



Malapascua Island
Logon, Daanbantayan
Cebu 6013
Philippines
SEC Registration No : CN201625259

<http://www.peopleandthesea.org>

0977-803-7648

info@peopleandthesea.org

MEETING DETAILS

Title: Technical Meeting with DENR-CENRO and MENRO re: collaborative COT population management

Date: 10 October 2019 (10AM)

Venue: People and the Sea Office

BACKGROUND

This meeting-workshop was called for in response to the collective letter request made by the Business Owners of Malapascua pursuant to an appeal made by People and the Sea to the LGU Daanbantayan to take an immediate action about the crown of thorns population outbreak observed in reefs around Malapascua island.

The said letter request was submitted to the Mayor's Office on July 3rd 2019 and was forwarded to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Office-CENRO Cebu City for technical assistance.

IN ATTENDANCE

DENR-CENRO Cebu:

1. Development management Officer Arnold L. Omandam, Sr.
2. Biodiversity Management Unit chief Evelyn Sy
3. Admin Staff Myka Marie Llanos
4. Biodiversity Management Unit Staff Maureen Quidlat
5. Office Driver Romeo Diaz

MENRO Daanbantayan

1. Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Mamerto Rodrigo
2. MENRO staff Orville Mosende
3. MENRO staff Danica Arcayna
4. MENRO staff Jelli Marie Frampatanta
5. MENRO staff Joy Monzales
6. MENRO staff Dominga Aguilar
7. MENRO staff Roquesa Passignasigna

People and the Sea

1. Site Manager Sean Ross
2. Lead Science Officer Alicia Dalongeville
3. Project Manager Aleja Genisan
4. Site Safety Officer Katie Burkart
5. Fisheries Liaison Officer Evangeline Faburada
6. Volunteer Anna Boila
7. Volunteer Anna Charlotte Lafarge



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Barangay

1. Brgy kagawad Committee chair on Environment Ireneo Manatad

Business Sector Representatives/Other Stakeholders

1. Brian Sheard (Shark's Tail)
2. Hadas Bloom (Devocean)
3. Sharon Krendel (Devocean)
4. Lah Marie Formentera (Devocean)
5. April Sharolyn Formentera (Devocean)
6. Maxime Labesse (French Kiss Divers)
7. Mary Grace Alabata (Kokay's Maldito)
8. Clement Virey (Villa Sandra)
9. Joyce Jane Simoy (Fish Buddies)
10. Ander Argete (Blue Nomads.org)
11. Diego Arechaga (Blue Nomads.org)
12. Hilda Quinto (Malapascua Exotic Island Resort)
13. Wilma Rubio (Tresher Cove)
14. Johanes Alimin (Evolution Diving)
15. Bo Mancao (Sharks to Sea Slugs)

MEETING NOTES

The meeting started with the welcome address of the MENR Officer, thanking everyone for coming and for the effort shown in addressing the issue on COT outbreak and for CENRO for taking the time to provide technical assistance during this meeting.

This was followed by an overview presentation by the marine biologist of CENRO Cebu, Ms. Maureen Quidlat focusing on the COT biology (to include natural predators and sustainable wild population, and proper population intervention), the risks posed by stress-spawning and the necessity to level off on strategies/methods for population management.

People and the Sea's lead scientist, Alicia Dalongeville then presented the recent monitoring data showing several sites with COT population outbreak (mostly located in the North and East of Malapascua and North-West of Monad shoal). Alicia also presented the different methods of managing the outbreak while avoiding stress-spawning: (1) manual removals (freediving); (2) syringe injection (SCUBA diving); (3) injection guns (SCUBA diving) showing the pros and cons with regards to efficiency as a population management tool. To establish a proper management approach, the necessity to create a database of the monitoring and future removal was also discussed focusing on the minimum data requirement for baselining and monitoring. People and the Sea already has this database on a google spreadsheet that can be accessed here: [ACCESS LINK](#)

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As DENR-CENRO personnel determined the necessity for an immediate action, a discussion mediated by MENR Officer Mamerto Rodrigo and DENR CENRO BMU chief Evelyn Sy followed to schedule a manual removal in coral garden. Details of the upcoming removal event and commitments of the meeting attendees are as follows:

1. Schedule: 11 October 2019 (Friday)
 - Briefing at People and the Sea Office: 8AM
 - Load boat: 9AM
2. Logistics
 - Boats (Commitment:1 People and the Sea, 1 c/o Shark's Tail)
 - French Kiss Divers also committed 1 boat after meeting
 - Basins
 - Tongs
 - Mask and Snorkel, Fins (each participant should bring their own)
3. Business' Participation rallying (c/o Sean Ross)
 - No. of participants needs to be confirmed by Monday, 07 Oct
4. LGU (c/o MENRO Office):
 - send out official invitation
 - participation
 - snacks
5. DENR CENRO
 - Technical assistance during the activity
 - Will be hosted by Shark's Tail for the night on 10 October

NEXT STEPS/MEETING AGREEMENTS

1. There should be an Information, Education Campaign (IEC) before every removal activity (the need to remove, methods to use, safety issues, etc)
2. First removal in confirmed outbreak sites scheduled weekly (until all confirmed sites have had 1 removal session done), to be followed by monthly removals as necessary.
3. People and the Sea will recommend next site after coral garden

After establishing these agreements and all issues were discussed, meeting adjourned at 11:45Am

Prepared by:

Aleja Genisan
Project Manager, People and the Sea