



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
MIMAROPA Region
Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office

DENR MIMAROPA RECORDS SECTION	
RECEIVED	
04 JUL 2022	
LDA	
INCOMING	OUTGOING
BY:	DATS NO.

June 27, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Regional Executive Director
MIMAROPA Region

THRU : The ARD for Technical Services

FROM : The In-Charge PENRO
Oriental Mindoro

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF REFRESHER COURSE ON ADVANCE DIVING IN PUERTO GALERA AS ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY TO THE GREENFINS ASSESSORS TRAINING**

Submitted is the report of this Office on the conduct of Refresher Course on Advance Diving – an alternative activity to the Greenfins Assessors Training, as target accomplishment under Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP) for the second (2nd) quarter of CY 2022. This was conducted on June 22-24, 2022 in Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro.

The activity was a 3-day course which was participated by the 11 PENRO and CENRO licensed divers, who are now qualified as Greenfins Assessors of the province and two (2) representatives from the MENRO of Puerto Galera. The course consists of brief lectures, check dives, reef observations and crown-of-thorns (COTs) collection (a total of 8 dives each participant).

During reef observations in the newly proclaimed MPA of the municipality, the coral reefs in Aninuan MPA was observed to be very silted due to soil erosions in the area, meanwhile, alarming coral bleaching was observed in the Minolo reef where tons of Crown-of-Thorns were also present. This might be one of the reasons of the coral bleaching in the area. Hence, a COTs collection was initiated and conducted in the area.

A total of 547 COTs individuals were collected in the two (2) dive sites (Batangas Channel and Minolo MPA) during the whole conduct of the refresher course.

Attached is the narrative report with photo documentation of the said activity.


TSD CHIEF ALMA E. GIBE

PENRO Tracking No.
TSD-CDS/hf



DENRPENRO2206000052



June 27, 2022

MEMORANDUM

FOR : The In-Charge, PENRO
Oriental Mindoro

THRU : The Chief, Technical Services Division

FROM : The CDS Personnel

SUBJECT : **SUBMISSION OF REPORT ON THE CONDUCT OF
REFRESHER COURSE ON ADVANCE DIVING IN PUERTO
GALERA AS ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY TO THE GREENFINS
ASSESSORS TRAINING**

As part of the target activity of the Conservation and Development Section of PENRO Oriental Mindoro under the Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Management Program (CMEMP), a refresher course on advance diving under Greenfins Program was conducted in Puerto Galera on June 22-24, 2022. This was a suggested alternative activity of the Biodiversity Management Bureau to the supposedly conduct of Greenfins Assessors Training for this year. But due to uncertain reasons, the Reef World Foundation have postponed the said training which shall then be rescheduled next year.

Please be informed that the activity was a 3-day course which was participated by the 11 PENRO/CENRO licensed divers, who are now qualified as Greenfins Assessors of the province and two (2) representatives from the MENRO of Puerto Galera. The course consists of brief lectures, check dives, reef observations and crown-of-thorns collection (a total of 8 dives each participant).

The first dive was a check dive in Batangas Channel site where participants also conducted a crown-of-thorns (COTs) cleanup. A total of 147 individuals were collected in the said site. The count has declined from the last cleanup conducted in May in the same site. This means that the continuous conduct of COTs collection and injection, which are an initiative of the LGU of Puerto Galera and partner organizations have been effective to the inevitable outbreak in the site. However, the team was graced with the presence of one (1) marine sea turtle in the area – a resident green sea turtle.

The second and third dive was reef observation of the two (2) newly proclaimed Marine Protected Area (MPA) of the municipality – *Aninuan and Minolo MPA*. The reef in the Aninuan MPA was observed to be very silted where soil sediments are evident in most of the corals. Meanwhile, alarming coral bleaching was observed in the Minolo reef where tons of Crown-of-Thorns were also present. This might be one of the reasons of the coral bleaching in the area.

On the second day, the team planned on conducting a COTS collection in Minolo MPA. A total of two (2) dives was done in the area with 400 individuals of COTs collected. It was participated by the 13 diver participants and 3 hired dive masters. On the last dive, a reef check / fun dive within Sabang Bay site was done. No changes were observed in the site since the



previous dives conducted. However, one (1) marine sea turtle was present and observed in the area – a Green Sea Turtle.

The third day comprises of two (2) dives. The activity was supposedly a cleanup of the two dive sites, though, no garbage was collected in both areas. The dive sites were Ernest's Point and Sabang Wreck, both in Barangay Sabang, Puerto Galera.

In conclusion, the whole course was a combination of the conduct of Greenfins alternative activities and refresher course of the advance diving. This complies with the recommendation of the BMB Director for the conduct of alternative activities for the completion of target activity under implementation of Greenfins Program.


BEA NATASHA R. FORTU



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**PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION ON THE CONDUCT OF REFRESHER COURSE ON
ADVANCE DIVING UNDER GREEN FINS PROGRAM PUERTO GALERA,
ORIENTAL MINDORO ON JUNE 22-24, 2022**

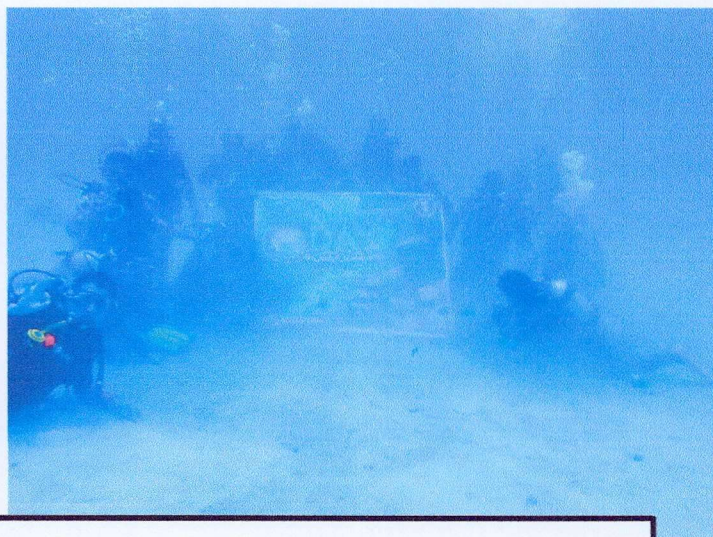
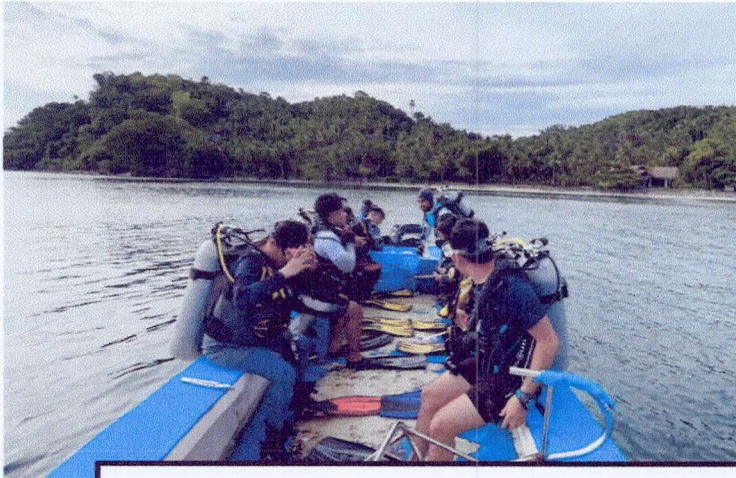
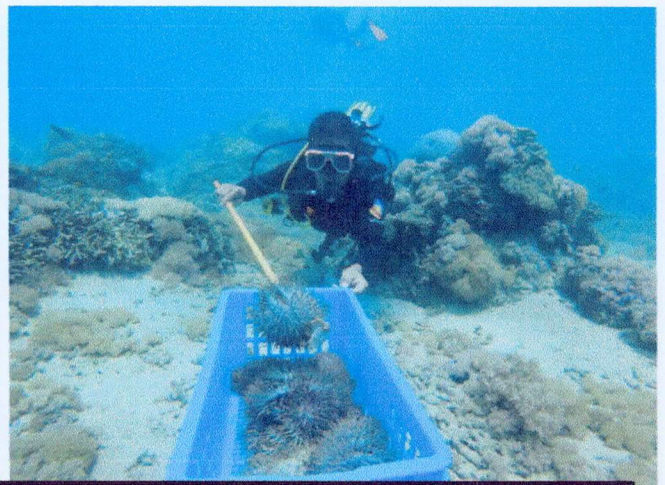
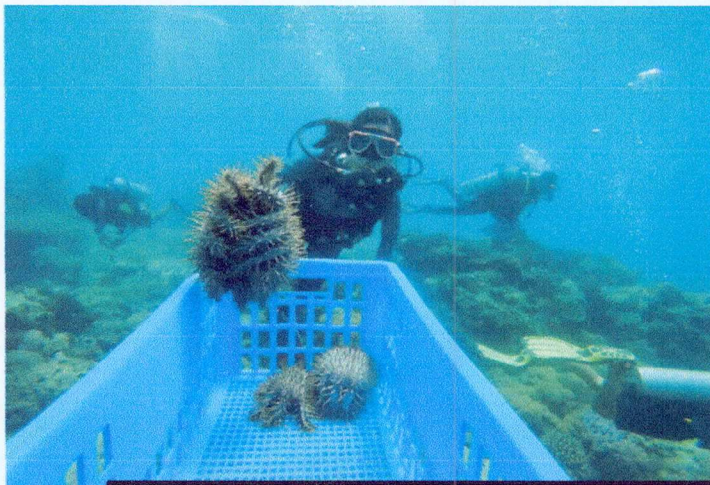


Photo Opportunity of the participants with the Chief, CDS during the conduct of the Refresher Course in Sabang, Puerto Galera.





Photos in left and right are divers preparing for their first dive/COTs collection.



Divers For. Kathreen Diaz and SI Walter Tolentino with their collected crown-of-thorns in Batangas Channel area.



Photos of COTs collected in Batangas Channel area.

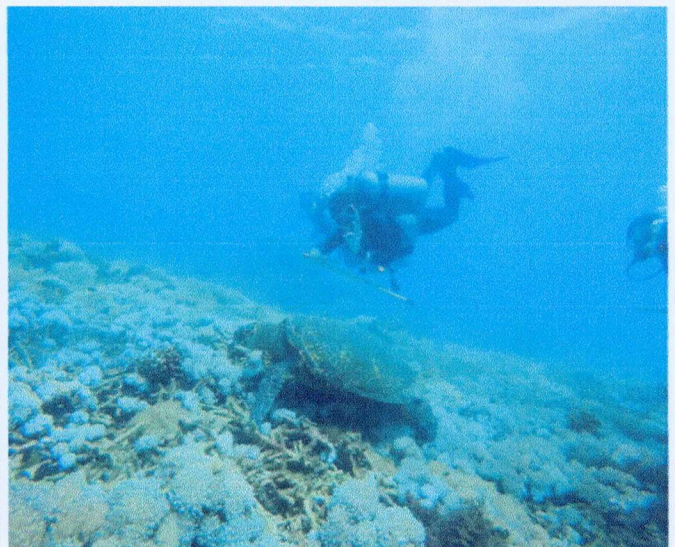
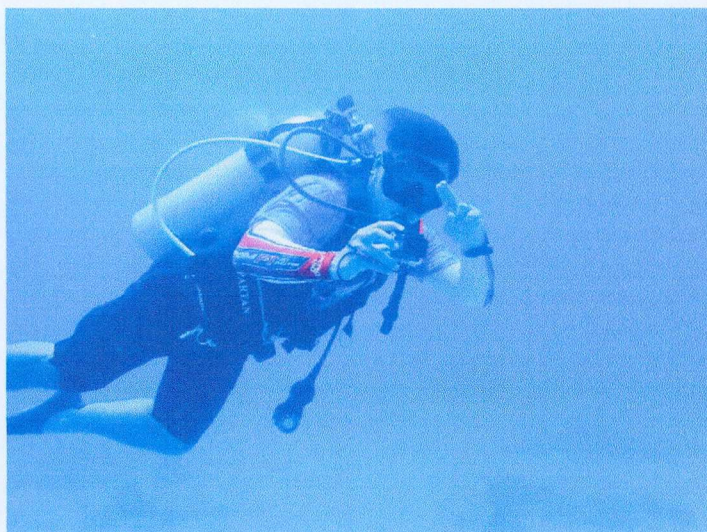
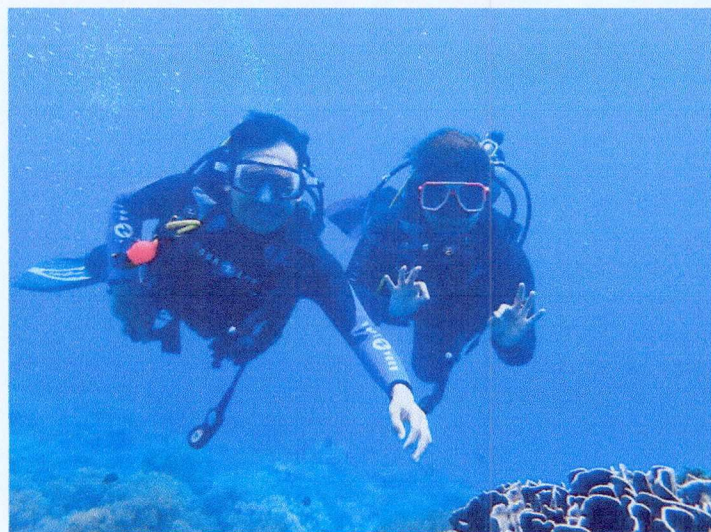


Photo of Forester Bea Fortu with the Green Sea Turtle in Batangas Channel area.



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Photos during the underwater fun diving of the participants in Ernest Point and Sabang Wreck site in Puerto Galera.





Photos of the COTs collected in Minolo MPA.

