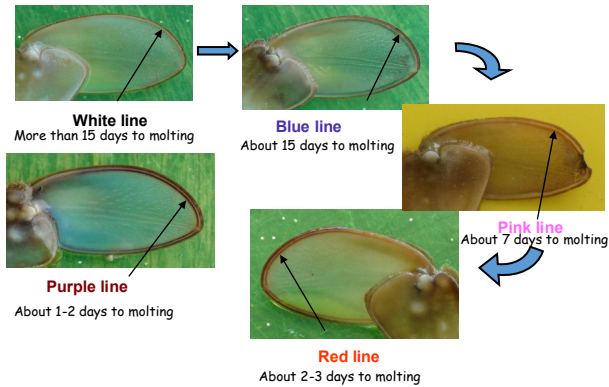


Shedding Operation

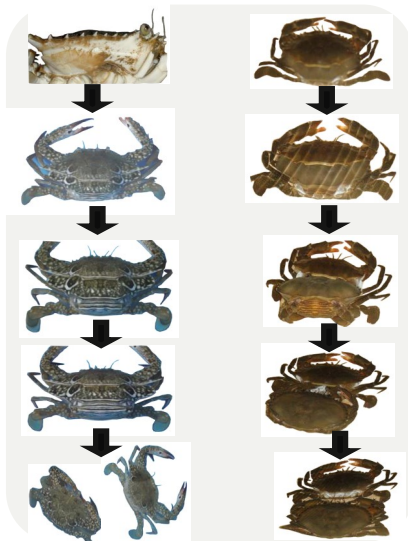
5. Monitoring of molted crabs
Mudcrabs—monitoring done every four (4) hours .

Blue swimming crabs—monitoring done through the color of rim of the paddle of swimming legs

Grading of paddle of swimming legs:



Molting Process of Crabs

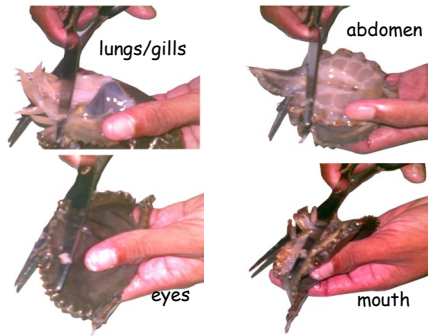


Blue swimming crab

Mudcrab

6. Harvest newly molted crabs.
Crab should be harvested immediately after molting.

7. Cleaning - Immediately after molting, crabs are dressed (cleaned) before they are packed. Three distinct parts of the crab should be removed: the lungs, the apron or abdomen and the head section (mouth and eyes).



8. Packing



Crabs are arranged in styrobox ready for market

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Development Center



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Masao Aquaculture Center
Caraga Region



Softshell Crab Production and Management



WHAT IS A SOFTSHELL CRAB?

Soft-shell crabs are newly molted crab with soft or

papery shell, mostly inactive and hardly moving. It can be eaten whole including its carapace and limbs.

Soft-shell crabs are crustacean seafood, highly sought as one of the most favorite delicacy. It is considered as one of the highest priced seafood item. It can be chilled, then frozen for export making it a convenient, internationally accepted product.

Farming for soft shell is an old form of aquaculture in US, but new in Asia. It is an export commodity with an emerging aquaculture industry in Asia (Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, India and now in the Philippines.

Large scale production of softshell crab should come from the hatchery for the industry to be sustainable

Potential crab species for softshell production in the country



Portunus pelagicus



Scylla sp.

Site Selection

Potential Sites:



Brackishwater Ponds



Estuarine

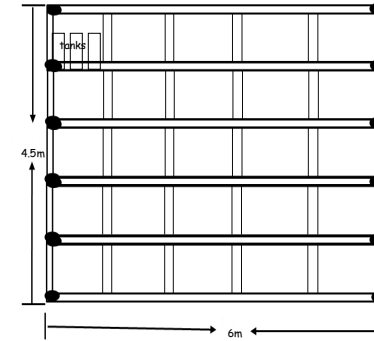


Tanks

Suitability Requirement of Farm:

- ☞ Farm site must have adequate supply of clean seawater or brackishwater
- ☞ Protected from typhoon, flood and siltation
- ☞ Availability of power supply
- ☞ Accessibility by road or sea to market and other source of inputs
- ☞ Availability of freshwater supply
- ☞ Availability of communication service

Pontoon Design



Pontoon—is an airtight cylinder used in the construction of floating platform.

Materials:

- Bamboo, 2 inchesØ (PVC pipes can be used as an alternative)
- Monoline, #160
- Monoline, #120

Installation of pontoons:

- ☞ Construct an elevated central catwalk that will allow the pontoon to pass thru underneath
- ☞ Allow the pontoon to float in the pond
- ☞ Tie a rope in both ends for pulling the structure when checking molted crab

Shedding Systems



Concrete Tanks



Pond



Pen



In-door recirculating aquacul-



Plastic

Shedding Boxes



HDPE Trays

Shedding Operation

1. Purchase crabs weighing 50-80g



2. Remove chelipeds and walking legs to hasten molt



3. Stock in shedding boxes.



4. Feed crabs at 8-10% of total body weight.



kuhof



mussel



cockles



fish