FISH FARMING AND THE FISHING COMMUNITY: THE CASE OF VICTORIAS, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

An Undergraduate Research
Presented to the
Division of Social Science
College of Arts and Sciences
University of the Philippines in the Visayas
Miag-ao, Iloilo

In Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements in Soc Sci 199.2
(Social Science Research)

Submitted by:

Maylanie D. Apawan
BA Political Science-Economics

April 2001

ABSTRACT

The rapid expansion aquaculture in the past decades has brought about some economic benefits but it has also resulted in various social and environmental problems. This observation points to the need to look at aquaculture development beyond conventional measures emphasizing economic benefits; there is a need to focus on the interplay of social, economic and environmental factors in looking at aquaculture development.

This study looks at the social, economic, and environmental impacts of aquaculture on small fishers in three coastal villages in Victorias, Negros Occidental and examines the responses of small and subsistence fisherfolk to the growth and proliferation of fish farming. The study points out the social and environmental issues usually arise as a consequence of conflicts between fish farmers and small fishers in the use of land and water and also because of the effluent charge and chemical residues coming from fishpond operations. When contextualized within a larger set of social and ecological issues, these conflicts have wider implications, especially when these involve unequal distribution of costs and benefits among different stakeholders.