

**Annex 4/5: Country Report of The Philippines**

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# Deep-Sea Fish: The BFAR Experience

“Regional Training/Workshop on Identification of Deep-Sea Fish”

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SEAFDEC Training Department, Samut Prakan, Thailand

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## Outline:

- M/V DA-BFAR's Experiences with deep sea survey
  - Collaborators
  - Collection Gears
  - Coverage
  - Fish Species Collected (photos)
- References
- Retention/Preservation
- Network of Fish Taxonomist / Technical Support for ID



## Experience:

Three deep-sea exploration onboard M/V DA-BFAR conducted under the Project "Census of Marine Life" - Focused on Taxonomical and Morphological studies on the deep-sea benthic fauna.



- Panglao Expedition (2005)
- Aurora-Baler Expedition (2007)
- LuMiWan Expedition (2008)

- In May 2008, Survey for deep-sea survey with fisheries approach was conducted onboard with SEAFDEC Member Countries along the outskirts of Lingayen Gulf.



## Depth Covered:

- Panglao Expedition (May 22 – 31, 2005)**  
62 - 2,217 meters  
77 collecting operations
- Aurora-Baler Expedition (May 18-June 5, 2007)**  
42 - 2,253 meters  
112 collecting operations
- LuMiWan Expedition (March 19 – April 02, 2008)**  
105 - 2,249 meters  
68 collecting operations
- Lingayen w/ SEAFDEC (May 11 -25, 2008)**  
358 - 882 meters  
14 operations



### Collaborators:



### Collection:



Gear	Dimensions	General Specifications
Beam-Trawl	4 m (Beam) X 0.35 m (Height of shoe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kept open by 6' X 6' heavy duty wooden Beam attached to iron runners at both ends</li> <li>Fine-meshed end capable of holding muddy substrates.</li> <li>Lead-line/sinkerline is also of chain to allow digging in the substrate.</li> <li>Towed for 30-60 min on the seafloor depending on the topography</li> </ul>
Otter Trawl	15 m. Lead line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kept open by two metal otter boards.</li> <li>With 4-ply cod-end</li> </ul>



### Catch Pics...



### Interesting Species...



# Interesting Species...



*Barathronus sp.*; this gelatinous specimen is probably undescribed. The genus falls under family Aphyonidae that lives below 700 meters.



*Bathypterois guntheri*; also known as tripod fish, eyes are very small and almost blind.



*Ipnops agassii* ; only few specimens have been collected from Pacific. Almost blind, their eyes were degenerated and were covered with skin.

Ref. Aurora 2007 Cruise Rep. Kwang-Tsao Shao, Yun-Chin Liao, Academia Sinica, Taipei

# Major References:



“Experiences and Thru Specimens Gathered During the deep-sea explorations conducted onboard the vessel”



## Retention/Preservation of Specimens:



- Collected specimens of Deep Sea Fish, Crustaceans and other invertebrates for proposed BFAR-Museum are on display at BFAR-NMFDC Laboratory Building.
- This will serve as the Bureau's outreach material for Academic and research institutions.



## Network of Fish Taxonomist / Technical Support for ID:

### at National Level:

- Fisheries Academes
- BFAR Taxonomist – Coastal Fishes Only
- NGO's  
INCOFish, FishBase Project, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines, (Mr. Rudy Reyes)

