

Municipal Fishers in the Taklong National Marine Reserve, Philippines

Contributor: Alice Joan G. Ferrer

Ecosystem type	Marine
Main Gear	Gillnet, harpoon, hook & line, Jimbas
Target species	Octopus, grouper & yellowtail snapper
Vessel type	Fiberglass & wooden (alijos)
No. of small-scale fishers	942
No. of small-scale fishing vessels	1302

Many residents in barangays Lapaz, San Roque and neighbouring barangays of the Taklong Island National Marine Reserve (TINMR) are municipal fishers that use small boats and gears designed for shallow waters. For them, TINMR is an ideal fishing ground, important for food security and livelihood. In 2012, TINMR area was declared as a "no fishing" area. By 2014, only hook and line in designated area was allowed. Fishers complained about not being consulted on many decisions and claimed they are prohibited to even enter the area.



Type of justice: social, economic, procedural, distributive

The locals found it unfair that they are not allowed to enter, yet they have seen many tourists, researchers, students and others in the area. Provision of alternative livelihood by DENR and NGOs is being seen as a way to help the local residents. Most of the recipients, however, were not fishers. Most of their skills were tied to fishing and it was difficult for them to shift to alternative livelihoods that were introduced (e.g., weaving, food catering, souvenir making, boating and tour guiding), which were more suited to those who can afford tourist boats.