

Socio-Economic Assessment of Tagbunsaing Lake Stakeholders in Barangay Berong, Quezon, Palawan, Philippines

Castro, L.S.G., Benliro, I.M.P., Avillanosa, A.L., and Gonzales, B.J.
College of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences–Western Philippines University
lycasandrea_castro@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to determine the stakeholders' demographic profile, awareness on Tagbunsaing Lake environment, and perception on the management of the lake. A total of 132 respondents were interviewed using a structured guide questionnaire. Majority of the respondents are married (82.6%), aged 16 to 75 years old, and females (51.5%) almost equal the males. Educational attainment is very low. Those who were born in Quezon were already outnumbered by migrants. Most speak Ilonggo/Hiligaynon (47%) and only 28% are Tagbanua. Many of them have been living in Berong since birth (28.8%) or for 6 to 30 years (42.4%). Most consider fishing (32.5%) or farming (20.8%) as primary source or livelihood with <PhP40,000 per annum and have been fishing in the lake before 2002. Some species used to be abundant but had been observed decreasing or no longer seen in the lake. The community benefits from the lake since it sustains fish supply especially during bad weather but the migrants living near the lake benefit more and their increasing number exerts pressure on lake resources. The spillway altered the lake characteristics which resulted to decreasing fish catch and eutrophication. They agree that there will be a positive change if Tagbunsaing Lake will become a protected area and opening it for tourism will improve their income but the indigenous people are afraid that they will no longer be allowed to fish in the lake. These issues need to be considered in the management planning and that all stakeholders must be well represented.

Keywords: socio-economic, Tagbunsaing Lake, indigenous people, Berong Quezon, lake eutrophication