

Towards Attaining Food Security

Integrating Population Issues with Coastal Resource Management Initiatives

Philippine Coastal Zone Situation

60% of Filipinos live in coastal zone

Fertility higher than average (5.7% vs. 3.7%)

Pregnancy higher than average (12% vs. 7.2%)

Young Population (45% under age 15)

Large family size (6-8)

High % households depend on fishing for subsistence

Fish catch rapidly declining

Poverty and malnutrition increasing

Bohol: A priority marine conservation area

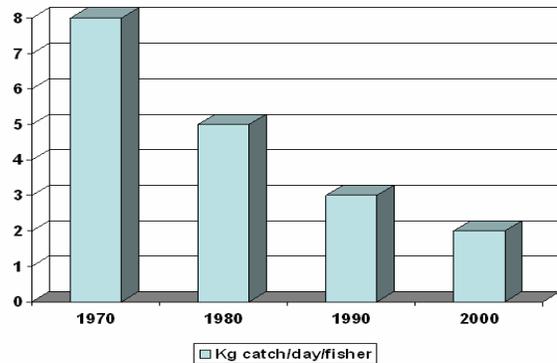
Bohol, the 10th largest province in the country with a population of 1.1 million (2000 census), has been identified as one of the Marine Conservation Priority Areas in the country. With 349 coastal barangays, including 72 islands, and a combined coastline of 642 km, Bohol has almost three times more sea than land. It is no wonder that the province is rich in marine resources – but they're fast deteriorating.

The province of Bohol is one of four provinces in the country that has jurisdiction over the world famous Danajon Bank Double Barrier Reef. The reef, which was formed during the past 6,000 years, has fed the people of Bohol, Cebu as well as Leyte and Southern Leyte and other close-by provinces for hundreds of years. Danajon - the only double barrier reef in the Philippines and one of only three in the Indo-Pacific region, makes Bohol a high priority area for marine conservation.

The situation in the Danajon Bank is similar to other places in Bohol with offshore reefs. Based on a 1997 study, only 25 percent of the coral reef in the Danajon Reef was in "good" condition; 40 percent was "fair;" and 35 percent was in "poor" condition. Over fishing and illegal and destructive fishing methods (dynamite, sodium cyanide) were the culprit that contributed to deterioration of coral structures, loss of diversity of coral reefs and reef fish, and declining fish catch over the years.

Technical solutions, such as instituting sound coastal resource management practices, were initiated to respond to the problem. These, however, proved insufficient. It has now evident that efforts to address rapid population growth, which puts so much pressure on the province's resources, have to be included in the conservation equation to ensure food security and sustainability of coastal resources for generations to come.

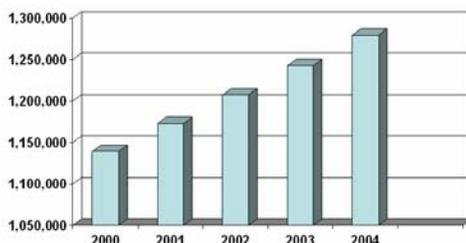
Declining fish catch of marginal fishers in Talibon and Bien Unido



Source: oneocean.com Bohol Governor Eric Aumentao

Bohol facts & figures

Bohol population growth



- **Population to double in 23 years**

It took Bohol 40 years to double its population, from 592,000 in 1960 to 1,139,130 in 2000. Now the province is expanding at an average rate of 2.95 percent per year (the highest in Bohol since 1903). At this rate, Bohol's population will double in just 23 years! Its coastal barangays rank among the most densely populated in the country. These human pressures are wreaking havoc on the province's natural resources, and escalating conflicts among coastal resource users could threaten social stability.

- **Half of the population below age 22; males outnumber females**

In year 2000, about half of Bohol's population was below age 22 - Also, there were more males than females in the age group 0-44 years. Considering that fishing is the main livelihood in many coastal towns in Bohol and mostly involves males, one can just imagine the large number of

(See BOHOL FACTS, next page)

Danajon Double Barrier Reef

In his paper about the Danajon Double Barrier Reef, Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado describes this rare, geological phenomenon and its attributes:

- Acts as a huge “sea bank” and breeding area for fishes and coral reefs and supplies large amounts of young fishes
- Includes South East Asia’s largest man-made mangrove forest (located in Banacon Island)
- Four islands – Calituban, Baha-baha, Olango and Tabong-tabong – which are important feeding/roosting sites for migratory birds

IPOPCORM works with committed leaders, communities and youth to slow population momentum and its environmental impacts. IPOPCORM’s combined population and environmental interventions could be a “tipping point” for the Philippines – not only as a strategic lever to promote food security but also as a practical approach to turn ecosystems and communities from deterioration to restoration and health

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fishermen competing for fish and other marine resources for quite a long time (as half of the population is young) in municipal waters that really do not get any larger.

- **High dependency ratio**

The year 2000 dependency ratio in Bohol was 73. For every 100 persons in the working age group (15-64 years), there were 73 dependents (62 of them aged 0-14). This means the demand for food (especially fish) will increase tremendously as this

young segment of the population matures.

- **Almost half of the female population are of reproductive age**

In 2000, there were 565,000 females in Bohol, 50 percent of who were in the childbearing age (15-49 years old) with the highest concentration in the 15 to 19 years age group. The sheer number of girls about to reproduce has never been larger in the province. At current rates of fertility and low family planning practice – each young female will bear, on average, 3.4 children during her life time – twice the national average rate. Youth can help to slow down population momentum by delaying sex, marriage and childbearing.

Did you know that ...

Philippines is one of the planet’s 18 mega diverse countries that harbors 70% of all life forms?

Coral reefs support 25% of all known marine species? They provide homes for over 4,000 different species of fish, 700 species of corals and thousands of plants and animals.

The male seahorse bears the offspring? As such, IPOPCORM uses the seahorse as a symbol to encourage males to play a larger role in parenting and in planning their families.



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