

May 21, 2022

Dir. Lormelyn E. Claudio, CESO IV  
Regional Executive Director, Region IV-B  
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Request for Resources on Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Outbreaks and Management Practices

Dear Dir. Claudio:

Greetings in St. La Salle!

My name is Vivian O. Pepingco. I am an undergraduate biology student completing my practicum under Dr. Chona VinceCruz-Abeledo and the Practical Genomics Laboratory of De La Salle University.

We are conducting research on the monitoring and management of crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*) in the Philippines, including information on encounters, outbreaks, and current biocontrol strategies. With the limitation on pertinent data that are available online, I would like to respectfully inquire if your office may provide us with access to reports, articles, and resources on the following topics:

1. Past and present outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish in MIMAROPA;
2. Existing survey methods and classification systems used in monitoring crown-of-thorns starfish; and
3. Current traditional and science-based practices employed in the management of crown-of-thorns starfish populations.

It would also be highly appreciated if you could direct us to other contacts, offices, and external resources that may further aid in our research.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

In St. La Salle,



Vivian O. Pepingco  
BS Biology Student  
Biology Department, De La Salle University

Noted by:



Mr. Jovie E. Nicolas  
Internship Supervisor