Artificial Reef Cum Coral Transplantation In Sarangani

Rosalinda Cortez (1)

(1) Department of Environment and Natural Resources/Government, 9506 Koronadal, Philippines Telephone: +639273445753 Email: rosalindabc@yahoo.com

A lot of different artificial reef modules were deployed in Sarangani Bay Protected Seascape. It was a modest action as response to the coral reef degradation funded by Industries, Local Governments and other civic organizations like Rotary Club International assisted by non-government organizations and dive shop operators. The purpose was good but it turned out wasteful due to lack of planning, vis-a-vis, inappropriate design, site evaluation, monitoring program aside from co-management, policy support and consultation with stakeholders. In this aspect, the DENR XII established artificial reef with coral fragments into it to serve as model based on the research of Cortez, RB et. al. entitled "Growth performance of Scleractinian coral species at different depth levels" presented in EMECS Conference at Montien Hotel, Thailand in 2003, and the Artificial Reef Project under the Coastal Environment Program by DENR in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte in the Philippines in 1999. According to Cortez, RB (2003) fragments grow faster than the source while the source or the pruned areas grow faster and branch out easily compared to the non-pruned source area. The coral fragments were fastened to the 20 x 20-inch concrete box type artificial reefs that were deployed and arranged in pyramidal form at Binuni, Nibong and Talisay on October, 2012. Binuni and Nibong are already declared as Marine Protected Area while Talisay is on process. Nibong is far more enhanced with the full support of the owner of Isla Jardin Del Mar where the resort is located. In fact, Isla Jardin Del Mar serves as model in the "Adopt-a-reef" program in line with the public-private-partnership scheme. To date, the artificial reefs housed at least 10 commercially important reef fish species and 15 indicators. The effort is gaining support to effect that resort operators would like to go into Adopt-a-reef and the artificial reef establishment by forging Memorandum of Agreement. This is sought as one of the strategies that can sustain the marine biodiversity not only in Glan but throughout Sarangani Bay. The preparation of procedural booklet is underway. Keywords: Artificial reef module1, Coral fragments2, Transplantation3, Adopt-a-reef4, Marine Protected Area5