

FISHFOREVER

PHILIPPINES



Why the Philippines?

\$3.32 billion

in revenue generated
by fisheries

47%

of fish caught in the Philippines
by nearshore fishers

85%

of fishers are small-
scale (1.4 million)

56%

of Filipinos' animal
protein comes from fish

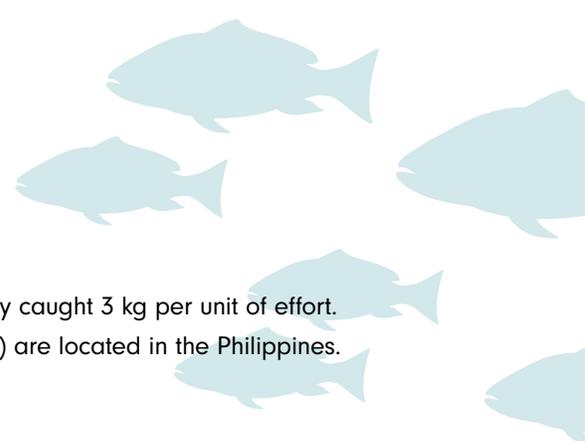
91%

of fish caught in-country are
consumed by Filipinos

The Opportunity

- Nearshore fishers used to catch 40 kg of fish per unit of effort in 1940; in 2000, they caught 3 kg per unit of effort.
- Twelve-hundred marine protected areas (approximately 25 percent of global total) are located in the Philippines.
- Ninety percent of these marine protected areas are ineffectively managed.
- Local communities have management authority of their coastal waters.

All Fish Forever countries have high marine biodiversity, important coral reefs and a strong community dependence on fisheries. The challenges and different fishery models specific to each will enable neighboring countries to more easily replicate Fish Forever successes.





Record of Success in the Philippines

- Since 2009, Rare has partnered with 26 coastal municipalities to implement fish recovery zones and community-based enforcement – critical Fish Forever components.
- Eighty-six local organizations applied to be part of Rare’s second set of 13 nearshore fishery recovery projects in the Philippines.
- In 2013, Rare signed a memorandum of understanding with the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources to help communities establish sustainable fishing practices in the Tañon Strait Protected Seascape.

Across Rare’s first 12 projects in the Philippines, the abundance of coastal fish species increased by an average of 47 percent within fish recovery zones in two years.

In Cortes, Mindanao

- Fish biomass in the recovery zone increased 70 percent in two years.
- Guarding of community waters 24/7 contributed to the success; previously it was guarded only 15 days a month.
- Forty-two guards were trained; guarding now includes women and minorities.
- The campaign mascot, Rabita, the rabbit fish, both charmed and educated the community.
- A weekly radio program called “Sangtwayo Atong Kinabuhi (The Sanctuary is our Life)” included fishers’ reports of illegal activities.
- There were zero intrusions and illegal activities in and around the fish recovery zone, down from 44 the year prior to the campaign start.

“The Fish Forever strategy is not simply for livelihood and economic opportunity; it connects communities to future generations of Filipinos and generates great pride in marine biodiversity.”

- Neric Acosta, Philippine Presidential Adviser for Environmental Protection



The Future

Building on these successes, Fish Forever will achieve the following in the first five years:

- Reach 10 percent of coastal communities and establish exclusive access areas.
- Improve the management and protection of 140 fish recovery zones.
- Train 25 percent of coastal mayors or municipal delegates to build demand and political support for Fish Forever.
- Increase fish biomass, abundance and coral reef cover inside fish recovery zones at project sites.

FISHFOREVER

A partnership of:



Fish Forever seeks funding partners who share a vision and commitment to recover important coastal habitat at scale. Together, we will catalyze a global movement of nearshore fisheries reform in the developing tropics.

www.fishforever.org

February 2014