FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE COMPLIANCE OF FISHERS WITH FISHERY REGULATION IN JORDAN AND BUENAVISTA, GUIMARAS

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ABSTRACT

This study identified and compared several factors that influence compliance to fishery laws in the two coastal municipalities. These include the fishers' socio-economic characteristics, their level of awareness, and enforcement procedures. Presumably, fishers in coastal communities with better enforcement of fishery laws, high level of awareness, and with better socio-condition would tend to comply with fishery regulations.

The locales of the study were Jordan and Buenavista in Guimaras. Top three barangays in terms of fish production and population of fishers were chosen as sample coastal barangays. Thereafter, 30% of the total fisherfolk population was determined through probability sampling.

Primary data were gathered through surveys. Structured questionnaires were administered to 105 fisherfolk respondents (49 from Jordan and 56 from Buenavista) through guided interviews to determine their socio-economic conditions and level of awareness. The Likert Scale was used to determine their level of awareness. Of the 17 statements, 89.8% of respondents from Jordan and 60.71% of respondents from Buenavista fell under the category of moderately aware. In terms of a per-statement analysis, the average score of the statements from Jordan and Buenavista are 4.58 and 4.32 respectively. Moreover, secondary data was also collected from library materials such as books, theses, and other relevant documents.

Aside from the fisherfolk respondents, key informants were also interviewed. Unstructured questionnaires were directed to 11 key informants who were knowledgeable in the field of fisheries. This was done to gather data regarding the differences in the process of fishery law enforcement in the two coastal areas.

The study revealed that both fishers' awareness and socio-economic condition were slightly higher and better in Jordan compared to Buenavista. In terms of enforcement, political, geographical, and administrative factors were determined to have influenced the process of enforcing fishery regulations. Considering the results, the study, therefore, concluded that the factors that influenced the compliance of fishers with fishery regulations differ in the municipalities of Jordan and Buenavista.

The study recommended that in order to effect compliance among the fishers, livelihood conditions must first be developed because improved living conditions will consequentially lead to non-violation of fishery laws. Second, information dissemination or public education should be established. The more aware the fishers are, the less likely they are to violate fishery regulation. Lastly, the process of enforcing regulations would be easier and more effective if incentives were provided as motivation. Furthermore, cooperation between the local government units must be promoted.