

# BFAR banks on new computer-based system for stronger IUUF campaign

September 15, 2016, *Business World Online*

DAVAO CITY -- The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) is banking on the national implementation of the Fishery Law Enforcement Management Information Management System (FLEMIS) to make its campaign versus illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUUF) more effective.



Fishermen sail their boat at Talisay Batangas early morning of April 4. -- PHILIPPINE STAR\_MICHAEL VARCAS

“FLEMIS is a computer-based system that aims to provide a more efficient documentation, preparation of the case and filing of the case for maritime law enforcers,” Nilo S. Katada, deputy chief of BFAR’s Fisheries Resource Protection and Law Enforcement Section-Quick Response Team (FRPLES-QRT), said in an interview with *BusinessWorld*.

Target implementation is within the year, he said.

Mr. Katada said the system is patterned after the manual of operation used by law enforcers against all illegal fishing activities, but required further computer-related training, particularly enforcers under BFAR.

Trainings for Luzon and the Visayas were completed in July while that for Mindanao was completed last week.

The FLEMIS will be put under testing stage as soon as the output during consultations with the trained law enforcers have been incorporated into the system.

The FLEMIS is very useful, Mr. Katada explained, in all four scenarios usually encountered by fishery law enforcers, namely: seaborne operation, market denial, landing denial and mobile checkpoints for marine resources.

“With normal documentation, it takes us three to five days to complete the documentation necessary to file a case against IUUF violators, but with this system we can complete all documentation in just one day,” he said.

He pointed out that one of the most common problems of fishery law enforcers is the preparation of documents to support a case against violators.

The system, which took two years to complete, was also patterned after the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), an agency within the US Department of Interior.

“The US Department of Interior helped us in creating the system, but this was adapted to the Philippine scenario by the Fisheries Information Management Center,” he said.

The system is also seen as an important tool in discouraging corruption at the field offices since the BFAR Central Office has access to all IUUF activities reported by law enforcement units in the regions.

Mr. Katada said the long-term goal is to share the system with other law enforcement agencies. -  
- **Carmencita A. Carillo**

(Mindanao Daily Mirror)

© 2016 Source: <http://mindanaodailymirror.com/govt-gears-better-prevent-illegal-fishing-24810/>