

PUBLIC OPINION ON ISSUES REGARDING FISHERIES, MARINE RESOURCES, AND OUR OCEANS

SEPTEMBER 23 - 27, 2017 NATIONAL SURVEY

Executive Summary

Consumption of Fish/Seafood

Kinds of Fish/Seafood That The Family Ate In The Past One Month

- In September 2017, nearly three out of five (59%) of Filipino adults nationwide ate *matambaka/lambiyaw*, 55% ate *bangus*, and 44% ate *tilapia/pla-pla* in the past one month. Others mentioned sardinas/silinyasi/tunsoy (30%), tulingan/aloy (22%), tuna/tambakol (21%), lukon/alamang/sugpo (14%), pusit/round squid (10%), dilis/balinao/dulong (8%), sap-sap (7%), hasa-hasa/tanigue (7%), kasag/crab (6%), dried fish (in general) (6%), talaba/amahong (4%), dalagang bukid (4%), susong dagat, shells, etc. (3%), bisugo/gapas-gapas (3%), espada (3%), maya-maya/katambak (3%), lapu-lapu/pugaro/sigapo (2%), bulig/dalag (2%), isdang bato (2%), kandule/pantat/hito (2%), danggit (2%), gisaw/banak (2%), salmon (2%), bilong-bilong/moonfish (2%), goso/seaweed (2%), talakitok (1%), bukaw-bukaw/kuwao (1%), iliw/flying fish (1%), malasugi/marlin (1%), tabal/babansi (1%), asuhos/oso-os (1%), biya (1%), bagoong/fermented fish (in general) (1%), karpa/carp (0.5%), pugita (0.4%), kalaso (0.4%), langkoy (0.3%), balo/needlefish (0.3%), palos/eel (0.3%), tayang-tayang/dorado (0.2%), hinok/goatfish (0.2%), latab/bansa (0.2%), pompano/sandatan (0.2%), mol-mol/parrot fish (0.2%), kugaw/mamali (0.2%), pagi/batos (0.2%), padas/samaral (0.1%), cream dory (0.1%), climbing perch (0.1%), and palad/flatfish (0.1%). Meanwhile, 7% mentioned other responses, while 0.1% did not eat fish or other seafood in the past one month.
- *Matambaka/lambiyaw*, *bangus*, and *tilapia/pla-pla* are the top answers in most socio-demographics.

Number of days one ate fish/seafood in the past month

- Among those who ate fish/seafood in the past one month, 3% did so for one day in the past one month, 5% two days in the past one month, 9% three days in the past one month, 10% four days in the past one month, and a majority (71%) five or more days in the past one month.
- Across socio-demographics, majorities ate fish/seafood for *five or more days in the past one month*.

Challenges Faced by Our Oceans

Seriousness of Overfishing in the Country

- Nationwide, nearly two in five (39%) Filipino adults think that overfishing in the country is *very serious*, 26% *somewhat serious*, 19% are *undecided*, while 6% think it is *somewhat not serious* and 5% *not at all serious*.
- Majorities across socio-demographics think that overfishing in the country is *serious*.

Seriousness of Illegal Fishing in the Country

- In September 2017, 43% of Filipino adults nationwide think that illegal fishing in the country is *very serious*, 26% *somewhat serious*, 14% are *undecided*, while 5% think it is *somewhat not serious* and 7% *not at all serious*.
- Majorities across socio-demographics think that illegal fishing in the country is *serious*.

Awareness about Fishermen Apprehended in One's Locality Because of Illegal Fishing

- In September 2017, 16% of Filipino adults nationwide are *aware* about fishermen apprehended in their locality because of illegal fishing, while a large majority (84%) are *not aware*.
- Except in NCR, awareness is higher in coastal barangays in most areas.

Groups/Institutions Where One Will Report Illegal Fishing Activities First

- In September 2017, when asked about the group/institution where one will report illegal fishing first, two out of five (41%) Filipino adults said Bantay Dagat. Smaller percentages mentioned *local government unit* (15%), *Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or BFAR* (13%), *Philippine National Police or PNP* (9%), *Philippine Coast Guard or PCG* (6%), *Department of Environment and Natural Resources or DENR* (4%), *Armed Forces of the Philippines or AFP* (1%), *fishermen* (1%), *national government* (1%), *local non-government organizations or NGOs* (1%), and *international non-government organizations or NGOs* (0.4%). Meanwhile, 0.1% don't know, while 8% said they *will not report*.
- The top response across socio-demographics is *Bantay Dagat*.

Reasons Why One Will Not Report Illegal Fishing Activities

- Among those who will not report illegal fishing activities, nearly a fourth (24%) say they won't report because they are *afraid of reprisal*, a fifth (20%) say they *do not know how or whom to report*, 15% say *nothing would be done anyway*, and 15% say they *do not want to betray anyone*. Smaller percentages mentioned they *cannot prove anything* (9%), *it is standard practice anyway not to report the incident* (9%), *it's too small a thing to bother* (6%), *it is embarrassing* (4%), and they *will spend much* (1%). Six percent mentioned other responses, while 1% have no answer/refused.

Most Important Problems of our Oceans Today

- In September 2017, three of five (61%) Filipino adults nationwide mentioned *pollution/waste management*, 42% *illegal and destructive fishing*, and 38% *climate change or noticeable changes in weather patterns* as the three most important problems of our oceans today. Other answers were *catching juveniles* (31%), *overfishing of marine fish stocks* (22%), *mismanagement such as lack of enforcement of laws against illegal fishing/creation of laws which are not based on science* (15%), *extinction of endangered species* (13%), and *coastal development such as beachside reclamation* (10%). Four percent don't know enough to give an opinion, while 0.1% had no answer.
- *Pollution/waste management, illegal and destructive fishing, and climate change* are the top three responses in most socio-demographics.

Size of Fish/Seafood in our Country Now Compared to Ten Years Ago

- In September 2017, only 12% of Filipino adults nationwide said that the size of fish/seafood is *bigger now* compared to ten years ago, whereas more than half (54%) said that it is *smaller now*, and 31% said that it is *same as before*.
- Pluralities to majorities across socio-demographics said that the size of fish/seafood is *smaller now* compared to ten years ago

Price of Fish/Seafood in our Country Now Compared to Ten Years Ago

- In September 2017, four out of five (82%) of Filipino adults nationwide said that the price of fish/seafood is *more expensive now* compared to ten years ago, whereas 5% said that it is *cheaper now*, and 12% said that it is *same as before*.
- Large majorities across socio-demographics said that the price of fish/seafood is *more expensive now* compared to ten years ago.

Variety of Fish/Seafood in our Country Now Compared to Ten Years Ago

- In September 2017, only 15% of Filipino adults nationwide said that there is *more variety of fish/seafood now* compared to ten years ago, whereas the majority 55% said that there is *less variety of fish/seafood now*, and 28% said that it is *same as before*.
- Pluralities to majorities across socio-demographics said that there is *less variety of fish/seafood now* compared to ten years ago.

Quantity of Fish/Seafood in our Country Now Compared to Ten Years Ago

- In September 2017, only 13% of Filipino adults nationwide said that there is *more catch now* of fish/seafood compared to ten years ago, whereas a majority (57%) said that there is *less catch now*, and 26% said that it is *same as before*.
- Pluralities to majorities across socio-demographics said that there is *less catch now* of fish/seafood compared to ten years ago.

Most Important Reason Why there is Less Catch Now of Fish/Sea Food in our Oceans

- Among those who said there is less catch of fish/seafood now compared to ten years ago, 34% said that the reason is *overfishing/overly excessive harvesting of our aquatic resources* and 32% said *illegal and destructive fishing*. Smaller percentages said *catching juveniles* (17%) and *mismanagement such as lack of enforcement of laws against illegal fishing/creation of laws which are not based on science* (12%). Meanwhile, 5% said they don't know enough to give an opinion, while 0.3% have no answer.
- Across socio-demographics, the top reasons cited for having less catch of fish/seafood now compared to ten years ago are *overfishing/overly excessive harvesting of our aquatic resources* and *illegal and destructive fishing*.

Current Situation of the Fish/Seafood Industry in our Country Now Compared to Ten Years Ago

- In September 2017, 16% of Filipino adults nationwide said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is better now compared to ten years ago, whereas 43% said that it is worse now, and 39% said that it is same as before.
- By socio-demographics, similar proportions either say that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *worse now* or *same as before*.

Stakeholders of Development and Management of Fisheries Resources

Groups/Institutions who have Visited One's Locality to Give any Kind of Information about our Oceans in the Past Month

- In September 2017, when asked about the groups/institutions who have visited their locality to give any kind of information about our oceans in the past month, 15% of Filipino adults said *Bantay Dagat*. Smaller percentages mentioned *Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or BFAR* (8%), *Philippine Coast Guard or PCG* (4%), *local government unit* (4%), *Department of Environment and Natural Resources or DENR* (4%), *Philippine National Police or PNP* (1%), *fishermen* (1%), *national government* (1%), *local non-government organizations or NGOs* (1%), *international non-government organizations or NGOs* (1%), *Armed Forces of the Philippines* (0.5%), and *other answers* (0.2%). Meanwhile, 0.1% said they don't know, while a large majority 72% said *no groups or institutions visited*.
- Large majorities across socio-demographics said *no groups or institutions visited*. Of those who mentioned a group/institution, the top response across socio-demographics is *Bantay Dagat*.

Stakeholders of Management of Oceans

Groups/Institutions Responsible in Assuring the Good Condition of our Oceans

- In September 2017, when asked about the groups/institutions that are responsible in assuring the good condition of our oceans, 68% of Filipino adults nationwide said *Bantay Dagat*, 44% said *Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or BFAR* and 30% said *Philippine Coast Guard or PCG*. Other answers are *Department of Environment and Natural Resources or DENR* (21%), *fishermen* (14%), *local government unit* (14%), *Philippine National Police or PNP* (5%), *Armed Forces of the Philippines* (5%), *national government* (3%), *local non-government organizations or NGOs* (2%), and *international non-government organizations or NGOs* (2%). Meanwhile, 1% said they don't know or have no answer.
- The top three responses in most socio-demographics are *Bantay Dagat*, *Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or BFAR*, and *Philippine Coast Guard or PCG*.

Organizations Involved in Environmental Protection

- In September 2017, when asked about the organizations involved in environmental protection, nearly nine out of ten (88%) Filipino adults mentioned *Bantay Kalikasan*. Smaller percentages said *Greenpeace* (9%), *World Wide Fund for Nature or WWF* (6%), *The Nature Conservancy* (5%), *Conservation International* (4%), *Haribon* (4%), *Oceana* (4%), and *Rare* (1%). Meanwhile, 1% said they don't know/had no answer.
- Large majorities across socio-demographics mentioned *Bantay Kalikasan* as an organization involved in environmental protection.

Efficacy In Protecting Fisheries Resources

Agreement/Disagreement with the Statement: “People Like Me Can Do Something to Protect Our Oceans”

- In September 2017, on the statement “*People like me can do something to protect our oceans*”, over two-thirds (68%) of Filipino adults nationwide *agree*, 21% are *undecided*, and 11% *disagree*, for an *extremely strong* net agreement¹ (% agree minus % disagree) score of +57.
- Net agreement ranges from *strong* to *very strong* across socio-demographics.
- Those who *agree* with the statement are higher in NCR, among those with higher economic class, among those with more education, and in coastal areas.

¹ SWS terminology for Net Agreement: +50 and above, “Extremely Strong”; +30 to +49, “Very Strong”; +10 to +29, “Moderately Strong”, +9 to –9, “Neutral”; –10 to –29, “Moderately Weak”; –30 to –49, “Very Weak”; –50 and below, “Extremely Weak”.

Activities One is Interested in Doing to Help Solve Fisheries Issues

- In September 2017, among those who strongly/somewhat agree that they can do something to protect the oceans, 45% said they will *volunteer for activities* and 34% said they will *contact a local government employee*. Other answers mentioned are *signing a petition to try to influence the government* (18%), *contacting a national government employee* (13%), *contacting traditional leaders/ community leaders* (11%), *giving donations in cash or in kind* (10%), *contacting officials of political parties/other political organizations* (9%), *contacting representatives of non-government organizations* (9%), *contacting elected senators/legislative representatives* (7%), *contacting other influential people* (7%), *signing online petitions* (6%), *attending an organized protest of any kind* (3%), *protesting government in any public way* (3%), and *joining public mobilizations or rallies* (2%). Meanwhile, 1% said they *don't know/refused/had no answer*.
- The top answers across socio-demographics are to *volunteer for activities* and to *contact a local government employee*.

Efficacy in Protecting Marine Resources

Most Probable Primary Solution to Improve the Management of Marine Resources

- According to Filipino adults nationwide, *proper management* (32%) is the most probable primary solution to improve the management of marine resources. Other answers mentioned are *laws should be implemented* (21%), *compliance to rules and regulations* (17%), *ban destructive gear* (16%), *provide alternative livelihood for fishermen* (8%), *enforce closed seasons or the period of time during which fishing is prohibited in a specified area/areas in the Philippine waters* (5%), and *limit number of fishermen* (2%). Meanwhile, 0.4% said they don't know.
- Except among college graduates, *proper management* is mentioned as the most probable primary solution to improve the management of marine resources in most socio-demographics.

Knowledge That Philippines Was Named Among Top Producer of Fish And Other Seafood Product

- In September 2017, when asked if they know that the Philippines was named by the Food and Agriculture Organization or FAO among the top 20 producers of fish and seafood products in the world in 2014, 18% of Filipino adults nationwide said they *knew before*, while four out of five (82%) said they *knew only now*.
- Large majorities across socio-demographics *knew only now* that the Philippines was named among the top 20 producers of fish and seafood products in the world in 2014 by the Food and Agriculture Organization or FAO.
- Those who *knew before* are higher in NCR, Visayas, urban areas, among those with higher economic classes, among older age groups, and those with higher educational attainment.

Awareness about Benham Rise and Tanon Strait

Awareness about Benham Rise

- In September 2017, nearly three of ten (29%) Filipino adults nationwide are *aware* of Benham Rise, while the majority 71% are *not aware*.
- Except among college graduates, majorities in most socio-demographics are *not aware* of Benham Rise.
- Awareness about Benham Rise is higher in NCR, Mindanao, urban areas, among those with higher economic class, males, 25-34 year olds, those with higher educational attainment, and in coastal areas.

Awareness about Tanon Strait

- In September 2017, only 4% of Filipino adults nationwide are *aware* of Tanon Strait, while almost all (96%) are *not aware*
- Nearly all across socio-demographics are *not aware* of Tanon Strait.
- Awareness about Tanon Strait is higher in NCR, Visayas, urban areas, among those with higher economic class, males, 45-54 year olds, those with higher educational attainment, and in coastal barangays.

Knowledge of the Fisheries Code of the Philippines

Knowledge of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998

- In September 2017, a fourth (26%) of Filipino adults nationwide *knew before* about the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, while the large majority of 74% *knew only now*.
- Large majorities across socio-demographics *knew only now* about the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998.
- Percentages of those who *knew before* are higher in NCR, Visayas, urban areas, among those with higher economic class, males, among older age groups, among those with higher educational attainment, and in coastal barangays.

Knowledge that Commercial/Big Fishermen/Operators Cannot Catch Fish Within 15 Kms. From the Shores of City/Municipal Waters

- In September 2017, Filipino adults nationwide were asked if they know that commercial or big fishermen or operators cannot catch fish within 15 kilometres from the shores of city or municipal waters and a third (33%) said they *knew before*, while the large majority (67%) *knew only now*.
- Except among college graduates, majorities in most socio-demographics *knew only now* that commercial or big fishermen or operators cannot catch fish within 15 kilometres from the shores of city or municipal waters.
- Percentages of those who *knew before* are higher in Visayas, among those with higher economic class, males, among older age groups, those with higher educational attainment, and in coastal areas.

Socio-Economic Status of Fishermen

- In September 2017, the majority (64%) of Filipino adults nationwide think that the families of ordinary fishermen in the country are *poor*, 16% think they are *on the line*, while a fifth (20%) think they are *not poor*.
- Across socio-demographics, half to majorities think that the families of ordinary fishermen in the country are *poor*.

Cross Tabulations

- Percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *better now* are higher among those who said that the sizes of fish/seafood are bigger now than ten years ago (37%). Those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *same as before* are higher among those who said that the sizes of fish/seafood is same as before (58%) and bigger now (42%). Not surprisingly, percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *worse now* are highest among those who said that the sizes of fish/seafood are smaller now than ten years ago (60%).
- Percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *better now* does not vary among those who said that the price of fish/seafood is more expensive now than ten years ago. In contrast, those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *same as before* are higher among those who said that the price of fish/seafood is same as before (62%). Surprisingly, percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *worse now* are higher among those who said that the price of fish/seafood is cheaper now (47%) and more expensive now (47%) than ten years ago.
- Percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *better now* are higher among those who said that there is more variety of fish/seafood now than ten years ago (33%). Meanwhile, those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *same as before* are higher among those who said that there is same variety (63%) and more variety of fish/seafood (41%). Not surprisingly, percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *worse now* are highest among those who said that there is less variety of fish/seafood than ten years ago (62%).
- Percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *better now* are higher among those who said that there is more fish/seafood catch now than ten years ago (43%). Those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *same as before* are higher among those who said that there is same fish/seafood catch as before (64%). Not surprisingly, percentages of those who said that the current situation of the fish/seafood industry is *worse now* are highest among those who said that there is less fish/seafood catch now than ten years ago (61%).
- Previous knowledge about the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 has little impact on perceived seriousness of illegal fishing in the country.
- Previous knowledge about the 15-kilometer fishing ban on commercial/big fishermen/operators from city/municipal shores has little impact on perceived seriousness of illegal fishing in the country.