

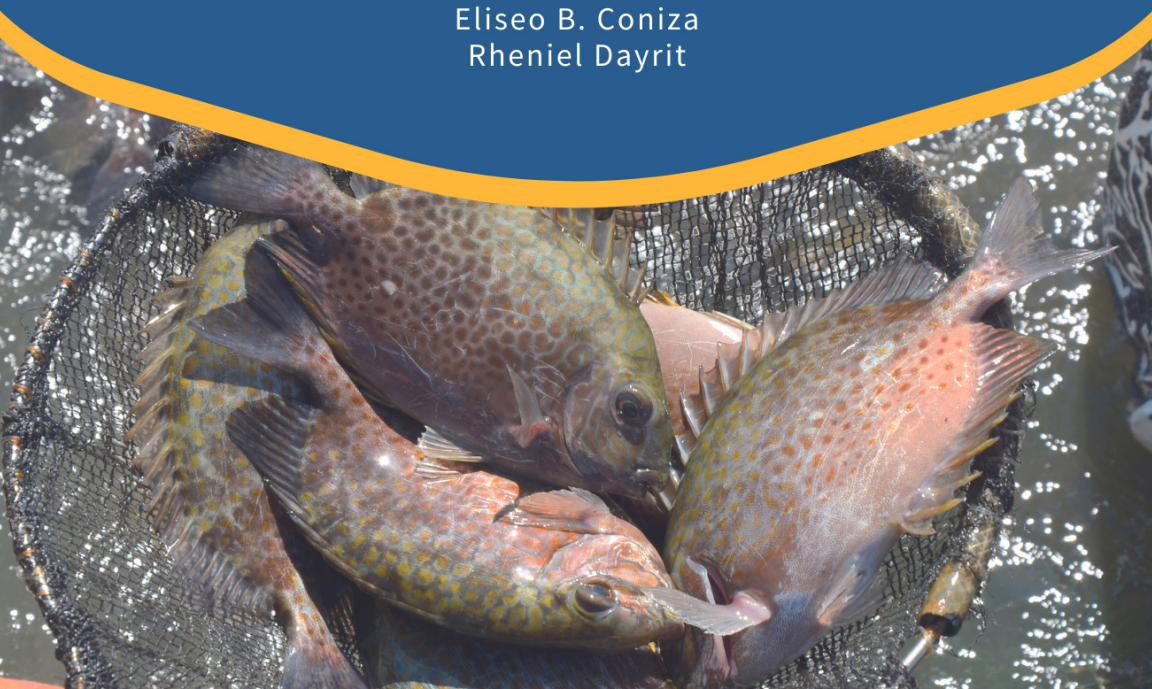
NURSERY AND GROW-OUT CULTURE OF

Rabbitfish

Siganus guttatus

IN BRACKISHWATER PONDS

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Foreword

Since 1983, rabbitfish has been one of the species SEAFDEC/AQD is working on. Through its research efforts, SEAFDEC/AQD developed science-based breeding and hatchery technologies on rabbitfish.

Moving forward, recognizing the aquaculture potential of rabbitfish, which is included in the 2020 top seven species for aquaculture production in brackishwater ponds with a total volume of 62 metric tons (BFAR, 2021), SEAFDEC/AQD also conducted studies on the nursery and grow-out culture of this species.

To further boost the promotion of rabbitfish culture in the aquaculture industry, SEAFDEC/AQD came up with this manual on the nursery and grow-out culture of rabbitfish which is the product of research and verification studies conducted by the institution.

Through this manual, we are looking forward that the science-based culture techniques we developed will reach more stakeholders from the private sector, the academe, and government agencies.



DAN D. BALIAO

SEAFDEC/AQD Chief

About the Manual

Rabbitfish *Siganus guttatus* is a promising aquaculture species due to its tasty meat and commands a higher price than some aquaculture species. Moreover, it has a low protein requirement, resulting in a low-cost feed input. In the 1970s, rabbitfish farming in fishponds began in the Philippines. In 1998 and 2014, SEAFDEC/AQD published manuals titled “Biology and Culture of Siganids” and “Seed Production of Rabbitfish *Siganus guttatus*,” respectively. However, there has been no recent publication on the nursery and grow-out culture. As a result, this manual will provide an update on the current techniques for nursery and grow-out culture operations of rabbitfish.

Research studies, particularly on diets and culture techniques, have been conducted and verified before being disseminated through this publication. The biology of *Siganus guttatus* is covered, as well as the brackishwater culture management techniques such as site selection, pond preparation, nursery operation, grow-out culture technique, production data, common diseases and preventions, and economic analysis.

The authors hope this manual will provide fish farmers, farm operators, feed millers, aquaculturists, technicians, and students with the basic knowledge of science-based aquaculture techniques for rabbitfish and how rabbitfish farming can become profitable.

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