



SIXTY-THREE-DAY-OLD slipper-shaped oysters (*Magallana bilineata*) thrive at SEAFDEC/AQD's oyster hatchery in Tigbauan, Iloilo. At the hatchery, freely-swimming oyster larvae are grown in tanks. Once they attach to a surface like oysters typically do, they are called spats. Pictured here are oyster spats that were allowed to settle on microcultch to produce spats that are single (not clustered). Photo by NG Armada

aqd matters

May-June 2022

Newsletter of the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

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Milkfish fingerling production in tanks nets promising results

A NEW initiative on milkfish fingerling production has shown that milkfish can potentially grow faster in tanks and at higher densities compared to production in earthen ponds.

The promising results were logged after a trial

run from April to June 2022 at SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station as part of the Joint Mission for Accelerated Nationwide Technology Transfer Program II (JMANTTP-II).

After 45 to 60 days of culture with provision for *lablab*

(periphyton) and formulated feeds, the fingerlings reached 3–5 grams average body weight and a 65 percent survival rate at an initial stocking density of 1,000–2,000 fry per ton.

For comparison, growing milkfish fingerlings in earthen ponds for 30 to 45 days may



Milkfish fingerling production in circular concrete tanks is ongoing at SEAFDEC/AQD. Nets pre-treated with *lablab* (periphyton) admixture are placed over the tank bottom like tennis nets to increase the surface area for natural food attachment. This study aims to discover the most efficient way of producing milkfish fingerlings. Photo by JF Aldon



Continued from previous page...



The milkfish fingerlings after a month of culture in circular concrete tanks.
Photo by JF Aldon

achieve one-gram average body weight and a 70 percent survival rate at a stocking density of 25 fry per square meter when provided with plankton and formulated feeds.

In the tanks, nets pre-treated with *lablab* admixture were installed, like tennis nets, to increase the surface area for attachment of natural food. Artificial feeds were also given using either commercial fry mash or booster feeds.

The initial trial used six 80-ton circular concrete tanks that were stocked with between 60,000 and 100,000 milkfish fry each. The harvested fingerlings

have been stocked at the Igang Marine Station to make way for an ongoing second trial.

The initiative intends to find the most efficient way of producing milkfish fingerlings by testing various stocking density ratios, different feeding regimes, and other important production factors.

It also aims to provide the private sector with technologies that would help plug the shortage in the milkfish fingerling supply, thereby helping sustain the grow out production of the fish. **a**

— J GENILZA &
RD DIANALA

SEAFDEC/AQD vows to support hatchery establishment in Zamboanga Sibugay

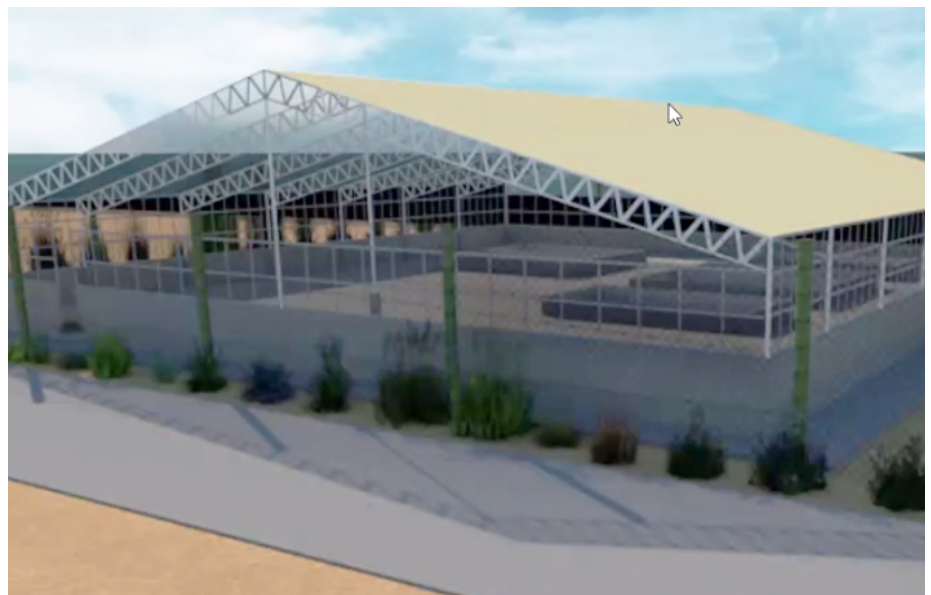
SEAFDEC/AQD is working to assist in the establishment of a hatchery in Zamboanga Sibugay in Mindanao to help boost aquaculture production and increase economic activity.

In the Inter-Agency Discussion on Assessing Zamboanga Sibugay's Readiness for Agri-Fishery Modernization on 5 May 2022, Chief Dan Baliao provided updates on the proposed establishment of the Small-scale Oyster Hatchery in Zamboanga Sibugay.

It was mentioned during the discussion that SEAFDEC/AQD is currently working with the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA) for the establishment of the proposed oyster hatchery, wherein the research center is providing the technical assistance, such as conducting feasibility studies and site assessments.

Marinelle Espino, an associate researcher of SEAFDEC/AQD and oyster study leader, presented the perspective view and floor plan of the proposed hatchery. She briefly discussed the flow of operation when the hatchery becomes operational.

The Sibuguey Bay, one of the major bays in Zamboanga Sibugay, has a big potential for fisheries program according to *Kapunongan sa Gagmayang Mangingisda sa Concepcion* (KGMC) chairman Roberto Ballon. KGMC has sustainable livelihood programs for aquaculture farmers in Mindanao, especially for grouper, oyster, mangrove (king) crab, and seaweed farming. However, support facilities such as the multi-



The proposed Small-scale Oyster Hatchery to be constructed in Zamboanga Sibugay. The hatchery is expected to promote aquaculture production and economic activity in the area.

species hatchery are needed to sustain the culture of their most important commodities.

The meeting, which took place virtually, was organized by the National Anti-Poverty Commission- Local Affairs Coordinating and Monitoring Services of Region 9.

'Agri-fishery sector modernization pushed'

SEAFDEC/AQD's expertise was sought by officials from Zamboanga Sibugay as they laid their plans for a more modern agriculture and fisheries sector in the province.

In a consultative meeting held last 16 June 2022, provincial officers requested

experts from SEAFDEC/AQD to review the concepts, strategies, and objectives of a proposed workshop that focused on formulating a modernization roadmap for its agri-fishery sector.

The meeting, which was held virtually, was led by Engr. Romel Duran, an officer from the Provincial Local Government Unit of Zamboanga Sibugay, and Mr. Eliseo Palad, a representative from the Local Affairs Coordinating and Monitoring Services of the National Anti-Poverty Commission in Region 9. **a**

— JMD ARANAS &
NG ARMADA

Eel research on spotlight in int'l conference



Photo taken from the Zoom platform (live video) during the presentation of SEAFDEC/AQD Scientist Dr. Maria Rowena R. Eguia at the 4th JAAP International Research and Development Conference. Photo courtesy of MRR Eguia

ANGUILLID EEL research at SEAFDEC/AQD was presented by Scientist Dr. Maria Rowena R. Eguia during the 4th JAAP International Research and Development Conference (JAAP-IRDC-4) held last 23–25 June 2022 at El Nido, Palawan.

Her presentation, “Revitalising the Anguillid Eel Industry in the Philippines in the Post-COVID Era,” was given during the Plenary and Scientific Talks session on the first day of the conference.

Dr. Eguia, who is also the vice president of the JSPS Alumni Association of the Philippines, Incorporated (JAAP), emphasized the importance of promoting anguillid eel research in the country.

She gave a brief discussion about anguillid eels and the reasons why the eel industry was thriving pre-pandemic. The expert also discussed the status of tropical eel stocks in Southeast Asia and the Philippines, as well as the impact of

the pandemic on the country’s eel sector.

She elaborated that due to commercial trade, these eels are among the most sought-after aquatic species, particularly in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and China. The decline of temperate eel populations such as the European (*Anguilla anguilla*), American (*Anguilla rostrata*), and Japanese eel (*Anguilla japonica*) has also shifted demand in the American and European markets to tropical eel species caught and farmed in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines.

In response to rising market demand, SEAFDEC launched a study to investigate the utilization and abundance or status of the eel fishery in Southeast Asia; eel population genetic structure; development of refined culture methods to improve eel survival rates from glass eel stage to elver; and formulate eel resource management policies in Southeast Asia. From 2017 to 2019, the

project was supported by the JAPAN-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

In her speech, Dr. Eguia expressed optimism that the Philippine eel business will continue to thrive now that travel and air freight activities are less restricted.

The conference, themed “Challenges and Opportunities in the Post-Pandemic Era,” serves as an avenue for JAAP members and non-members to share their expertise, exchange scientific information, ideas, experiences, and knowledge, and strengthen research collaboration and linkages.

It also sets the tone for strengthening international relations and networking with Japan, where advances in science and technology are disseminated to the Philippines. The JAAP-IRDC-4 is hosted by the Palawan State University – El Nido Campus. **a**

— NG ARMADA

Round table meeting with local fish growers



The local fish growers with Chief Dan Baliao, SEAFDEC officials, and officers of the Iloilo City Agriculturist Office during their meeting last 22 June 2022. Photo by JF Aldon

SEAFDEC/AQD hosted a round table discussion in collaboration with the Iloilo City Agriculturist Office last 22 June 2022 to recommend and share ideas and updates on aquaculture with ten local fish growers.

During the meeting, Chief Dan Baliao showcased efforts to promote sustainable aquaculture in Iloilo City while also catering to fish growers’ concerns. There was a discussion about milkfish fingerling production, fish growth in

cages, prawn culture, and crab raising.

The visitors were given a tour of SEAFDEC/AQD facilities after the discussion. **a**

— NG ARMADA

DOST-6 eyes partnership with SEAFDEC/AQD on hatchery project



DOST-6 personnel, together with their client, Omis Seafood Import and Export, meet with Chief Dan Baliao and other members of the Executive Committee on 23 June 2022 at SEAFDEC/AQD's main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo. Photo by RH Ledesma

THE Department of Science and Technology Region 6 (DOST-6) sought the assistance of SEAFDEC/AQD to construct a private hatchery for marine

fish in Capiz Province. DOST-6 personnel Gerbe Dellava and Juafe Abareles, together with their client, Omis Seafood Import and Export, met with SEAFDEC/

AQD Chief Dan Baliao and the other members of the Executive Committee on 23 June 2022 at SEAFDEC/AQD's main station in Tigbauan, Iloilo to discuss

the details of the proposed project.

Specifically, DOST-6 requested SEAFDEC/AQD's assistance in conducting a feasibility study on the proposed site of their client's small-scale marine fish hatchery in the town of Panit-an, Capiz, and come up with the hatchery design.

It was also discussed during the meeting that when the hatchery is ready to operate, the private company will send its technicians to train at SEAFDEC/AQD on top of tapping a SEAFDEC/AQD expert who will oversee the initial operation of the hatchery facility. [a](#)

— RH LEDESMA

A FEMALE olive ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys olivacea*) that was turned over last year to SEAFDEC/AQD's FishWorld Museum was released back into the sea at Sitio Miao of Barangay Santiago in Barotac Viejo, Iloilo on 17 June 2022.

The sea turtle (pawikan) was rescued last 15 October 2021 after found floating on the water, and was brought to FishWorld on the 18th by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office of Sara, Iloilo. It measured 67 centimeters long by 69 centimeters wide and weighed about 26 kilograms.

According to FishWorld Officer-in-Charge Hananiah Sollesta-Pitogo, the animal was not eating when it was turned over. The museum's staff administered vitamins and antibiotics. She began eating on her own in January of this year.

The pawikan was returned to the sea after a much-needed rest, just in time for the celebration of the Month of the Ocean.

This activity is a gesture of SEAFDEC/AQD's support for coastal and marine conservation. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

Sea turtle released after months of rehabilitation



The olive ridley sea turtle was returned to the sea last 17 June 2022, just in time for the celebration of the Month of the Ocean. Photo by NG Armada

Bohol-based trainees acquire skills in mangrove crab hatchery

FIVE trainees from Bohol completed the 10-day Mangrove Crab Nursery and Grow-out Operations training course at the SEAFDEC/AQD Tigbauan Main Station (TMS) in Iloilo.

AFOS Foundation sponsored the trainees who sought the training to gain skills needed in the implementation of their crab grow-out projects. The trainees are members of the Isla de Pitogo Mangrove Crab Association, Inc., a beneficiary of the said foundation in collaboration with the Bohol Chamber of Commerce and Industry through the FISH Visayas Project.

The training, which ran from 16 to 25 May 2022, is the third face-to-face course offered by SEAFDEC/AQD since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The participants were immersed in activities such as biology and identification of mangrove crab *Scylla*



The trainees during their practical session on biology and identification of mangrove crab, *Scylla* spp. Photo by NG Armada

spp., mangrove crab hatchery operations, disease diagnostics of crab, crab health management, and acclimation and stocking of crab instars in hapa nets and shelters.

In TMS, they learned feed preparation. They

also harvested crab instars from hatchery tanks, and counted, sampled, packed, and transported them to Dumangas Brackishwater Station (DBS) for stocking.

Furthermore, the trainees went to DBS to acquire

knowledge on water and soil quality instrumentation and pond preparation/installation of hapa nets and shelters. **a**

— NG ARMADA

AQD wraps up giant freshwater prawn online course

TWELVE participants completed the three-day online training course on giant freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out operations on 19 May 2022.

The course, which promises interactive online learning, consists of a series of live and recorded lectures, live discussions with SEAFDEC/AQD experts, and video demonstrations.

“It is very informational. We learned so much from the modules which cover the research, practical, and even economic sides of the farming the commodity,” said Mikhael Clotilde Tañedo, one of the trainees from the Philippines.

The popularity of farming the giant freshwater prawn grew over the years due to its high market value and relatively low susceptibility to diseases.

This is the second online training course on giant freshwater prawn hatchery and grow-out operations since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first one was conducted in 2021.

Scientist and Training and Information Head Dr. Edgar Amar said during his closing speech that he is hopeful for the research center to conduct in-station and face-to-face training courses again very soon. **a**

— JMD ARANAS



The training course on seaweed culture includes practical sessions on the grow-out culture of *Kappaphycus*. Photo by EV Antolino

Trainees complete course on seaweed culture

THREE members of a social enterprise group completed the Special Training Course on Seaweed Culture organized by SEAFDEC/AQD, which ran from 16 to 30 May 2022.

The training course was part of the Special Internship Training Program on Seaweed Culture of ISDABEST, a social enterprise that supports the livelihood of fishermen at their project areas in Luzon.

The training included lectures and practical sessions on the grow-out culture of *Kappaphycus*; micropropagation of *K. alvarezii*; sustainable aquaculture concepts and principles; propagule monitoring and sampling; practical carrageenan extraction; water quality monitoring; and seaweed hatchery operations.

As part of their activities, the trainees toured the Igang Marine Station and the Dumangas Brackishwater Station. They also went to Pandan, Antique, to visit a commercial seaweed producer. **a**

— NG ARMADA

Bangsamoro fisheries staff train on mangrove crab hatchery



The trainees drain *Artemia* eggs for stocking. Photo by AL Ramos

THE 13-DAY training in mangrove crab hatchery operations, conducted by SEAFDEC/AQD at its Tigbauan Main Station, proved fruitful as six participants from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR) of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) left the research center with skills harnessed and a wealth of knowledge acquired.

From 6 to 24 June 2022, they were immersed in various lectures and hands-on activities on mangrove crab biology, site selection, hatchery design and construction, broodstock management, nutrition, and disease prevention.

When asked about the lectures and training, one participant said, "I love how the training and lectures were conducted. SEAFDEC/AQD is a place to acquire knowledge about aquaculture methods."

Aside from the hectic laboratory schedules, they

also toured the Igang Marine Station in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras Island. There they enjoyed the landscapes and pristine waters of the island which is famous for its mangoes.

The group also visited the Dumangas Brackishwater Station where they learned about crab culture operations, such as stocking crab instars in hapa nets and shelters, and site selection.

For the trainees, the training will be impactful given their region's burgeoning crab industry and now that their local government is planning to put up a hatchery. The knowledge they gained will be used to assist the community fisherfolk.

MAFAR is the regional executive department of BARMM responsible for affairs relating to agriculture, fishing, and agrarian reform in the region. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



aqd matters

is published bimonthly by the Development Communication Section, SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department, Tigbauan, Iloilo, Philippines

Issue editor:
NG Armada

Contributing writer-photographers:
JF Aldon, JMD Aranas, EV Antolino, NG Armada,
RD Dianala, J Genilza, RH Ledesma, AL Ramos

Editor-in-Chief:
RD Dianala

Executive Editor:
JMD Aranas

Publications Review Committee:
Dr. LD de la Peña, Dr. JP Altamirano,
Dr. EC Amar, Dr. RE Mamauag, Dr. ND Salayo

Circulation to friends of AQD:
DL Superio

For contributions and inquiries,
kindly email:
devcom@seafdec.org.ph

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Training on algal culture and isolation techniques held

SEAFDEC/AQD held a training course on algal culture and isolation techniques at its Tigbauan Main Station to enlighten and equip participants with the basic principles, technical knowledge, and skills in algal culture.

The sole trainee was Virgie Sol Titular, a former employee of the research center. She attended the training to expand her skills in algal culture using various media and isolation techniques such as the streak plate, micropipette, and microdilution techniques.

The training course, which ran from 13 to 21 June 2022, was supposed to be conducted in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

How SEAFDEC/AQD helped change Dr. Odin's life

Dr. Ramjie Odin, current Vice Chancellor for Research, Extension, and Development at Mindanao State University (MSU)-Maguindanao, humbly returned to his roots, SEAFDEC, where his passion for aquaculture and fisheries research began.

“All of my years of experience in research, I must say that it all started at SEAFDEC.”

In 2007, he graduated from MSU Maguindanao as a Department of Agrarian Reform scholar with a Bachelor's degree in Fisheries, where he concluded his years as cum laude and a University Leadership Awardee.

During a recent training at the research center, he expressed his appreciation for the many learning opportunities in fisheries and aquaculture at SEAFDEC.

“It has motivated me to strive well and do well in research, which has led me to my Fulbright scholarship.”

As a Department of Science and Technology Scholar, he earned his Master's in Aquaculture from Central Luzon State University in 2009. A decade later, he obtained a Fulbright scholarship and completed his Doctor of Philosophy in Fisheries and Aquaculture at Auburn University in the United States in 2017. Such an exceptional accomplishment only proves he has utilized his learnings to achieve his aspirations.

Dr. Odin, now an Associate Professor V at MSU-Maguindanao, is a promising academic professional. It began with his designation as Dean of the College of Fisheries

and Director of Research Services in 2019. He was appointed vice-chancellor for Research, Extension, and Development in January 2020. One would wonder how he has achieved so many triumphs. Among these causes are his passion for and dedication to public service.

He is a public servant and a researcher at heart, and he realized how he might serve the public good by fostering the advancement of research in his region. He stressed during the recent Mangrove Crab Hatchery and Nursery operations training that his research on mangrove crab is vital to the development of Maguindanao.

Despite his numerous accomplishments, Dr. Odin returned to SEAFDEC with the same enthusiasm and interest in fisheries and aquaculture. Starting with his internship and



Dr. Ramjie Odin is the vice chancellor for Research Extension and Development and Associate Professor V at Mindanao State University-Maguindanao. He is a former on-the-job-trainee at SEAFDEC/AQD. Photo by AL Ramos

now coming back as an accomplished academic, he remains grateful for the chances provided by SEAFDEC to help him become a better researcher. In addition, he ensures that he returns these valuable experiences to the community as a way of

expressing his gratitude.

One nudge and a shot at an opportunity can pave the door for more. Dr. Odin will never forget the time he was given a life-changing opportunity at SEAFDEC. **a**

— NG ARMADA



Dr. Ramjie Odin is one of the trainees in the 15-day training course on mangrove crab hatchery. Photo shows Dr. Odin during the practical session in biology and identification of mangrove crab, *Scylla* spp. Photo by NG Armada



SEAFDEC/AQD harvested two crops of snubnose pompano (*Trachinotus blochii*) from its fish cages at the Igang Marine Station in Guimaras on 27 May and 28 June 2022. The fish were grown as part of the research center's production and demonstration activities to promote the culture of the high-value commodity.



Ulang seeds bound for Antique

POSTLARVAE of giant freshwater prawn, locally known as ulang, produced at SEAFDEC/AQD's Multi-Species Freshwater Hatchery in Tigbauan, Iloilo made its way to a client in Libertad, Antique last 10 June 2022.

Interest in farming the giant freshwater prawn has been increasing but the industry's growth is limited by the supply of seedstock. SEAFDEC/AQD has been developing the prawn's hatchery technology since the 1970s and had its first successful larval rearing in 1979.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS Loina Henzel Delgado-Maquilan and Ellen Grace Ledesma from the Larval Food Laboratory (LFL) held a back-to-back webinar using the Zoom platform last 2 June 2022.

Delgado-Maquilan discussed “Larval Food Laboratory Services,” primary microalgae and zooplankton species cultured/culture techniques, and recent larval food extension manuals and published articles.

She also mentioned LFL’s services and products, including Walne’s Conwy medium for green algae, Guillard and Ryther modified F medium for brown algae, TMRL medium for brown and green algae, and commercial fertilizers for brown and green algae.



Walne's Conwy Medium
for green algae
(stock culture and 1-3Liter indoor culture)

Guillard and Ryther Modified F Medium
for brown algae
(stock culture and 1-3Liter indoor culture)

TMRL Medium
for brown and green algae
(10 liters to 200 liters)



Ledesma, on the other hand, presented “Microalgal Paste Production,” demonstrating how to make a microalgal paste using a dynamic settler microalgal centrifuge.



A trainee identifies whether the crab is male or female during their hands-on activity on mangrove crab biology. *Photo by NG Armada*

FIVE trainees from the Mindanao State University Maguindanao Campus attended and completed SEAFDEC/AQD’s 15-day Training Course on Mangrove Crab Hatchery and Nursery Operations.

The training, which ran from 19 April to 3 May 2022, was the second face-to-face training in SEAFDEC/AQD’s Tigbauan Main Station in Iloilo since the pandemic.

The training course included lectures and hands-on activities on mangrove crab biology, site selection, hatchery design and construction, broodstock management, nutrition, and disease prevention. [a](#)

MSU-Maguindanao Campus trainees gain knowledge on mangrove crab hatchery



One of the trainees participates in feed-making during their practical session. *Photo by AL Ramos*

— NG ARMADA

Employees, dependents get free eye examination

AS PART of its efforts to ensure the health and wellness of its employees, SEAFDEC/AQD collaborated with Pesongco-Flores Optical Clinic to provide an on-site eye examination at the research center's Tigbauan Main Station last 8 June 2022.

A total of 50 personnel and dependents availed of the free eye examination and refraction test, as well as discounts on eyeglasses and contact lenses.

Since studies have shown that poor vision health and eye injuries have a negative impact on employee productivity, SEAFDEC/AQD annually partners with eye care centers to promote healthy vision among its employees. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



Davao-based fish farm goes to AQD

FINTECH VENTURES INCORPORATED'S Aquaculture Division embarked on an educational tour on 2 May 2022 at SEAFDEC/AQD to gain further insights on aquaculture species rearing, particularly milkfish.

The Davao del Sur-based fish farm is currently engaged in milkfish farming, specifically fingerling production. The team was interested in learning about the technologies and operations required to help improve their output as the

company plans to venture into milkfish grow-out production in the future.

The team of six toured the research center's milkfish production facilities, including the Integrated Fish Broodstock and Hatchery Complex and the grow-

out ponds in Dumangas Brackishwater Station.

The group also visited the research center's Mangrove Crab Hatchery and FishWorld Museum. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA

Refresher seminar on driving offered



IN COLLABORATION with the Land Transportation Office-Region 6 (LTO-6), the SEAFDEC/AQD Human Resource Management Section held a Refresher Seminar on Driving last 24 June 2022.

Eric Otayde, head instructor of the Driver's Education Center of LTO-6, shared the current policies regarding license processing, registration and renewal of vehicle permits, and traffic signs, rules, and regulations.

The seminar, held both in-person and online, was primarily intended for the official drivers of the Department, but it was also opened to all interested employees of SEAFDEC/AQD.

This one-day event had 56 participants, 24 of whom were physically present. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



Fintech Ventures Incorporated personnel made a courtesy call to Chief Dan Baliao last 2 May 2022 (top). The next day, they embarked on an educational tour in Dumangas Brackishwater Station. Photos by JF Aldon

BFAR-8 visits Tigbauan, Igang stations

THE TECHNICAL and engineering personnel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 8 (BFAR-8) toured SEAFDEC/AQD on 22 June 2022 to observe hatchery operations at the Tigbauan Main Station.

The group of 15 toured the Abalone Hatchery, Integrated Marine Finfish Broodstock and Hatchery Complex, Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery, Oyster Hatchery, and FishWorld.

Following their meeting with Chief Dan Baliao, they toured the research center's Igang Marine Station at Nueva Valencia, Guimaras. [a](#)



— NG ARMADA

A SEAFDEC/AQD staff explains the reproductive physiology of the abalone to BFAR-8 personnel. Photo by NG Armada

Technical assistance sought for Palawan central hatchery

THREE personnel of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Mimaropa visited SEAFDEC/AQD last 22–23 June 2022 to gain familiarity with the research center's demonstration facilities as they look forward to operating their own central hatchery in the province of Palawan.

The team also sought the technical assistance of SEAFDEC/AQD specialists to help them operate the legislated hatchery that will be established under Republic Act 11734 or “An Act Establishing a Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery in the City Environmental Estate in Barangay Sta. Lucia, City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan, and Appropriating Funds Therefor.”

When the group arrived on the afternoon of the 22nd, they were welcomed by Chief Dan Baliao and given a tour of the Integrated Fish Broodstock Hatchery Demonstration Complex. They also visited the Crab Hatchery, the Multi-species Marine Hatchery, and the Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery.

The following day, they went to the Igang Marine Station to see the marine broodstock facilities. [a](#)



— NG ARMADA

Hatchery staff assigned at the Integrated Fish Broodstock Hatchery Demonstration Complex shows the milkfish fry to personnel of BFAR-Mimaropa. Photo by JF Aldon



The Batch 1962 of the Maguindanao State University or the "MSU Trailblazers" strike a pose with Chief Dan Baliao at SEAFDEC/AQD's multi-purpose hall last 13 June 2022. Photo by JMD Aranas

MSU's pioneer batch visit AQD

THE PIONEER BATCH of Mindanao State University (MSU) Main Campus in Marawi City visited SEAFDEC/AQD's Tigbauan Main Station last 13 June 2022.

Chief Dan Baliao warmly welcomed the Batch 1962, also known as the "MSU Trailblazers," at the research center's multi-purpose hall where he also presented the progress of SEAFDEC/AQD's research and development

programs as well as ongoing infrastructure projects.

The group explored the different production facilities at the station, including the Integrated Marine Finfish Broodstock and Hatchery Complex, Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery, Sandfish Hatchery, and the Feed Mill.

They also went to see the commemorative markers dedicated to two MSU

icons, Dean Domiciano Villaluz and Dr. Quiterio Miravite. Villaluz and Miravite were significant figures in the establishment of SEAFDEC/AQD, serving as the organization's first Department Chief and first Director for General Affairs (currently known as the Administration and Finance Division Head), respectively.

Villaluz and Miravite were both officers at MSU Marawi's

Main Campus and have spent time at MSU Naawan conducting pioneering research on aquaculture commodities, particularly giant tiger shrimp.

Before their trip to Tigbauan, the group toured SEAFDEC/AQD's Igang Marine Station in Guimaras. [a](#)

— NG ARMADA



The Miravite marker, dedicated to Dr. Quiterio Miravite of Mindanao State University, was one of the memorial markers visited. It was unveiled on 13 July 2018. Photo by NG Armada



The MSU Trailblazers explore the different production facilities at SEAFDEC/AQD, and one of these is the Multi-species Freshwater Hatchery. Photo by NG Armada