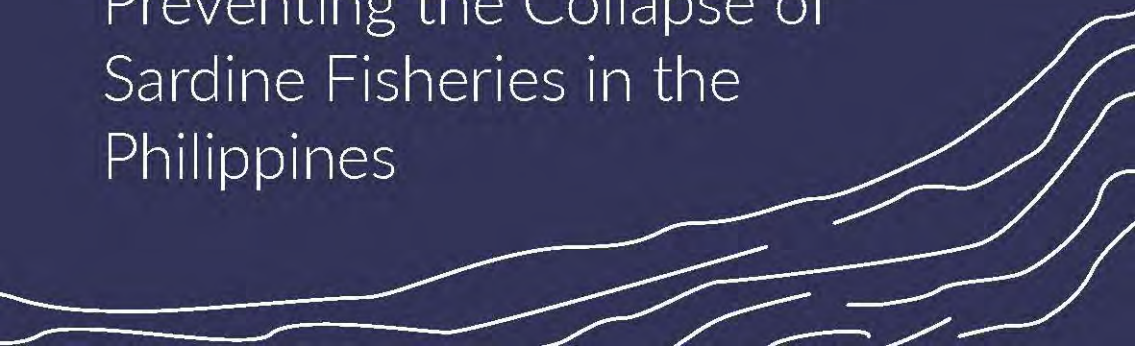


#SagipSardinas:

Preventing the Collapse of
Sardine Fisheries in the
Philippines



What are sardines?

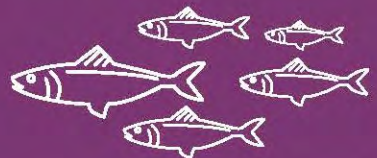
Sardines are among the top fisheries in the country. The Philippines is blessed with rich marine biodiversity, with five major sardine species fueling a thriving industry. Canned, dried and sold fresh and dripping in seaside markets, they are among the most affordable protein sources for Filipinos.

How important is sardines in the Philippine economy?

- Sardine fisheries are a main economic driver in the Philippines, producing **344,730,201 kilograms worth P7.43 billion in 2015.**
- Sardines provide food and livelihood for millions of Filipinos. In addition, a recent Social Weather Stations (SWS, 2017) study showed that 71 percent of Filipino families eat seafood, especially sardines, at least five times per month.



Sardines are one of the main economic drivers in the Philippines. However, scientists said that sardines are getting smaller and spawn earlier to adapt to heavy fishing pressure and environmental changes.



Major Sardine Species in the Philippines

Sardinella lemuru



Sardinella gibbosa



Sardinella fimbriata



Dussumieria acuta



Amblygaster sirm



Sardinella albella



Photo Credits: *Sardinella lemuru*: Jeffrey T. Williams (www.fishesofaustralia.net.au); *Sardinella gibbosa*: Australian National Fish Collection, CSIRO (www.fishesofaustralia.net.au); *Sardinella fimbriata*: Gloerfelt-Tarp, T. (www.fishbase.org); *Dussumieria acuta*: Randall, J.E. (www.fishbase.de); *Amblygaster sirm*: Rodolfo B. Reyes (www.fishesofaustralia.net.au); *Sardinella albella*: Australian National Fish Collection, CSIRO (www.fishesofaustralia.net.au)

Local names of Sardines in the Philippines

Cagayan

Lapad; Aber; Tamban;
Bilis; Lao-lao

La Union

Toyo; Tamban; Tunsoy

Bicol Region

Tamban; Salinyasi;
Law-law; Turay; Lupnos

Pangasinan

Toyo; Tamban; Tunsoy

Iloilo

Tabagak;
Manamsi;
Lapad

Palawan

Tamban

Misamis Occidental

Tamban; Tuloy

Zamboanga

Tamban; Tuloy;
Bahura; Mitoloh

Misamis Oriental

Tamban tuloy;
Tamban lusay;

Tawi-Tawi

Lao-lao; Tamban



What is the status of sardine stocks in the Philippines?

- Recent studies show that sardines are being overfished. Existing data shows a decline in fish stocks due to heavy fishing pressure and environmental changes.
- Existing policy measures are not enough to protect this important fishery, and ensure its sustainable management, especially the spawning fish.
- According to studies, the overexploitation of sardines also caused the species to spawn and mature early at a relatively smaller size.

What is being done to address the overfishing of sardines?

- **Closed Fishing Season** – Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-DFAR) ordered a closed season for sardines in major fishing grounds including the Visayan Sea and the Zamboanga Peninsula.
- **National Management Framework for Sardines** – Oceana is pushing for the crafting of a comprehensive management framework for sardines to study and protect the existing resources and address gaps such as reducing the catch of juveniles, fish that have not yet matured, and to trace and to protect the places where they spawn.
- **Fisheries Management Areas (FMAs)** – this will institutionalize regional-based management of major fisheries, including sardines, in top fishing regions in the Philippines such as the Visayan Sea and Zamboanga.

Oceana is closely working with stakeholders in the **Visayan Sea**, one of the major fishing grounds for sardine fisheries in the country, as a pilot-site for fisheries management areas. Together with the fisheries bureau and other government agencies, scientists, local government units and NGOs, appropriate Reference Points and Harvest Control Rules are established in the sardine-rich region, **a first for any fishing ground nationwide**. This will ensure that sardine fisheries will be managed through science-based policies, ensuring that we will have sardines, forever.



According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 795 million people are already living in hunger. With the world's increasing population, coupled with our dwindling natural resources, where will all the food come from?

Studies show that by implementing better and proven management measures we can potentially increase the global fish catch by up to 15 percent from current levels. By rebuilding ocean biodiversity and abundance, we can feed a billion people healthy seafood meals each day (FAO, 2016).

Unfortunately, studies show that irresponsible fishing has reduced many wild fish populations to historically low levels at the moment when the world needs its oceans more than ever.

About Oceana

Established in 2014, Oceana Philippines seeks to restore the health, richness, and abundance of Philippine seas.

Working closely with the government, academe, civil society, and fisherfolk, we promote the effective use of science-based policies to ensure sustainable fisheries and vibrant marine ecosystems.

Well-managed oceans can provide livelihood and food to millions of Filipinos.

Together, we can save the oceans and feed the world.

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