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Fisheries of the Philippines, Fiscal Year 1971

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FISHERIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, FISCAL YEAR 1971

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FISHERIES OF THE PHILIPPINES, FISCAL YEAR 1971

William Wright and William B. Folsom

I. SUMMARY

The Philippines produced an estimated 1,460,000 metric tons of fish during Fiscal Year 1971 (ending June 30, 1971) versus an estimated 1,380,000 tons for FY 1970. While these statistics supplied by the Philippine Fisheries Commission (PFC) are estimates and undoubtedly include a margin of error, they indicate an increase in production of nearly 6 percent. The Commission hopes that the country can become self-sufficient in fish in 1973 with a production of 1.6 million tons, and is promoting pond culture. To achieve this goal, however, production will have to be increased by nearly 10 percent.

During FY 1971 the Philippines imported about 45,000 tons of fish valued at about US\$8.4 million, and exported 3,000 tons of fish valued at nearly US\$2.1 million.

II. PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

Reliable estimates on fish production and consumption are not available for calendar year 1971; PFC estimates the FY 1971 production to be 1,460,000 tons. The Commission also estimates the increase in fish consumption at 4.8 percent per year. The current "Expanded Fish Production Program" developed and managed by the Commission calls for stimulating a yearly production growth of 5.8 percent, the increase registered in FY 1971. The Commission's data show fisheries production increased at an annual rate of about 3.8 percent, without Government assistance.

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NOTE: All figures are in metric tons and/or U.S. dollars (US\$) or Philippine pesos (P), unless otherwise indicated.

Table 1 shows that the Philippines has enjoyed a steady increase in catch (calendar year) since 1955:

Table 1.--Philippines fisheries catch, 1955-70

Year	Catch
	-----1,000 metric tons-----
1955. . .	385.2
1956. . .	416.0
1957. . .	407.5
1958. . .	447.3
1959. . .	357.6
1960. . .	465.8
1961. . .	476.1
1962. . .	505.3
1963. . .	565.6
1964. . .	623.5
1965. . .	685.7
1966. . .	726.0
1967. . .	769.2
1968. . .	994.6
1969. . .	978.1
1970. . .	989.8

FAO, Yearbook of Fishery Statistics

Table 2 shows the species composition of the Philippines 1969-70 catch:

Table 2.--Philippines fisheries catch, by species, 1969 and 1970

Species	1969	1970
	-----1,000 metric tons-----	
<u>Fish:</u>		
Flounders.	3.6	3.7
Herrings	92.9	92.8
Jacks.	281.7	381.6
Mackerels.	74.3	59.5
Redfishes.	213.5	205.2
Shads.	146.0	96.5
Sharks5	.3
Tunas.	34.2	23.1
Misc. fresh-water fish . .	42.0	43.4
Misc. marine fish.	14.0	13.7
<u>Shellfish:</u>		
Crabs.	4.8	5.8
Fresh-water crustaceans. .	29.6	30.7
Pearl shells	3.2	-
Shrimp	23.5	21.4
Squids	13.1	12.1
<u>Other:</u>		
Aquatic plants4	-
Turtles.8	-
Total	978.1	989.8

Source: FAO, Yearbook of Fishery Statistics, 1970

III. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The Philippines has been able to reduce its dependence on fish imports to meet domestic demand. The FY 1971 imports of 45,000 tons were substantially lower than the FY 1970 imports of 62,700 tons. Imports of fishery products from Japan consisted mainly of canned mackerel whereas imports from the United States were mainly canned squid and salmon.

The Philippines exported in FY 1971 about US\$5.7 million in fishery products---which include edible fish products as well as "shellcraft" items---as opposed to about US\$2.7 million in FY 1970. In 1970, tuna, shrimp, and lobsters accounted for the bulk of fish exports; PFC believes this will hold true for 1971 when all statistics are in.

IV. INLAND FISHERIES

Inland fisheries, particularly pond culture, are expected to account for about 10 percent (or 155,000 tons) of fish production in FY 1972; 8,000 hectares of swampland were converted to fish ponds in 1971, and PFC planning calls for fish pond production to provide about 28 percent of the 85,000-ton increase programmed for FY 1973. Thus, the PFC is relying on pond culture to play an important role in expanding fish production. PFC's distribution of fingerlings---carp and bangus---has increased fish production by an estimated 3,000 tons.

V. COMMERCIAL FISHING

Commercial fishing, defined in the Philippines as anything caught outside the 3-mile limit by a vessel larger than 3 tons, is expected to account for 43 percent (or 661,800 tons) of the total catch in FY 1972. Commercial fishing is programmed to account for 37 percent (33,600 tons) of the hoped-for increase in FY 1973. During 1971, 334 fishing vessels were added to the Philippine fleet, for a total of 2,533.

VI. FISH PROCESSING

No canneries process only fish in the Philippines. A number of PFC-financed ice and cold storage plants are operating, with more on the way. They are discussed in the following section.

VII. GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

Government activity in the fisheries field has been focused on the Expanded Fish Production Program. This program is designed to (1) increase fish production to meet the demand for fish by the Philippines' increasing population, (2) develop import substitutes, and (3) stimulate and develop the export of fishery products. The main thrust of this program has been the development of inland brackish water fish ponds; this phase of the program received, during FY 1971, the largest single share (P4,675,000) of PFC's FY 1971 budget of P16,387,000.

PFC also conducted extension services in fishery technology---consisting of fishery demonstrations and advisory services---which it believes contributed 11,000 tons to the national fish production. PFC placed second priority on the development of municipal fisheries.

PFC has completed building 10 of the targeted 16 ice and cold storage plants for fish. The remaining six installations are in various stages of construction, from 10 to 80 percent completed. Less impressive has been the progress made in completing the Navotas Fish Market facility for landing, marketing, and distribution of fish. The market was originally scheduled for completion in August 1969, but construction has been plagued by administrative and technical delays. PFC optimistically predicts that this facility will be operational sometime during spring 1972.

Cooperatives are an integral part of the fish production program; one has been established in Cavite with an operating capital of P136,000, and 10 more are in various stages of development. Additionally, P3.5 million is programmed for a series of Manila Bay cooperatives; there is no target date for completion of this plan.

PFC has about 2,700 employees, which it considers inadequate to do the job. Oddly enough, PFC considers its funding to be adequate.

VIII. OUTLOOK

PFC anticipates that the Philippines can become self-sufficient in fish in calendar year 1973, with a total production of 1.6 million tons (Initially, in 1971, the targeted self-sufficiency date was 1972.) The Commission is relying heavily on the fish pond program to achieve the 1973 goal. Over the longer term, it believes that both tuna and shrimp will constitute a major portion of the total fish production.

Tuna, in particular, are being looked at as a major source of potential foreign exchange. Tuna production has been relegated to the private sector, which will hopefully finance the requisite processing and canning facilities, and the Commission hopes that eventually tuna will provide one-third of the fish export earnings, and shrimp, two-thirds.