

Closed season in Davao Gulf starts June 1

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THE office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Davao Region urged fisherfolks to voluntarily comply with the implementation of the "Closed Season for the Conservation of Small Pelagic Fishes in Davao Gulf" starting June 1 until August 31. BFAR-Davao regional director Fatma Idris said on Thursday that in its fourth year of implementation better fish catch is expected if fishermen will be more compliant and strict monitoring will be imposed. "We will sustain protect and conserve our small pelagic species from operations of ring net and bag net operation during June to August. Voluntary compliance is encouraged from these two dominant fishing operations. Our seaborne patrol for visibility operations will deter those illegal fishing activities," she said. Last year, BFAR-Davao recorded an increase of 9.5 percent in fish catch in Davao Gulf in 2015 due to the strict implementation of the closed season, increase in aquaculture and marine municipal sub-sectors. Idris said the growth in the fisheries production resulted to a 22 percent fish sufficiency on the same year, adding that the region is one of the contributors in the country's fisheries production. The regional director said the bureau recorded a total production of 251,342 metric tons from 2012 to 2015 based on the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) data. The five mariculture parks in Panabo City and Samal in Davao del Norte; Pantukan, Compostela Valley, Mati City in Davao Oriental; and Malita in Davao Occidental had shares in the production, Idris said, adding that the proper implementation of the closed season will be one criteria of the campaign on outstanding coastal town for Malinis at Masaganang Karagatan.

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