



BFAR Caraga distributes FRP boats to Siargao Islands fisherfolk; turns-over CFLC and watchtower at Pilar, Surigao Norte

BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES-CARAGA·WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2018

Fisherfolk from the nine (9) municipalities comprising the congressional district I of Surigao del Norte initially received 24 units of 32-footer fiber-reinforced plastic (FRP) boats with a 16-horsepower engine, as part of the 50 units targeted boats committed by BFAR for each of the nine congressional districts in Caraga.

Among the said municipalities were; Dapa, Del Carmen, Burgos, San Isidro, Sta. Monica, San Benito, Pilar, General Luna and Socorro, Surigao del Norte.

"I hope that you (fisherfolk) will use these FRP boats in a sustainable manner, in that you will always abide with our laws and regulations," said Edgardo Balambao, BFAR assistant regional director.

Likewise, the assistant regional director also urged the fisherfolk and local government units to support the Bureau's campaign for Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan (MMK).

"The provision of these especially-made fiber-reinforced plastic boats is aimed to support the livelihood fishing activities of the marginalized fishermen," said Antonio Boiser, BFAR provincial fishery officer (PFO) of Surigao del Norte.

"Under the Duterte administration, we envisioned that by year 2020, no fisherman will be left behind in that all marginalized fishers those who do not have their own fishing boats - those that rent, will be given the priority to be afforded with quality boats that will last for 20 years," PFO Boiser added.

"We have readily available 'product boats', the problem is that they are not yet fully-furnished due to unavailability of this 'resin' and 'gelcoat' - chemicals that are used in the finishing of the FRP boats," explained Rizalinda Abing, BFAR chief aquaculturist, head of Fisheries Production and Support Services Division.

"Such chemicals are still in the process of procurement, once these chemicals will be delivered, the remaining 26 FRP boats for Siargao will be definitely released as soon as possible," said ARD Balambao.

Moreover, BFAR also turned-over a watchtower to the host municipality to support its coastal resource management as well as the community fish land center to serve as a hub for landing and training of fish and fishery products and as a training center for fish processing, value adding, conservation and protection of the fishery and marine resources.

The ceremonial turn-over was graced by Congressman Francisco Jose Matugas II and Mayor Maria Liza Resurreccion who committed to provide additional funds for the accessories of the said FRP boats, held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at Pilar, Surigao del Norte.



