Summary Report of the Bancal Bay Bantay Dagat Retraining

This training was designed to enhance the current skills and to standardize apprehension procedures and reports of the Bancal Bay Bantay Dagat to strengthen the effectiveness of the enforcement of Bancal Bay. This training is one of the strategies of the Bancal Bay Marine Sanctuary Revitalization Project which aims to increase the overall success of the Bancal Bay Marine Sanctuary.

The training began with a review of Executive Oder 34-B: Creation of CRM Law Enforcement (Bantay-Dagat) Task Force, and Executive Order 34-C: Operation Plan for the CRM Law Enforcement (Bantay-Dagat) Task Force. This was done so that all Bantay Dagat leaders fully understood the goal of the Bantay Dagat and the support that the Local Government Unit of Carles will provide. Municipal Ordinance 2008-04, also known as the Carles Municipal Fisheries Code of 2008, was then reviewed. The primary prohibitions, restrictions, and penalties that are applicable to enforcement in Bancal Bay were thoroughly reviewed to ensure that all participants had the same knowledge of fisheries regulations and were familiar with the penalties they are enforcing. All participants were given a Hiligaynon version of the fisheries code for their reference and for support during patrols. Participants and facilitators (Sir LM Betita and Peace Corps Volunteer Nicole) discussed regulations that participants were unsure of for clarification.

Once participants were familiar with the regulations they are tasked with enforcing, completion of apprehension reports and utilization of GPS units were then reviewed to standardize apprehension procedures. Participants were given two GPS units to practice with and each individual reviewed turning on the unit, going to the location application, and understanding the coordinates that are displayed. Participants were then divided into two teams and were tasked with apprehending two “illegal fishermen” each for scenario training. Each individual team had to go to a specified location from a “tip-off” and complete an official apprehension report for each fisherman. For each apprehension, participants were asked to switch roles so that each member would have a chance to assist in completing a report and using the GPS. The two groups then presented their apprehensions to the other.

In the afternoon, participants played a fishing game provided by the NGO, RARE, that is designed to simulate the importance and benefits of fishing strategies. Each round of the game is a different scenario, starting with an open season with no regulations and gradually increasing regulations. The last round begins with the implementation of a MPA, Bantay Dagat enforcement, and trawling becoming illegal, which displays the healthiest fish population at the end of the round with all participants having sufficient fish catch. The purpose of this activity was to show the participants how their efforts are helping fish populations in Bancal Bay and so that they could share this “experience”/knowledge with those who are fishing illegally.

At the end of the day, there was a group review to ensure that information was retained and that all procedures were standardized. This included a review of some of the regulations covered earlier, a review of completion of apprehension reports, GPS usage, and the proper recording of GPS coordinates. Participants were then given three tarpaulins each, which were also from RARE, that depicted correct fishing methods and encourage community members to follow fishery laws and to become registered fisherfolk. Participants were requested to place the tarpaulins in barangay halls and plazas to increase public awareness.