

The gastropods belonging to the families Cypraeidae, Strombidae, Cerithidae, Conidae, Columbelloidea, Fasciolaridae, Neritidae, Naticidae, Turbinidae, Volutidae, Muricidae and Trochidae, are usually used in the shellcraft industries. The shells of the bivalve and gastropod species used as food, are also used for this purpose, like those belonging to the families Veneridae, Cardiidae, Spondylidae, Pectinidae, Arcidae, Glycymeridae, Pteriidae, and Haliotidae. But the bivalve species *Placuna placenta* is the most popular material for the production of shellcraft products like place mats, chandeliers, lampshades, glass coasters, lanterns and others.

For the button industry, shells with nacreous materials like those belonging to the bivalve family Pteriidae (*Pinctada maxima*, *P. margaritifera*, *Pteria penguin*) and gastropods family Trochidae (*Trochis niloticus*, *T. maculatus*) are preferred. Sold for home decors are gastropod species like *Cassis cornuta* and *Melo broderipii*.

Among the four provinces in Panay, Iloilo (120 species: 72 bivalves; 48 gastropods) was found to have the highest number of commercially important shells. Capiz has 66 species (53 bivalves; 13 gastropods); Antique with 64 species (39 bivalves; 25 gastropods); and Aklan has 64 species also (39 bivalves; 25 gastropods).

JSPP Core University Program between the University of Philippines, Visayas, Philippines and Faculty of Fisheries, Kagoshima University, Japan. Seminar on the management of inshore environment and utilization of fisheries resources.

A case study of present status of coastal resources and fisheries communities in Philippines

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Batan Estuary, located in the Northeastern coast of Panay Island in central Philippines is a 2,640 ha semi-enclosed water body and river system supporting some 10,000 fishing households in three municipalities (Altavas, Batan, and New Washington) who are almost solely dependent on estuarine fisheries. Reports show that this was once a very productive fishing ground but at present, people claim of degrading environment and resources. Since there are very few studies and no current data to support this claim, interview surveys and actual field measurements were conducted in order to clarify present status of the estuary.

Interview surveys were conducted among 105 local fishers to determine their own perception of the conditions of the estuary based on personal experiences. Responses show decrease in daily catch of fish and shrimps from about 24 kg·d⁻¹ in 1970, 10 kg·d⁻¹ in 1980, and 5 kg·d⁻¹ in 2000. Decades ago, the high-priced *Penaeus monodon* (tiger shrimp) are abundant in the wild, but the lower-priced *Metapenaeus ensis* (greasyback shrimp) dominated the catch at present with very few instances of *P. monodon*. Ingles et al. in 1991 noted 426+ stationary fishing gears in the Batan Estuary while in 2000, Babaran et al. mapped 2,097 gears (including inner creeks). In the current study, GPS survey was conducted to map the present distribution of gears in the whole estuary revealing 1,897

gears (excluding inner creeks). In addition, the estuary is degrading, where 96% of mangroves were lost in 50 years; In general, there are three main points of the problem: (1) overcrowded fishing gears caused by low productivity, poverty and possibly population, (2) environmental destruction like mangrove loss and siltation, and (3) lack of efficient government intervention for proper implementation of rules and laws, because the three municipalities covering the estuary have different ordinances and they could not overcome the conflicts among them.

Therefore, the following general recommendations are suggested: (1) decrease and regulate the deployment stationary fishing gears; (2) mangrove rehabilitation especially in abandoned ponds; (3) political will of government to strictly implement laws and rules; and (4) alternative livelihood for the fishing population to decrease fishing pressure.