



BLUE ALLIANCE

FOR THE ORIENTAL MINDORO
MPA NETWORK, INC.

PROGRESS REPORT

Jan to Jun 2022



ABOUT BLUE ALLIANCE

Blue Alliance (BA) is an NGO assisting the municipalities of Baco, San Teodoro, Puerto Galera and the City of Calapan in the day-to-day co-management of the Marine Protected Areas since 2021.





OUR 4 PILLARS

On behalf of LGUs, Blue Alliance's primary objective is to ensure effective co-management of the Locally-managed Marine Protected Areas (LMMPAs) and to empower local communities. BA works on four-pronged pillars of activities which include



**Community
Development &
Engagement**



**Biodiversity
Conservation &
Science**



**Sustainable
Revenues,
Management &
Infrastructure**



Law Compliance

IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

To provide more in-depth understanding, and to keep Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) members abreast of the on-the-ground continuing implementation, this progress report covering the period January to June 2022 is presented.

Biodiversity
Conservation

Surveillance &
Compliance

Management
& Infrastructure

Community
Development,
Education &
Engagement

Revenue
Generation
& Visitor
Experience



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

9 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Blue Alliance continue working with 9 MPAs across LGUs of Baco, San Teodoro, Calapan and Puerto Galera. These MPAs are:

Calapan

- Harka Piloto Fish Sanctuary
- Silonay Mangrove Conservation Ecopark
- Salong-Calero Seagrass and Coral MPA
- Mahal na Pangalan Marine Park

Baco

- Baco Marine Protected Area

San Teodoro

- Tamauyan Fish Sanctuary
- Punta Ilag Fish Sanctuary

Puerto Galera

- Puerto Galera Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Area
- Puerto Galera MPA



COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP



Blue Alliance consequently established collaboration and partnership with the Peoples' Organizations and Management Councils of each MPA including the respective Barangay Local Government Units (BLGUs). BA supports Peoples' Organization strengthening as PO governance capacity is directly correlated with MPA performance.



BIOPHYSICAL ASSESSMENT

Citizen Science 50 (CT5), a new and innovative method assessing the inside and outside the MPA for comparative analysis, was conducted in all MPAs from March 11 to 29, 2022.



MinSU

Mindoro State University (MinSU) led the reef, seagrass, and mangrove assessments. BA in-house expert did the study on fish.

MPA Management Plans

Assessment data will be used to formulate MPA Management Plans that will serve as the blueprint of management interventions and jumpstart the formulation of the Coastal Resource Management Plan by the LGUs.

Memorandum of Scientific Cooperation

BA and MinSU cooperation will be soon amplified thru a formal Memorandum of Scientific Cooperation. MinSU is underway establishing a Marine Science Institute that is foreseen to be attached to BA on some related scientific endeavors.



MITIGATING CROWN OF THORNS (COT) OUTBREAK



Nov 2021



Presence of COT in Puerto Galera was observed by the fisherfolks and an outbreak was declared later.

Feb 2022



BA started assisting LGU-Puerto Galera with the COTS elimination programme. BA and PG-MAO came up with a report on all efforts on a regular basis containing (i) the number of COTS collected and (ii) Catch per Unit Effort.

June 2022



The numbers of COTs collected seem to be decreasing across all sites.

July 2022



The crown of thorns invasion is persisting but is significantly more controlled than the previous months. The number of COTs has reduced with consistent collection around San Antonio and Batangas Channel.



MITIGATING CROWN OF THORNS (COT) OUTBREAK



Total COTs
collected is
**27,816 at 4,387
hours.**

Monitoring Effort

Puerto Galera COTs Warriors have worked with BA to develop a monthly monitoring protocol. The fishermen split into groups and survey five random sites for 10 minutes along a 2km stretch of coastline as they record the number of COTs they collect. This helps the fishermen direct their collection efforts to the most problematic locations of the outbreak and discover new areas of concern. Frequent COT collection is still to be done until the outbreak is completely controlled.



A man in a black shirt is seen from the side, looking down at something in his hands on a boat. The boat is on a blue sea under a cloudy sky. A large orange buoy is on the boat, and a red flag with the letters 'MPA' in black is flying from a pole. The text 'SURVEILLANCE AND COMPLIANCE' is overlaid in large white letters.

SURVEILLANCE AND COMPLIANCE

Law compliance stands as one of the BA's flagship programs. This is based on the notion that the prevailing destruction around the region is massive, thus, the need for enforcement should be strategic and intensified.



BANTAY DAGAT



Logistical Support

BA provides fuel subsidy; basic equipment such as flashlights, raincoats, booties, uniforms, binoculars, megaphones, etc. BA is also facilitating signages and demarcation markers, and purchasing of “state-of-the-art” patrol or speed boat.

Bantay Dagat Meetings

Bantay Dagat and the MPA Management Council dictate the functionality of the MPA. As such, BA initiated attendance at BD Meetings to discuss challenges faced, recommendations or mitigating actions, and more importantly, the lessons learned derived from specific actions.

Refresher Course

In June 2022, BA, with CRM Coordinators conducted a refresher course for selected Bantay Dagat and Blue Alliance Key Ocean Defenders (BAKOD Members). The training module developed by the Conservation International – Philippines “Gabay sa Pagpapatrolya” or Enforcement Guide.

BLUE ALLIANCE KEY OCEAN DEFENDER (BAKOD)



BAKOD is an enforcement team created by Blue Alliance to complement the existing BD enforcement activities. Intensification of enforcement for BD means (i) purchasing the speed boat, synchronizing enforcement from Calapan – Puerto Galera thru forging a partnership with PNP-Maritime, BFAR, and the Coast Guards, and (iii) capacitating the enforcement thru advance BD training and direct exposures (iv) use of digital platforms such as the SMART Apps and other forms – all BDs should have access to this app (v) enhancing the enforcement plans.

In some areas, the BAKOD + BA incentivized BDs serving as an internal Monitoring Team to ensure the functionality of the Bantay Dagat and check irregularity, if any.

IMPROVING ENFORCEMENT



International Expertise

Moreover, with the plan to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the enforcement across Calapan-Baco-San Teodoro and Puerto Galera, Blue Alliance tapped International Experts to assess the situation to come up with a workable and practical recommendation.

MOA with PNP-Maritime

BA is formalizing MOAs with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine National Police Maritime MIMAROPA region to strengthen enforcement and compliance.



MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Stakeholders
Advisory
Committee
(SAC)

Policies and
Systems
Installation

Human
Resources

Plans and
Assets

ANNUAL BA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING



Calapan, San Teodoro, Baco

The first Annual BA Board of Trustees Meeting on March 21, 2022, at Provincial Government Hall where the majority of the members were in attendance. Blue Finance CEO Nicolas Pascal presented the programs and thrusts of Blue Finance and Blue Alliance with Alain Maulion supporting. The Work and Financial Plan was presented jointly by Alain Maulion and Bonifacio Tobias. The members raised queries regarding implementation schemes and asked for some details which were given clarity by Alain and Bon.

**Work and Financial
Plan for April to
June 2022 was
approved.**

STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SAC)



Puerto Galera

A separate Stakeholders Advisory Committee (SAC) was created in Puerto Galera in 2021. First SAC meeting was mobilized sometime in March 2022. The highlights of the meeting were on the Sea Sensorium project in PG, establishing communication and coordination lines between and among offices and the highlight was the approval of the Work and Financial Plan for April to June.

POLICIES AND SYSTEMS INSTALLATION



Financial system

Centralized financial systems using the online application were established by Blue Alliance and Blue Finance. Strengthening of the system took place via online and paper-based methods

Policies

Admin and HR policies were updated as part of systems installation.

Government Reqs

Local accounting firm Oliver Magdalita Vilan and Co., based in Calapan facilitated compliance with the government requirements. OMV and Co. facilitated the transfer of registered address, along with other registrations and accreditation.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Science Manager

BA was able to recruit a Science Manager last July 2022 in the person of Mr. Denmark Recamara from Mindanao.

Ecotourism and Development

Additional manpower came in last June 2022 to co-lead ecotourism business development in the person of Mr. Christian Manalo from Puerto Galera.

To hire

BA also plans to hire an Ecotourism Director in the coming days, and a company driver this coming September 2022.

PLANS AND ASSETS



Offices

Two operational offices in-place for BA. One is at Roxas, Drive, Lumang Bayan, Calapan and the other is in Poblacion, Puerto Galera.

Plan

A Work and Financial Plan covering the period August to December is prepared for approval of the Board of Trustees in its forthcoming meeting.

Other assets

BA acquired some equipment such as vehicle, snorkel/dive equipment, and office equipment. BA was also able to receive visits from investors and donors. The investment plan for BA assets (vessels, equipment, ecotourism facilities) as well as Sea Sensorium is in progress.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, AND ENGAGEMENT

Ecotourism
Development

Sea Turtle
Conservation
Project

Filipino
Comics

CRM
Coordinators
Meeting

Oriental
Mindoro
MPA Network

ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT



With UNDP-BIOFIN

In 2020, Blue Alliance was able to mobilize funding support from UNDP-BIOFIN for ecotourism development for its project partners across all the project sites. Ecotourism training with an emphasis on product designing, promotion, and marketing was concluded sometime last year. It aimed at developing PO partners as social enterprise entities and professional tour operators. Consultant Noe Lineses served as the lead Resource Person for the training. Project monitoring and mentoring are still underway. This involves consultative meetings with PO as CBSTs and management planning including financial.

SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION



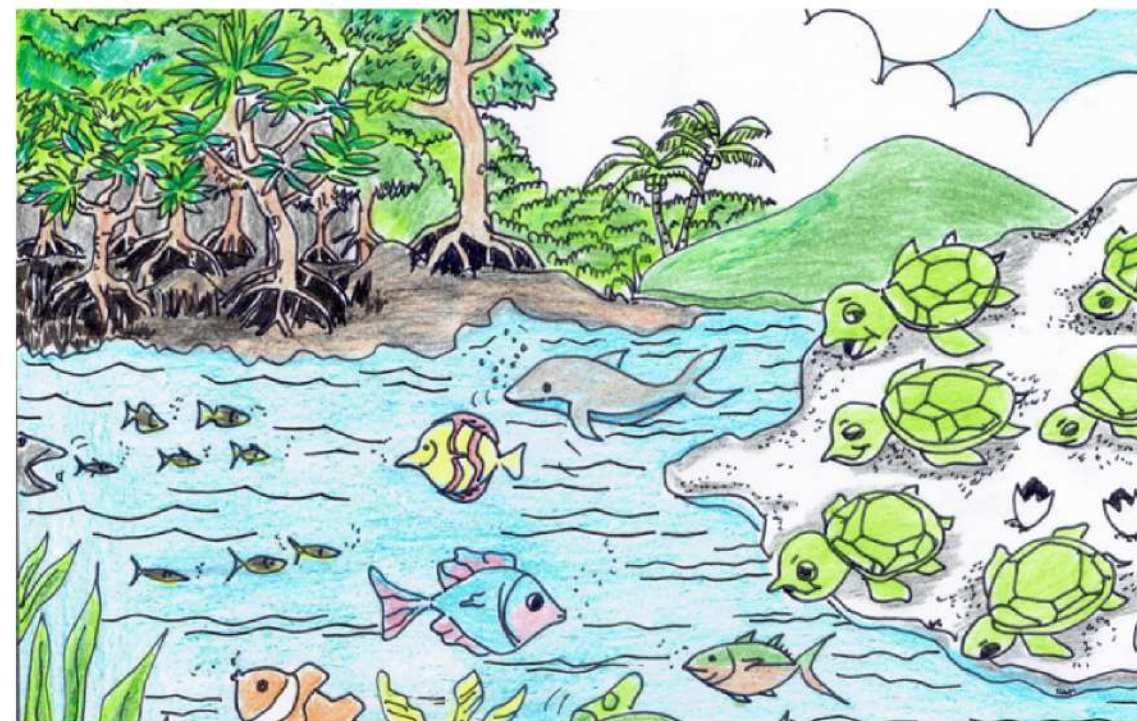
With DENR-BMB

Another ecotourism activity that BA plans to pursue is the sea turtle conservation project with partner communities at the forefront of managing the nesting sites and operating the same for low-impact ecotourism. Coordination with the DENR- Biodiversity Management Bureau is underway. The training is hoped to be undertaken this November 2022.

FILIPINO COMICS



On communication, BA produced a komic (in Filipino) depicting enforcement experiential stories on marine conservation in BA sites and the role of BA in co-managing the resources. This is now for printing and distribution.



CRM COORDINATORS MEETING



Working with LGU is the overarching approach. As such, BA conducts monthly CRM Coordinators meetings involving representatives from Baco, San Teodoro, Calapan, and Puerto Galera. This serves as the avenue for updating and way forward perspectives.

ORIENTAL MINDORO MPA NETWORK



Regarding intent to become a regular member of the Oriental Mindoro MPA Network, BA is working closely with the MPA Cluster 1 composed of Baco, San Teodoro, Calapan and Puerto Galera. BA will create an inter-LGU Bantay Dagat joint meeting to be represented by the BD officers. This will serve as the venue for sharing lessons learned, challenges, and a strategic enforcement planning system.



REVENUE GENERATION AND VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Community
crab hatchery
and nursery

Calapan
potential
dive sites

Puerto Galera
Sea
Sensorium

Online
Newsletter

COMMUNITY CRAB HATCHERY AND NURSERY



In partnership with Blueyou (a global organization creating innovative sustainable seafood solutions for a sustainable future), and Meliomar, a sustainable seafood company, conducted a series of consultations with the LGUs, fishpond owners and operators, mangrove protected area managers, pre-feasibility and developed business plan for the establishment of community crab hatchery and nursery in Calapan.

To date, some external grant funding to start the project development phase has been secured. Blue Finance and Blue Alliance have initiated contractual discussions with the Blueyou, Meliomar and fishpond owners to launch the project in September 2022.

CALAPAN POTENTIAL DIVE SITES

Identified ten (10)
potential dive and
snorkeling sites in
Calapan

Business planning in progress now. In addition, BA also conducted preliminary assessment of potential investments in MPA tourism in Punta Ilag MPA, Puerto Galera Mangrove Conservation and Ecotourism Area (PGMACEA), Harka Piloto MPA, Mahal na Pangalan MPA and Silonay MPA.



PUERTO GALERA SEA SENSORIUM

LGU proposed a site for the digital museum in Puerto Galera “Sea Sensorium”. A lease agreement is being negotiated



ONLINE NEWSLETTER

As part of communication strategy, BA established the presence in various social media platforms and published its first online newsletter “Blue Rise”;

Nº2



BLUERISE
MARINE FORUM

UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

BLUE ALLIANCE ORIENTAL MINDORO
NEWSLETTER, Philippines

Nov.-Dec. 2021

MINDORO



*"Malusog na karagatan para sa masaganang
pangisdaan at kabuhayan"*

"A healthy marine ecosystem is good for fish and good for people"

WAY FORWARD WORK PLAN

Strengthening
Enforcement
Activities

Management
Effectiveness
Assessment
Tool (MEAT)

MPA
Management
Plan

Ecotourism
Development

Marine
Litter

STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES



Ordinances

BA will support the public consultation on Municipal Fishery Ordinances cum MPA ordinances to increase awareness on the prohibitions set forth in the ordinances and the corresponding penalties.

MPA markers

BA will be supporting installation of demarcation markers and MPA signages to help make the community informed.

Bantay Dagat

Support for enforcement is a BA continuing work by providing fuel and lubricants, purchasing of vessels and regularizing seaborne and foot patrol. BA will train BD on SMART app for easy monitoring.

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT TOOL (MEAT)



Management Effectiveness Assessment Tool (MEAT) is underway now and this leads to the formulation of the MPA Management Plan. With MEAT, the eight areas of management will be assessed namely:

Management
Body

Management
Plan

Legal
Instrument

Sustainable
Financing

IEC and
awareness
raising

Community
Participation

Monitoring
and
Evaluation

Site
Development
Plan

MPA MANAGEMENT PLAN



The MPA Management Plan should be updated to:

- Integrate the planned Ecotourism project of the MPA under the Sustainable Financing and Site Development Plan
- Awareness Raising to include the BlueRise and Blue Talks communication tools.
- Expansion and re-zoning of MPAs (Calapan, etc) requires amendment, thus, legal instrument component should be updated.
- Updating of MPA Management Body – other MPAs requires reconstituting the MPA Management Board / Council with clear roles and functions, composition and membership, among others.
- Making use of the Citizen Science Data and PO capacity assessment in related sections.

ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT

BA is currently developing a full-blown business plan for Punta Ilag MPA, Harka Piloto MPA, Silonay and Baco MPA.

BA is also initiating an ongoing Business Planning for crab hatchery with Blueyou, and community mangrove projects.



MARINE LITTER

BA already supported cleanup drives in the previous quarter. However, this is a priority activity of BA and LGU. Mitigating marine litter is BA's immediate thrust.



OTHER PLANNED KEY RESULT AREAS (KRAS)

Employing
Advanced
Technology
Assessments
(ATA)

Management
Effectiveness
Assessment
Tool (MEAT)

Water Quality
Monitoring

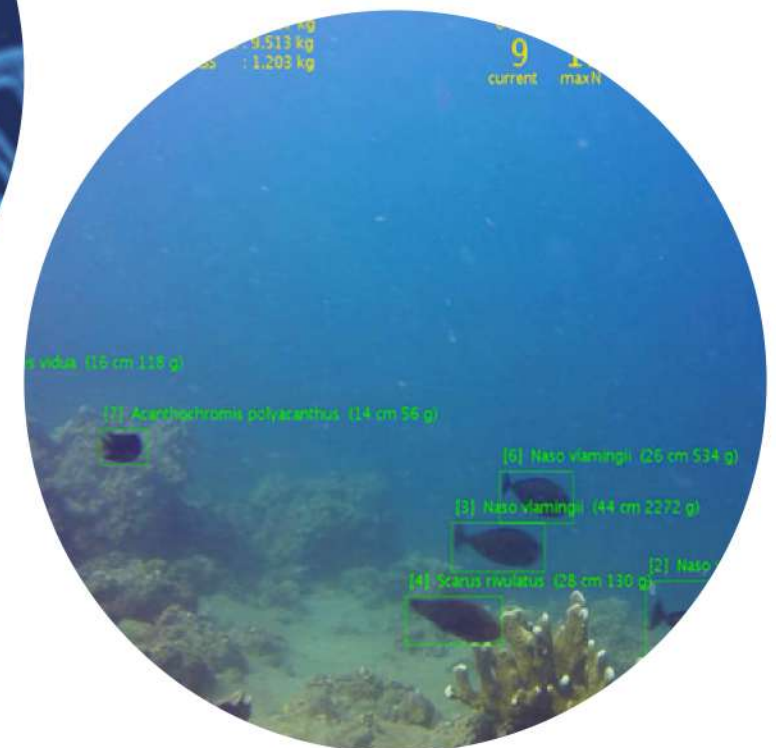
Planned
Fishery
Surveys

EMPLOYING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENTS (ATA)

BA is planning to utilize Baited Remote Underwater Video (BRUV), FISH-I, and Environmental DNA (e-DNA) through a collaborative approach of local and international experts in the field. With these technologies in our reach, we can then detect the distribution of cryptic, invasive, rare, threatened, and large predatory species that are not observed during the conduct of traditional methods.



BRUV Photo by Peter Southwood



FISH-I Photo from DOST

MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS ASSESSMENT TOOL (MEAT)



MEAT is planned this August –September 2022, with an external party to do the tasks. MEAT tool explicitly includes a set of activities that dictates better planning, more efficient enforcement schemes, and governance by the MPA Managers.

Assessment
across 8
MEAT areas

Peoples
Organization
Assessment
Tool

Organizational
Action
Planning

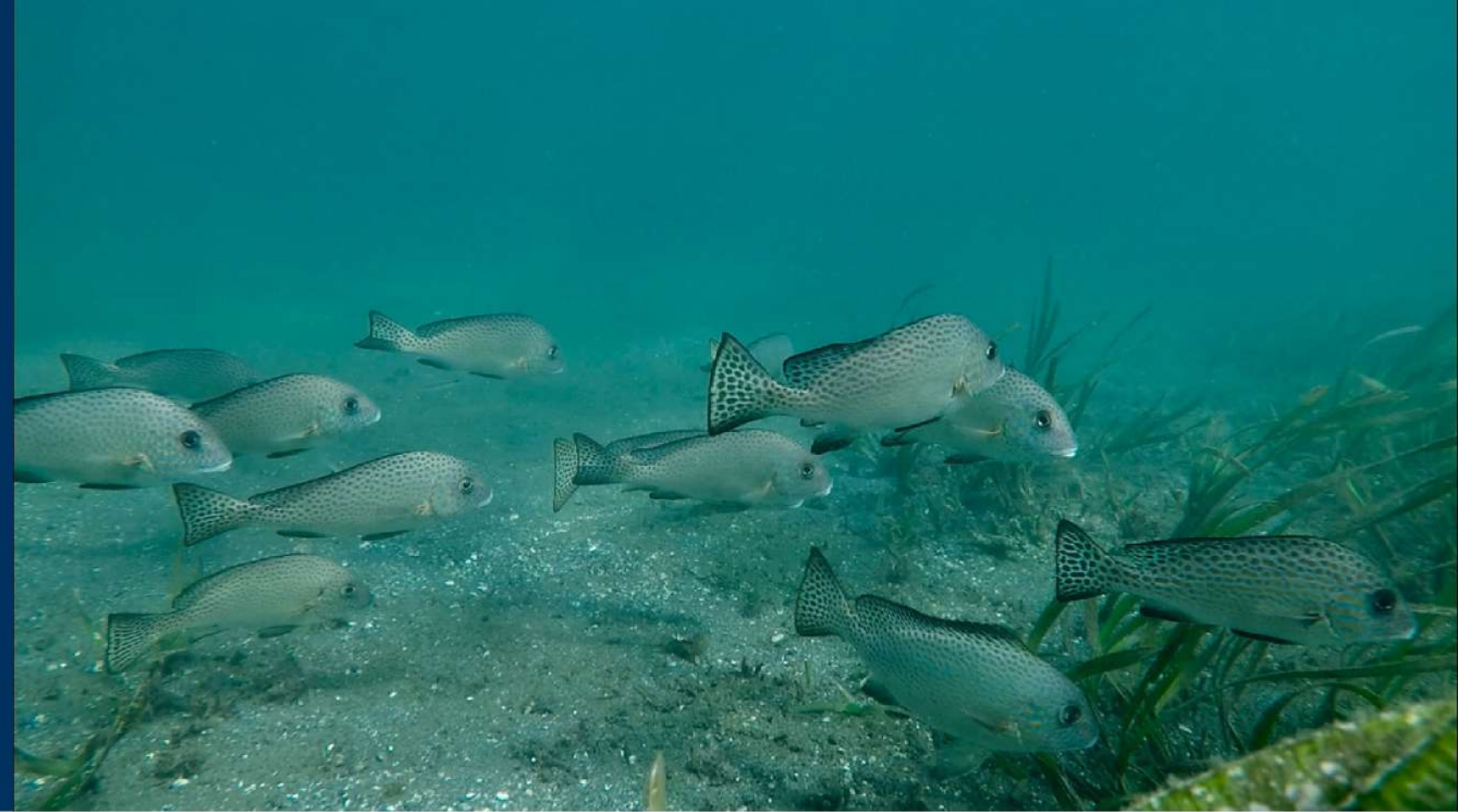
WATER QUALITY MONITORING



Water quality monitoring is also being planned by MinSU and BA. BA will also ensure close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB).

BA intends purchasing equipment for water quality monitoring or tap existing government facility to expedite the exercises.

PLANNED FISHERY SURVEYS



Dockside fish landing survey forms will be developed or modified from available materials. Enumerators who are familiar with the area identified with heavy fishing density will be employed for data collection. Experimental fishing or onboard data collection and fishing effort mapping will be conducted by the BA team along with interns if any.

REACH US

Please contact us if you have any questions.

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