducted in a blended format on September 19, 2024, beginning at 9:15 A.M., with Chairperson Sammy A. Malvas calling the meeting to order. The session opened with an Audio-Visual Presentation (AVP) of the prayer, followed by the Philippine National Anthem. Jesreel M. Narido, FMA 12 Member-Secretariat, conducted the roll call, and with the majority of members present, a quorum was declared.

The Calendar of Business and Agenda were presented. Following clarifications from the Chair, Dr. Yasmin H. Primavera-Tirol, Academe Sector Representative, moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Wilfredo A. Hernandez, IFARMC Balayan Bay Sector Representative.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Jesreel M. Narido. With no comments raised, Mr. Hernandez moved for approval of the minutes, seconded by Rosalie G. Recaro, NGO Sector Representative.

With no business arising from the previous meeting, Dr. Tirol inquired about the status of the proposed closed season. The Chair echoed this query, including the status of nominations for vacant positions. The secretariat clarified that an agenda item would



address the proposed closed season's status. Mr. Narido provided updates on the selection of vacated seats, noting that Mr. Ryan E. Doronila, is still identifying representatives for the Indigenous People (IP) Sector and Market/Traders/Processors Organization Sector. Both Region MIMAROPA and Region V confirmed that representatives for these sectors have been selected.

Agenda 1: Updates on the Action Plan for the Proposed Closed Season for Bali Sardinella in Tayabas Bay

Mr. Narido presented documentation on the series of stakeholders' consultations held from May 21, 2024, up to the latest session on August 6, 2024, all conducted at National Brackish Fisheries Technology Center (NBFTC), Pagbilao, Quezon. He outlined the roadmap and next steps, including the scheduled Public Consultation, Orientation on Harvest Strategy, MB Approval of the Harvest Strategy, Submission of the draft Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) and Harvest Strategy for Bali Sardinella, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) for the closure, and partnerships with other LGUs for the FAO.

The Chair invited comments from the board. Dr. Tirol requested a timeline for the action plan and inquired if feedback had been gathered from LGUs on the proposed closed season. The secretariat responded that the LGUs, along with their Municipal Agriculturist Offices, agreed on the need for a closed season, although there are some concerns about support mechanisms for affected fisherfolk during the implementation period.

Dr. Tirol asked if the Management Board (MB) could expect the draft Fisheries Administrative Order (FAO) at the next MB meeting. The Chair replied that, following the public consultation, the draft FAO is expected to be presented to the MB for endorsement to the NFARMC for further deliberation and approval. The Chair added that the schedule for the next NFARMC meeting would be confirmed to ensure the timely submission of the draft FAO and Harvest Strategy, with a target submission date in the first quarter of 2025.



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources IV-A
Fisheries Management Area 12 Management Board
Purok 3, Barangay Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna



71 Lastly, the Chair highlighted the strong support from other government agencies for
72 implementing the proposed closed season, viewing this as a positive indicator of broad
73 acceptance for the measure.

74
75 Mr. Pacifico D. Beldia II suggested the possibility of having a single FAO to cover
76 Tayabas Bay, Verde Island Passage (VIP), and Tablas Strait.

77
78 The Chair agreed with the importance of including all adjacent fishing grounds but
79 recommended proceeding with the current measure for now, with potential expansion to
80 neighboring areas in the future. He noted that stakeholders from the VIP and Tablas Strait
81 were not included in previous consultations, and incorporating these areas into the
82 proposed FAO might require restarting the process from the beginning. Furthermore, the
83 previously agreed-upon Harvest Control Rules (HCR), based on the scientific data
84 presented, were specific to Tayabas Bay.

85
86 **Agenda 2: Draft Resolution for the Establishment of the FMA 12 Technical Working**
87 **Group (TWG)**

88
89 Mr. Narido read the draft resolution, after which the Chair invited comments from the
90 board. Dr. Tirol inquired about the source of funds for the TWG's operations. The Chair
91 indicated that the funding would likely come from the allocation for FMA implementation.

92
93 The Chair noted that the membership was extensive, creating an impression of
94 forming a new body. He emphasized that the TWG's actions should be swift, as its role is
95 to assist the MB. However, if TWG members come from various provinces and agencies,
96 convening could be challenging. The Chair therefore suggested limiting the membership
97 to ensure the TWG could easily meet, discuss, and act.

98
99 Mr. Hernandez asked about the proposed bill in Congress and Senate that would
100 designate the Verde Island Passage as a NIPAS area, placing it under PAMB's jurisdiction.
101 He questioned the FMA 12 MB's stance on this proposal. RD Malvas responded that the



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources IV-A
Fisheries Management Area 12 Management Board
Purok 3, Barangay Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna



decision would ultimately rest with the Batangas LGU. For FMA 12, the Protected Area could be treated as a sub-FMA to ensure alignment in management activities and measures.

Mr. Ras recommended that the resolution should include the following signatories: prepared by the secretariat and attested by the Chair. He noted that since the resolution heading reflects the meeting's minutes, further signatures from members should not be necessary, as approval in spirit and principle would be assumed. Additionally, he suggested phrasing changes, including replacing "CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY" with "APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY." He further recommended that if the meeting was conducted in a blended manner, this should be noted in the document.

The Chair agreed with these logistical considerations, acknowledging that consensus in the minutes eliminates the need for extensive circulation for signatures. This is a more practical and legally sound approach.

Regarding TWG composition, the Chair suggested limiting it to personnel from BFAR Regional Fisheries Offices, who would manage the TWG. Dr. Tirol agreed, citing cost as a consideration, and added that specific agencies, provinces, or groups could be invited on a case-by-case basis if necessary.

The Chair outlined that TWG members would be BFAR personnel from Regional Offices, with the option to invite representatives from other agencies or groups as needed. This arrangement would avoid overburdening personnel with additional responsibilities. The effectiveness of this setup would be monitored, with adjustments made based on experience. The members unanimously approved.

The Chair instructed the secretariat to revise the resolution to reflect the agreed revisions and incorporate Mr. Ras's recommendations. Once revised, the final draft will



be circulated to MB members for final review. If no further comments are made, the Chair will sign the document to approve the resolution based on the meeting's agreements.

The meeting then proceeded to the next agenda item.

Agenda 3: Updates on FMA 12 Science Advisory Group

Ms. Trazarah Hanoof E. Argarin presented updates on the FMA 12 Science Advisory Group (SAG), including documentation and agenda highlights from the FMA 12 SAG's 1st and 2nd Quarter Meetings, as well as their participation in the Stakeholders' Consultation series on the proposed closed season for Bali Sardinella in Tayabas Bay. She also presented revisions to the internal rules of procedure for the FMA 12 SAG, noting significant changes such as the establishment of a three-year term for the SAG Chairperson and updated qualifications for representatives from various sectors. These updates ensure that representatives have relevant experience in their respective fields. The revised IRP is expected to be finalized and officially adopted in the 3rd Quarter Regular Meeting of the FMA 12 SAG.

Ms. Argarin also discussed candidate priority species for Harvest Control Rules (HCR) and Harvest Control Measures (HCM) development, which will be further addressed at the upcoming SAG meeting. Finally, she provided updates on the status of vacant Permanent and Alternate Sectoral Representative positions that require filling.

The Chair thanked Ms. Argarin, emphasizing the ongoing process of developing reference points and HCRs for other priority species within Tayabas Bay. With no comments from MB members, the meeting proceeded to the next agenda item.

Agenda 4: Capacity Building: Management Measures

Mr. Saturnino P. Miano Jr. presented various common fisheries management actions and interventions, including fishing effort regulation, seasonal closures, gear



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources IV-A
Fisheries Management Area 12 Management Board
Purok 3, Barangay Bambang, Los Baños, Laguna



bans, size restrictions, marine spatial planning, networks of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and fish catch/habitat monitoring. He provided examples of each management action, explained their applications across different areas in the country, and supported his presentation with visual aids.

The Chair thanked Mr. Miano, noting that the presentation aimed to familiarize members with management measures that could be adapted to specific fishing grounds or FMAs.

Mr. Beldia asked whether the MB could formally recognize the existing seasonal closure measures in Batangas and Oriental Mindoro through an MB Resolution. The Chair agreed and instructed the secretariat to draft a resolution acknowledging the efforts of the LGUs of Oriental Mindoro and Batangas. This draft will be presented at a future MB meeting.

Following a photo opportunity, the Chair thanked all attendees, including the guest observer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Prepared by:

Certified True and Correct:

JESREEL M. NARIDO
Member-Secretariat, FMA 12
Aquacultural Tech. I, BFAR 4A

EDMUNDO M. AMICAN, III
Member-Secretariat, FMA 12
FMA Coordinator

Reviewed/Attested by:

Approved by:

ALLAN U. CASTILLO
FMA Focal, Head Secretariat
Chief, FMRED

SAMMY A. MALVAS
Chairperson, FMA 12 MB
Regional Director, BFAR 4A