

Country Report on Marine Farming in the Philippines

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The Philippine aquaculture production of 0.459 million metric tons in 2003 is 11th in the world, sharing 1.1% to the total global aquaculture production. From 2001-2005, the contribution of aquaculture to the country's total fisheries production increased steadily from 38.5% in 2001 to 45.5%, or an average contribution of 41.6%. In 2004, seaweeds constituted 70.2% of the total aquaculture production, followed by milkfish (*Chanos chanos*) with a share of 15.9%. The third commodity is tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) with 8.5% share.

Seaweeds are the most important aquaculture commodity. The Philippines is the world's second largest producer of seaweeds in the world providing about 8% of the world production of 12 million MT. Production of seaweeds has continuously increased from 707,039 MT in 2000 to 1,204,808 MT in 2004. *Kappaphycus alvarezii* and *Eucheuma denticulatum* are the major species cultivated. The problems associated with seaweed culture are pollution in production areas, inadequate supply of dried seaweeds for processors, peace and order, diseases, inconsistency of quality, and increasing competition in *Eucheuma* production with Malaysia, Indonesia and other countries

The production of milkfish has steadily increased from 194,023 MT in 2000 to 269,930 MT in 2004, with an average annual growth rate of 8.7. Brackishwater culture recorded the highest share of 77.4%, while production in marine fish pens and fish cages contributed 12.6%. The share of freshwater culture is 10%. The problems associated with milkfish production are inadequate supply of quality milkfish fry and fingerlings, high cost of farm inputs, poor quality feeds, poor dissemination of improved technology or techniques, thick market layers, slow expansion of global market.

To further expand the production from marine aquaculture, new seaweed farming areas and seaweed nurseries are established, R&D program on seaweed strain development is conducted and post harvest facilities for seaweeds are constructed with farmer cooperatives as government partners. The milkfish industry is assisted by the government by establishing government and private hatcheries in strategic areas, instituting programs to improve the technology delivery system, establishing mariculture parks as a zoning mechanism, and conducting programs on environmental monitoring of marine aquaculture areas.