



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, PCA Annex Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City  
Tel. No. +632 929-9597, +632 929 8074, +632 929 4894  
Fax No. +632 929 8074, +632 929 4894

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**The SECRETARIAT**

Thirty-Fourth (34<sup>th</sup>) Session

Committee on Fisheries

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

[FAO-COFI@fao.org](mailto:FAO-COFI@fao.org)

**SUBJECT: Committee on Fisheries (COFI) Sub-Committee on  
Aquaculture (SCAQ) 2019 Recommendations**

**The Secretariat:**

With regard to Agenda Item No. 5 of the COFI 34<sup>th</sup> Session, the Philippines wishes to express its support to the Decisions and Recommendations of the Tenth Session of the COFI Sub-Committee on Aquaculture held in Trondheim, Norway on 23-27 August 2019. The following are the salient SCAQ Recommendations with our comments:

- i. *Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20 Aquaculture for Food and Sustainable Development*

The Philippines supports the holding of the Global Conference on Aquaculture Millennium+20 in Shanghai China on 22-27 September 2021. However, the country's level of engagement will depend on the policy on foreign travels and travel restrictions imposed at that time in light of the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

- ii. *Global Integrated Sustainable Aquaculture Program (GISAP)*

The Philippines appreciates that the FAO envisions GISAP as an adaptive program that will address emerging issues, specifically climate change and pandemic responses. Considering the structure and the scope of the program, the Philippines respectfully recommends that there should be a clear implementation mechanism established to ensure that the program objectives and targets will be achieved.

- iii. *State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources*

The Philippines congratulates FAO for its report on "The State of the World's Aquatic Genetic Resources (AqGR) for Food and Agriculture". The Philippines welcomes the development of the national management plan on AqGR. However,

we would like to underscore the need for technical and financial support to capacitate the countries in the development and implementation of the plan.

The Philippines recognizes the importance of the Global Plan of Action for Aquatic Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. This will provide strategic guidance to the Members in implementing their priority plans and programs towards the sustainable use and conservation of AqGR.

iv. *Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)*

The Philippines agrees with the proposal of the Sub-Committee on Aquaculture on the need for an FAO Action Plan on AMR 2021-2025. The Philippines sees this as an opportunity to build on the gains of the 2016-2020 Action Plan on AMR and ensure that it is responsive to the emerging issues and challenges on aquatic animal health and diseases.

Please accept the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

  
**CHERYL MARIE NATIVIDAD-CABALLERO**  
Undersecretary for Agri-Industrialization and for Fisheries

Cc: **H.E. Domingo P. Nolasco**  
*Ambassador*  
Permanent Representative to the Rome-based UN Agencies  
Food and Agriculture Organization, World Food Programme, and  
International Fund for Agricultural Development  
[rome.pe@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:rome.pe@dfa.gov.ph)

**ASec. Noralyn J. Baja**  
*Assistant Secretary*  
United Nations and International Organizations  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
[unio@dfa.gov.ph](mailto:unio@dfa.gov.ph)

**ASec. Noel A. Padre**  
*Assistant Secretary-Designate, Policy, Research and Development*  
*Director, Policy Research Service*  
Department of Agriculture  
[noel.padre@da.gov.ph](mailto:noel.padre@da.gov.ph), [noelpadre@yahoo.com](mailto:noelpadre@yahoo.com)

**Mr. Lupiño J. Lazaro**  
*Special Agriculture Representative*  
Philippine Embassy, Rome, Italy  
[jolaz777@gmail.com](mailto:jolaz777@gmail.com)