



Activity Report:

Orientation and Validation Visit to Mati City by the FIP Team

Date: April 3, 2025

Time: 09:30 AM – 04:00 PM

Venue: Sitio Tambac and Sitio Silad, Mati City

Attendees:

The orientation was divided into two sessions to accommodate different groups of fishers. The morning session was specifically designed for captains and fishers who are active members of the Fisheries Improvement Project and were present in Mati to offload their catch at the local fishport.

The afternoon session focused on members of the Tuna Handliners and Fisheries Association (THAFA) of Mati City, providing a platform for broader community engagement and collaboration. This approach allowed the team to gather insights from a diverse group of fishers while sharing vital information on ongoing initiatives and compliance requirements.

Objectives:

This activity aimed to strengthen fisher engagement and build awareness on key aspects of sustainability and traceability in the handline tuna sector. By holding separate sessions for active FIP members and the Tuna Handliners and Fisheries Association (THAFA), the team addressed specific concerns related to the catch validation process at Mati Fishport and provided practical guidance on proper documentation, particularly the use of log sheets. The activity also introduced the SPC Tuna Tagging program and emphasized the importance of fisher participation in data collection and compliance efforts. Overall, the orientation supported the broader goal of preparing the fishery for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification and aligning local practices with national and international standards for responsible fishing.

Meeting Highlights:

1. The sessions were formally opened by Ms. Rosanna Bernadette Contreras, who warmly welcomed all the participants. She acknowledged their dedication and contributions to handline fishing, emphasizing the crucial role they play in sustainable fisheries management.
2. Ms. Contreras shared the main purpose of the visit, which was to listen to the concerns of the fishers, particularly in relation to the validation process at Mati Fishport. She also introduced the SOCKSARGEN Federation of Fishing and Allied Industries Inc. (SFFAI), outlining its membership structure and its advocacy in supporting the handline fishing sector. The presentation helped the

fishers understand the bigger picture—how their participation fits into national and international efforts toward responsible fishing practices and market access through certification.

3. One of the highlights of the session was the technical presentation delivered by Ms. Shalimar Abdurahman on the SPC Tuna Tagging program. She explained the significance of tag recovery in providing valuable data to the scientific community, which in turn informs fisheries management decisions. Participants were taught how to recognize different tag colors, understand their meanings, and were informed about the cash incentives for each tag returned.
4. Following this, Mr. Keven Lloyd Dipay presented on the proper process of catch flow validation, especially for commercial vessels landing outside the General Santos Fishport. He stressed the importance of log sheets in ensuring full traceability from the point of catch to the marketplace. Noting that many fishers in Mati had limited experience with log sheets, Mr. Dipay provided a step-by-step guide on how to accurately fill them out from departure to offloading.
5. The FIP Team committed to continuous communication and coordination with BFAR 12 and BFAR 11 to support fishers in this transition. The team reiterated that consistent and correct documentation would significantly contribute to the handline industry's journey toward achieving Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification.

Meeting Photos:





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