



Jesli Lapus
Secretary, DepEd



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BFAR consults Samar fisherfolks on use of juvenile and trashfish excluder device

by [Ninfa B Quirante](#)

Catbalogan City (13 March) -- The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) gathered some 38 fishing boat operators from the municipalities of Daram, Zumarraga, Catbalogan and San Sebastian to consult as regards the use of the Juvenile and Trashfish Excluder Device (JTED).

In a meeting at the BFAR-Regional Fisheries Training Center (RFTC) today, personnel from the central, regional and provincial offices of BFAR met with the target audience.

Mr. Bundit Chokessanguan, a Thai from the Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), Training Department, Samutprakarn, Thailand, briefed the participants on the device supposedly to regulate trawl fishing in Samar Sea.

In comparison to trawl fishing, which virtually closes in all types and kinds of marine resources, the use of JTED will result to catching only fish of commercial value.

Trawl fishing has been banned as it virtually catches all kinds and types of marine life, even those in the seabed as this type of fishing scours and scrapes even the seabed.

The discussion however, instead of focusing in the use of JTED diverted to the legalities of the alleged municipal sea waters and the fishing operations of the fisherfolks.

Those present do not have any problem with the product as they are aware of its use in the sustainability of the marine products.

Some though raised the issue on the additional cost of the device and the decline of their catch as they think everything their net catches is always of use to the lowly fisherman.

According to Professor Renato Diocton of the Marine Sciences Department, BFAR does not wish them to abandon fish capture but envisions an ecologically sound fishing strategy that will ensure fish for the coming generations.

The consultation on the regulation on the use of JTED for trawl fishers, said Ronnie Berida of BFAR-RFTC will be done in Calbayog City (March 14, 2008) in Daet, Camarines Norte (San Miguel Bay) Pangasinan/La Union (Lingayen Gulf) and Cadiz, Negros Occidental (Visayan Sea).

Newly appointed BFAR Regional Director Juan Albaladejo, BFRAP Provincial Fishery Officer Rolando Ay-ay and Edgar Guya of the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) who represented Catbalogan City Mayor Coefredo 'Tekwa' Uy also graced the consultation held at the BFAR, Samar State University (SSU) Mercedes Campus in Catbalogan City. (PIA-Samar) [\[top\]](#)