

1 Minutes of the City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council Meeting held on March 31, 2026 at
2 the Farmers Training Center, City Agriculturist’s Office, General Santos City.

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4 Present:

- 5 1. ENP. Dennis Fel T. Matutina, MPA – CPDO
- 6 2. Marife A. Quiam – CDC Environmental Development Committee
- 7 3. Sr. Ritaflor N. Servidad, OND – NGO
- 8 4. Rosanna Bernadette B. Contreras – Private Sector (SFFAI)
- 9 5. Jonathan L. Balili – City Agriculturist's Office - Fisheries Division
- 10 6. Jovencio S. Montuya – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 11 7. Bienvenido P. Bartolini – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 12 8. Fernando A. Palen – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 13 9. Saida S. Suib – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 14 10. Jerry M. Mira – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 15 11. Ramir C. Rendon – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 16 12. Cheryl T. Galo – Municipal Capture Fisherfolk
- 17 13. Mercedes M. Ong – Commercial Fisherfolk (Handline)
- 18 14. Paolo L. Payot – Aquaculture Farm Operator
- 19 15. Annie M. Cabrerros – Cannery Sector
- 20 16. Evangeline G. Malit – Fishworker
- 21 17. Jeandy D. Cagas – CPDO Representative
- 22 18. Ruby D. Cerera – SL-CLWA (Resource Person)
- 23 19. Pureza P. Siason – SL-CLWA (Resource Person)
- 24 20. Lydia J. Torrejos – SL-CLWA (Resource Person)
- 25 21. Lilian Dael – SL-CLWA (Resource Person)
- 26 22. Faith V. Batatin - City Agriculturist's Office - Fisheries Division/Secretariat

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28 Absent:

- 29 1. Hon. Elizabeth B. Bagonoc – SP Committee on Fisheries, Marine Life and Aquatic Resources
- 30 2. Kenrick G. Teng – Commercial Fisherfolk (Purse Seine)
- 31 3. Dino H. Barrientos – Commercial Fisherfolk (Ringnet)
- 32 4. Emma F. Garay – Fresh Frozen Sector

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34 Start Time: 2:40 PM
35 Prayer: AVP
36 Roll Call of Attendance: Ms. Evangeline G. Malit
37 Declaration of Quorum: Mr. Ramir C. Rendon declared the quorum

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39 Agenda of the Meeting:

- 40 A. Adoption of the Proposed Agenda
- 41 B. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 42 C. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- 43 D. Formation of Committees and Selection of Members
- 44 E. Creation and Ratification of Internal Rules and Regulations
- 45 F. Other Matters
 - 46 a. Women Sector Representative
 - 47 b. Fuel Subsidy/Cash Assistance for Registered Fisherfolk

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49 **A. Adoption of the Proposed Agenda**

50 Ms. Rosanna Bernadette B. Contreras moved to adopt the proposed agenda. Ms. Marife A. Quiam seconded
51 the motion.

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53 **B. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

54 Mr. Rendon suggested correcting “fouth” in Line 45 into “fourth”. Ms. Annie M. Cabrerros moved to adopt the
55 minutes of the previous meeting. Ms. Contreras and Mr. Fernando A. Palen jointly seconded the motion.

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C. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Installation of FADS in the Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape (SBPS)

Mr. Rendon reported that he saw several Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) near the Gensan Fishport, but those have no permits from the Protected Area Management Board (PAMB). He added that he will inquire the PAMB about the requirements for licensing the FADs and fish cages as there are financiers who are interested.

Mr. Jonathan L. Balili explained that there is no policy for the deployment of payao in the SBPS. He said that PAMB is still asking for recommendations, while the Integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council is working on the matter. He added that the Payao Development Plan was more than 10 years already and needs updating to include General Santos City. Regarding fish cage installation, Mr. Balili said that PAMB has a list of requirements and has to check if the site is within the Multiple Use Zone of the SBPS.

Ms. Malit suggested the fishers consult the City Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council prior to deploying FADs. Mr. Jovencio S. Montuya said the FADs were installed long before the development of policy, thus, the fishers cannot be blamed for lack of knowledge. Ms. Cabreros said the FADs are part of the ongoing livelihood of the fishers and that the government should consult all the concerned.

Mr. Balili suggested conducting an inventory of the FADs in General Santos City. Ms. Cabreros moved to draft a resolution for the Local Government Unit to conduct an inventory of FADs thru the City Agriculturist’s Office and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office. Ms. Contreras seconded the motion.

D. Formation of Committees and Selection of Members

Ms. Faith V. Batatin presented to the CFARMC the functions of the different committees based on the guidelines provided by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. Then, the CFARMC unanimously selected the Chairperson and Members for each committee. (see attached result of the committee selection)

E. Creation and Ratification of Internal Rules and Regulations

Mr. Rendon facilitated the updating and ratification of the Internal Rules and Regulations of the CFARMC. (see attached ratified Internal Rules and Regulations)

Ms. Contreras moved to adopt the revised Internal Rules and Regulations of the CFARMC. Ms. Quiam and Ms. Mercedes M. Ong jointly seconded the motion.

F. Other Matters

a. Women Sector Representative

Mr. Rendon introduced Ms. Lilian Dael of Sweet Ladies – Cluster Wide Association of Barangay Labangal (SL-CLWA), the applicant for the Women Sector Representative. Ms. Contreras asked if the association was composed of women only. Ms. Dael replied that all 178 members were women. She added that they have members who were into fish processing, funded by the Department of Trade and Industries.

Ms. Malit Malit suggested to defer the filling of the vacant position to allow more fisherfolk women associations to apply. Mr. Rendon said the CFARMC had been waiting for accreditation of fisherfolk women associations and SL-CLWA met the minimum requirement. Ms. Annie asked if there were criteria for the selection of women sector representative. Mr. Balili suggested establishing the rules, while Ms. Quiam proposed creating a Selection Committee. Mr. Dennis Fel T. Matutina recommended amending the IRR to create the Membership Committee. Ms. Contreras moved to adopt the amended IRR subject to style. Ms. Quiam and Ms. Cabreros jointly seconded the motion.

Mr. Rendon opened the nomination for the Membership Committee. Mr. Balili nominated Ms. Quiam, then Ms. Ong moved to close the nomination. Ms. Quiam appointed Ms. Ong to be a member, Mr. Rendon recommended adding Mr. Balili, and Ms. Ong suggested Ms. Cabreros.

Ms. Quiam suggested including the criteria for the Youth Representative in the publication of vacancies. Mr. Balili said the qualification of youth should be clear.

b. Fuel Subsidy/Cash Assistance for Registered Fisherfolk

Mr. Matutina mentioned about access opportunities for fisherfolk. Ms. Contreras asked about the LGU’s crisis response. Mr. Matutina said that the LGU was waiting for funds to be downloaded from the National Government. He added that the control of fuel price was under the Department of Energy. Ms. Contreras further asked for the LGU’s

109 assistance and suggested the City Agriculturist’s Office prepare the list of fisherfolk. Mr. Matutina said the list can also
110 be retrieve from the Community Based Monitoring System.

111 Ms. Cabreros said that many cannery workers could no longer report to work because of the high cost of fuel
112 and fare. She added that it would help if the LGU can provide free transportation for the cannery workers. Mr. Matutina
113 said the LGU was still looking for funds because it could not easily use calamity funds when the crisis was not caused
114 by a natural disaster. Ms. Contreras suggested *libreng sakay* for the commuting workers.

115 Mr. Rendon also reported that there were fishers who had to stop fishing. He suggested to pass a resolution
116 addressed to Congress and to Mayor Lorelie Geronimo Pacquiao requesting for assistance to the fisherfolk. Mr.
117 Matutina suggested to also address the resolution to the Sangguniang Panlungsod. He said there was no policy on
118 energy crisis interventions for the LGU to release the 5% Calamity Fund. He added that he will bring up to the
119 management the concern of the commuting workers.

120 Ms. Contreras moved to pass a resolution urging the LGU of General Santos City to implement support
121 programs for the fisherfolk. Ms. Ong seconded the motion. Mr. Balili suggested citing the provision on social assistance
122 from the City Fisheries Code. Mr. Rendon said the resolution will be addressed to all other relevant government offices.

123 Ms. Malit said that the boat owners were not allowed to buy fuel filled into containers and bottles because
124 gasoline stations required the motorized vehicles. Ms. Contreras suggested providing fishers certificate to be presented
125 to the gasoline station upon purchasing fuel. Mr. Matutina recommended including in the resolution to prioritize
126 fishers in the gasoline stations. Mr. Balili said the City Agriculturist’s Office can provide the list of registered motorized
127 banca owners, weather updated or not.

128 Ms. Contreras said the commercial fishers were also affected by the fuel crisis. She suggested providing fuel
129 only and not cash subsidy. Ms. Cabreros also said that fuel, rice and free transportation will be better than cash subsidy.
130 Mr. Matutina said that the LGU will find means to provide appropriate interventions to the fisherfolk.

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132 Mr. Paolo L. Payot moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bienvenido P. Bartolini seconded the motion.

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134 Meeting adjourned: 5:50 PM

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137 Prepared by:
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139 FAITH V. BATATIN
140 CFARMC Secretariat

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142 Noted by:
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144 RAMIR C. RENDON
145 Chair, CFARMC