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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) is a regional treaty organization established in December 1967 to promote fisheries development in the region through research, training and information services. Its member countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The Aquaculture Department (AQD), one of SEAFDEC's four departments, is mandated to implement programs in research, technology verification and demonstration, and training and information dissemination in order to promote responsible aquaculture in Southeast Asia.

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Igang Marine Station



CEREMONIAL LAUNCHING
PILOT PROJECT ON MOLLUSK CAGE CULTURE AS SUSTAINABLE
OPTION FOR AFFECTED GUIMARAS FISHERIES
WITH FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FROM THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

The **Igang Marine Station (IMS)** of SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) is located in the southwest coast of Guimaras Island in central Philippines. IMS is composed of four islets and clusters of floating fish cages interconnected by pontoon foot bridges. The station maintains captive broodstock of various commercially important species to provide eggs for research and production runs.



History and mandate

The station was established in 1974 primarily for studies on the breeding of tiger shrimp in pens. The major breakthroughs of SEAFDEC/AQD were accomplished in IMS, including the completion of the life cycle of tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*) in captivity in 1975 and milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) in 1983. The natural spawning of captive breeders in cages was first observed and recorded at the station in 1979.

New nursery and grow-out technologies have been developed and verified for high-value species such as grouper (*Epinephelus* spp), sea bass (*Lates calcarifer*), snapper (*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*), and pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) to cater to the needs of fish farmers.

The station also stocks abalone (*Haliotis asinina*) and sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) pens for studies to improve their culture in sea cages. In addition, nearly 200 giant clams were released around the station for stock enhancement.



Facilities

To support research and training activities, the station has an office, staff quarters, and fully-furnished guest house for visitors.



IMS is host to a mariculture park demonstration and training facility to serve as a model of sustainable mariculture technology for marginal fishers. The fully-equipped mariculture park also caters to entrepreneurs who are interested in investing in aquaculture.

Activities

Studies on the area's carrying capacity have been conducted. Likewise, water and sediment quality monitoring is done regularly to ensure that the station's activities do not pollute the environment.

The station provides technical assistance and hosts training for fish farmers, technicians, government personnel, and students. The station also provides technical assistance to mariculture-based livelihood projects for fisherfolk from nearby communities.

