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Assessment of Policies Promoting Peace and Order in the Municipal Water of San Jose, Camarines Sur

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Abstract: Maritime security threats, marine safety failures, and environmental resource exploitation in municipal waters challenge peace and order, livelihood sustainability, and food security in coastal communities. This study examines the effectiveness of policies and local government initiatives addressing fisheries violations in San Jose, Camarines Sur, Philippines. Located along Lagonoy Gulf, one of the largest fishing grounds in the Bicol Region, San Jose depends on marine resources to sustain the livelihoods of fisherfolk in its seven coastal barangays. However, declining fish catches, illegal fishing, open-access fishing practices, and unsafe traditional fishing vessels threaten marine ecosystems, fisherfolk safety, and economic stability. Guided by the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 and sustainable fisheries management principles, the study evaluates existing policies and investigates local authorities' initiatives to prevent and address fisheries violations. It also highlights the importance of coordination between local government units and national enforcement agencies in protecting municipal waters and safeguarding municipal fisherfolk's preferential access rights. The study seeks to identify policy and enforcement gaps and develop recommendations for strengthening local ordinances, improving interagency collaboration, promoting responsible fishing practices, and ensuring sustainable marine resource management. Ultimately, it aims to support integrated, community-responsive strategies that strengthen maritime security, maintain peace and order, protect coastal livelihoods, and preserve fisheries resources for future generations.

Keywords: *Maritime Security, Municipal Waters, Fisheries Law Enforcement, Peace and Order, Sustainable Fisheries Management.*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Existing near-shore (municipal waters) maritime security threats, marine safety failure, and marine environmental resource abuse, in particular, jeopardize marine peace and order in the municipal level. This has a negative impact on the rural coastal village fisherfolks' economic well-being and food security. According to Witbooi, E., K.-D. Ali, M.A. Santosa et al. (2020), apart from undermining the rule of law, which threatens peace and security, it also jeopardizes food security for coastal states and has a negative impact on fishing communities and fish stocks at the national, regional, and global levels.

San Jose, located in the Bicol province of Camarines Sur (Region V), is rich in both marine and agricultural resources. The municipality, which is part of the Partido area (4th Congressional District of the province), is known as the rice granary of Camarines Sur. San Jose is geographically located on the north eastern side of Partido, bordering Lagonoy Gulf. Lagonoy Gulf lies approximately from 123°31'37" E to 124°20'36" E longitude and 13°44'33" N to 13°10'33" N latitude (Olaño V, Lanzuela N, Paredes K, 2017) and it is the largest fishing ground in the Bicol Region, covering approximately 3,000 km2, and approximately 91% of the area is deeper than 10 fathoms (Pollnac and Gorospe, 1997, cited in Bradecina, 2008), which explains why its fisheries and marine catch have earned the town a similar distinction in terms of economic sustainability as its agricultural production. Hand line fishing is used to catch sailfish, blue marlin, tuna, and barakuda, whereas beach siene fishing is used to catch other near shore fish species, including crustacions like crabs, giant tiger prawn (Penaeus monodon), and lobsters as benthic catch. While San Jose's in-land barangays (villages) focus their economic productivity efforts on rice farming, the remaining 7 coastal barangays of Adiangao, Sabang, Dolo, Mansana, Telegrafo, Tagas, and Calalahan focus their livelihood activities on aquatic and marine related fishery interests due to varying degrees of marine and aquatic resources. During the spawning season, from April to October, Sabang, Mansana, and Telegrafo, for example, are teeming with bangus or milkfish (chanos

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chanos) fry. Bangus fry grown to 5-8 cm juveniles has a low operating cost that can boost up high economic return among fisherfolks. Despite these near-shore fishing opportunities, Bradecina (2008) claims that a drop in catch allowed fishermen to shift to open access fishing. Open access fishing is dangerous because it can lead to overfishing, which can deplete fish populations. Similarly, it may jeopardize marine safety because traditional fishing vessels in the area are not seaworthy. Nonetheless, there are still fish-related maritime security threats that must be identified and linked to local policies and ordinances in order to achieve more unified policing and fishing management. As guaranteed by the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, enforcement of fishery law, particularly in municipal water, needs to be strengthened, but enforcement should work in tandem with national government enforcement agencies. This is significant in protecting the rights of local municipal fisherfolk, who have preferential access to municipal waters (Camacho, 1999). However, such preferential use must be based on, but not limited to, Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) or Total Allowable Catch (TAC) based on resources and ecological conditions, and must be consistent with international treaties and regulations (Camacho, 1999).

In this regard, the researchers will carry out a study to positively examine the various policies promoting peace and order in San Jose's municipal water, as well as what initiative activities to address fisheries violations and needs were implemented by the corresponding local authorities, in order to provide additional knowledge value inputs that have significant policy relevance and offer new perspectives in terms of opportunities for immediate action at the barangay a level.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The economic well-being and food security of rural coastal village fisherfolks are negatively impacted by various factors, including illegal fishing. Research conducted by Witbooi, E., K.-D. Ali, M.A. Santosa, and their colleagues (2020) highlights the far-reaching consequences of these activities. Not only do they erode the rule of law and jeopardize peace and security, but they also have detrimental effects on fishing communities, fish stocks, and food security on a local, national, regional, and global scale. The presence of 'fisheries conflicts', which can be fueled by illegal fishing, climate change, and concerns about food security, presents a significant threat to maritime security. This issue has been underscored by Spijkers et al. (2019) and Sumaila and Bawumia (2014) as cited in the research by Witbooi, E., K.-D. Ali, M.A. Santosa et al. (2020).

The Philippines boasts an impressive expanse of over 20,000 km2 of coastal ecosystems, making it home to the highest number of fish species in the renowned Indo-Malay Philippines archipelago (Carpenter & Springer, 2004, as cited in Allegretti, 2010). Nevertheless, the coastal landscape of the Philippines mirrors a distressing global pattern characterized by the unsustainable exploitation of coastal resources, leading to widespread habitat deterioration, pollution, and dwindling fish populations. This reality has profound repercussions on local communities reliant on these compromised coastal resources for their sustenance and livelihoods, exacerbating issues related to food security for many Filipinos. In response to these pressing challenges, global initiatives are actively engaging in Coastal Resource Management (CRM) strategies rooted in the principles of Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) and Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) (Murawski et al., 2008, as cited in Allegretti, 2010). The frameworks of ICM and EBM offer holistic approaches to address the multifaceted issues plaguing coastal areas, emphasizing the critical need to safeguard and rejuvenate ecosystem functionalities while promoting the responsible utilization of coastal resources. From a personal perspective, witnessing the gradual degradation of the Philippines' coastal environments serves as a distressing reminder of the urgent need for concerted efforts to protect and restore these invaluable ecosystems. The livelihoods and well-being of local communities hang in the balance, underscoring the imperative of implementing sustainable practices that harmonize human activities with the natural environment. Embracing the tenets of ICM and EBM is not merely a theoretical concept but a practical pathway towards nurturing resilient coastal ecosystems and ensuring the long-term prosperity of both nature and society.

The 2020 edition of The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture (FAO, 2020) underscores the critical role played by fisheries and aquaculture in addressing global food security, nutrition, and employment needs. Despite notable advancements in certain areas, the report also illuminates significant challenges that lie ahead. Notably, there is mounting evidence indicating that well-managed fisheries consistently maintain stocks at or above target levels, enhancing the credibility of proactive fishery managers and governments worldwide. However, the report also reveals that while some countries and regions have made strides, these successes have not been adequate to reverse the overarching trend of declining fish stocks globally. This disparity underscores the dire situation in areas lacking effective fisheries management, where the status of fish stocks remains poor and continues to deteriorate. The unequal progress observed across different regions emphasizes the critical need to replicate and customize successful policies and strategies according to the unique realities and requirements of specific fisheries. Furthermore, it calls for the establishment of new mechanisms aimed at facilitating the effective implementation of policies and management regulations essential for ensuring the sustainability of fisheries and ecosystems worldwide. These measures are deemed indispensable in addressing the pressing issue of global fisheries sustainability.

In various municipalities across the country, municipal ordinances complement national laws and regulations. However, their implementation often falls short or lacks enforcement mechanisms. For instance, in Barangay Atulayan, Sangay municipality, Camarines Sur province, challenges in judicial processes have led to a disillusionment among local officials regarding law enforcement. Despite efforts by the barangay captain to uphold regulations, instances where violators were apprehended with dynamite

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possessions and reported to the Philippine National Police (PNP) did not always result in effective action. In some cases, the PNP investigations, contributing to the barangay captain's loss of confidence dismissed confiscated dynamites as sodium nitrate or fertilizers without conducting thorough in the ordinance's implementation (Lauraya et al., 2010, cited in Tahiluddin, A. B., & Sarri, J. H. (2022)).

The detrimental impact of overfishing extends beyond the target species harvested for consumption and encompasses accidental catches that may include endangered marine life such as certain sharks, rays, and turtles. Addressing the critical issue of global fisheries sustainability necessitates effective regulation of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. According to the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing (2001), Padama (2023) clarifies the definitions pertinent to IUU fishing as follows: Illegal fishing is identified as the act of operating vessels without appropriate permissions or in contravention of existing laws and regulations within the waters of a sovereign state, or when vessels registered under nations that are members of a regional fisheries management organization breach the established conservation and management protocols. Unreported fishing includes those fishing activities that fail to comply with the national legislation or the prescribed procedures of regional fisheries management organizations, thereby escaping documentation and oversight. Unregulated fishing involves activities conducted by vessels that either do not possess a nationality or are registered under states not party to the governing regional fisheries management organization. Additionally, it includes fishing practices that contravene conservation and management measures or those conducted in regions or on fish stocks that are not governed by specific management criteria. These definitions establish a crucial foundation for formulating rigorous policies and measures designed to address the pervasive issue of IUU fishing. This illicit practice not only threatens marine biodiversity and the sustainability of global fish stocks but also disrupts local municipal water governance and peace.

Bhaskar (2021) categorized various destructive and prohibited fishing practices, including poisoning, blast fishing, mourami fishing, ghost fishing, gill nets, beach seines, bottom trawling, dredging, traps, and other damaging methods. These practices are deemed unsustainable as they are not selectively targeting specific fish species, leading to the unintentional capture and mortality of juvenile fish. The detrimental effects of these practices extend beyond direct catches by also causing harm to coral reef structures. This damage reduces the overall productivity of the ecosystem, subsequently impacting reef-dependent fish populations and jeopardizing the livelihoods of fishers.

➢ *Research Objectives*

As part of this study, the aim is to examine the various policies promoting peace and order in the municipal water of San Jose, Camarines Sur, Bicol (Region V) and the initiatives undertaken by marine authorities and local barangay stakeholders to achieve such goals.

- *Specifically, it Aims to:*

✓ Examine the various policies that promote peace and order in the municipal water of San Jose, Camarines Sur.
✓ Identify the initiative activities.
✓ Gather data on the status violations of peace and order.

III. METHODOLOGY

➢ *Study Area*

San Jose is one of ten municipalities in the Camarines Sur Province's 4th congressional district. San Jose, a 4th class municipality, has a population of 43,973 people according to the 2020 census. It is divided into 29 barangays, 7 of which are fishing barangays (villages). The study was carried out in 5 of the 7 coastal fishing barangays. Figure 1 depicts the location map (study site) of San Jose, as well as Lagonoy Gulf.

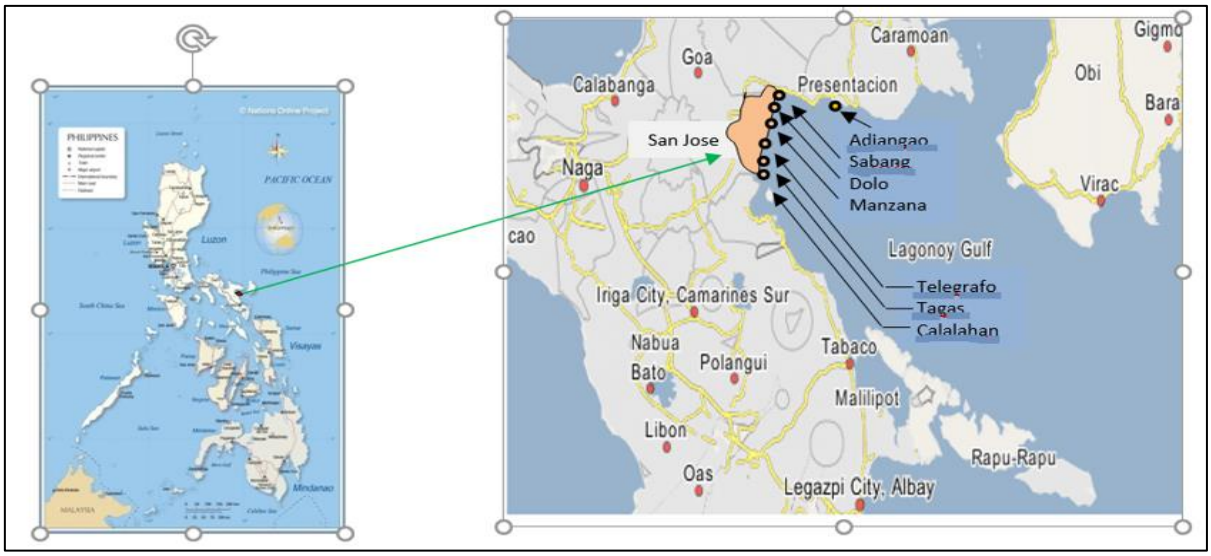


Fig 1 Map of the Study Area

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➢ *Sources of Data*

To comprehensively understand how residents and fishers in the barangays of San Jose, Camarines Sur experience and adapt to policies aimed at promoting peace and regulating municipal water use, the researchers undertook multiple field visits across various fishing communities. The focus was to capture the residents' perceptions and actions concerning initiatives designed to curb violations of peace and order. In an effort to document the changes in local fishing practices and analyze how fishers have adapted, the study employed both purposive and snowball sampling methods. This approach facilitated the selection of participants from five of the seven barangays in the area. The sample comprised forty barangay councilmen, reflecting a broad spectrum of community perspectives. To ensure methodological rigor through triangulation, the researchers conducted ten focus group discussions (FGDs) and five key informant interviews (KIIs). The participants in the FGDs were primarily subsistence and artisanal fishers, who are also members of the local maritime patrol group, known as bantay dagat (BD). Meanwhile, the KIIs involved coast guard and barangay officials, who either engaged in subsistence or artisanal fishing part-time or possessed expertise on destructive fishing practices.

According to Branch, Hauck, Siqwana-Ndulo, and Dye (2002) as cited in Isarael and Sierra (2023), the distinction between subsistence and artisanal fishers is noteworthy. Subsistence fishers are defined as individuals who fish primarily to feed their families and rely on the catch for their daily sustenance. In contrast, artisanal fishers, while also generally economically disadvantaged, sell their catch, thus participating directly in the local economy. This research seeks to offer a detailed analysis of the socio-economic effects that peace-promotion policies have on local fishing communities, focusing on their adaptive strategies and resilience in the face of changing regulatory environments.

➢ *Research Design and Methods*

In light of the nature of the research objectives, this study will employ a combination of methods, including a literature search, observation of fishing practices, vessels used by fisherfolks in near shore coastal fisheries, interviews, and documentary analysis that is in particular regarding status of violations of peace and order committed within the municipal water of San Jose. The study will include 7 coastal barangays (villages) in order to gather more detailed data through key informant interviews (KII) particularly in assessing the possible impact of selected destructive fishing methods and practices on near shore coastal fisheries like beach seine, *sapyaw*, *bangus* skimming and others, however, sternly observing health protocols. Actual site visits are essential in observing and verifying the endangered maritime environment resources, as well as the various environmental measures imposed by these coastal fishing barangays within the municipal waters of San Jose, Camarines Sur, Bicol (Region V).

Data Collection/Gathering Procedure. The researchers will conduct semi-structured face-to-face interviews or informal limited group interviews with local KII experts such as bantay dagat (BD) task force, maritime police and coast guard to encourage free discussions. Primary data on maritime security threats, maritime safety initiatives, maritime environment resources, maritime security response initiatives, destructive fishing methods and practices, and recommendations on possible courses of action must be obtained. Secondary data will be obtained through documentary analysis from the records of the barangay captain and the municipality's local police station.

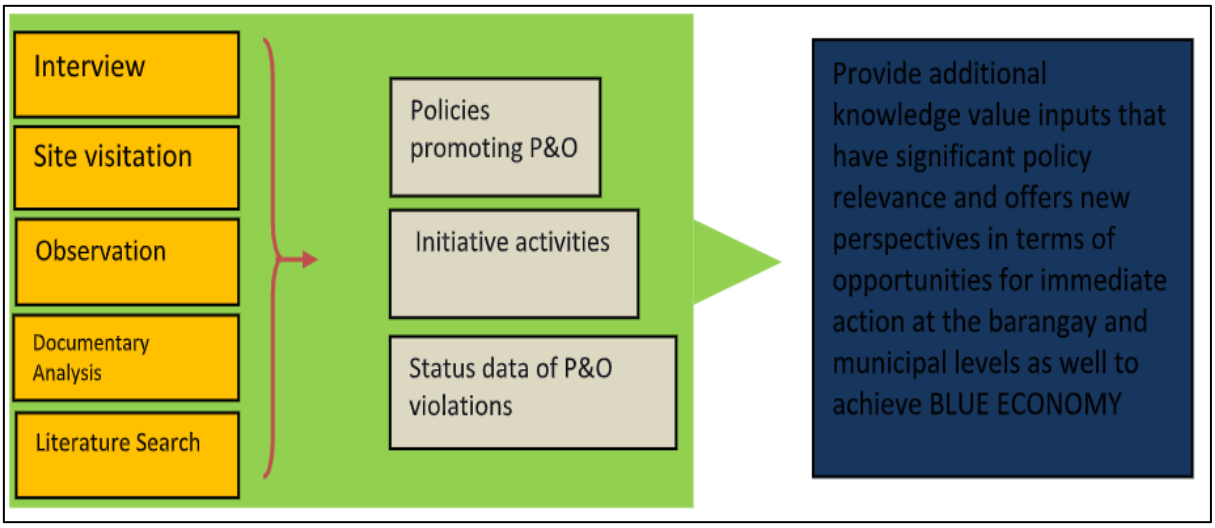


Fig 2 Research Methodology Adapted in this Study

➢ *Data Analysis*

Upon examination of the interview data, the researcher employed descriptive statistical methods, including mean estimation, simple frequency distributions, and percentages. In some cases, to enhance the depth of analysis, the results were supplemented with transcription of selected quotes from expert informants' native language/dialect, to provide an authentic narrative and unmistakable meaning or interpretation in specific contexts.

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- *Expected Outputs*

This study will provide the following research outputs: 1) the various policies promulgated to address and promote peace and order in the municipal waters of San Jose, Camarines Sur, Bicol (Region V) for the past five calendar years (2017-2022); 2) the various response initiatives/measures imposed within the municipal waters of San Jose, for the past five calendar years (2017-2022); and 3) it will ultimately determine an outcome. 4) Finally, the study's findings are intended to provide additional knowledge value inputs with significant policy implications, as well as new perspectives on opportunities for immediate action at the local level.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In order to comprehensively investigate the efficacy of policies geared towards fostering peace and order within the municipal waters of the seven selected barangays in the Municipality of San Jose, Camarines Sur, this study employed a multi-faceted approach. Firstly, it sought to meticulously examine the diverse array of policies implemented to bolster peace and order in the aforementioned area. Secondly, it aimed to identify and analyze the proactive initiatives undertaken within these barangays to uphold peace and order standards. Lastly, it endeavored to collect empirical data regarding instances of breaches or violations of peace and order regulations. To accomplish these objectives, key informants were strategically selected and consulted to provide invaluable insights, drawing upon their perceptions and lived experiences pertaining to the efficacy and implementation of these specific policies. It is important to note that each barangay within the study area has established its own set of localized policies, meticulously tailored to align with both overarching national directives and municipal guidelines, thereby contributing to the comprehensive assessment of the peace and order landscape in the municipal waters of San Jose, Camarines Sur

The various policies that promote peace and order in the municipal water of San Jose, Camarines Sur. The study found that in San Jose, Camarines Sur, various policies have been put in place to keep the peace and ensure order in the municipal waters. Among the major coverages of the policies are the following:

- Marine Pollution Prevention. Implement strict regulations and monitoring systems to prevent pollution from entering coastal waters. Enforce laws that prohibit the dumping of waste or discharge of harmful substances into the sea.
- Coastal Zone Management: Develop and enforce a comprehensive coastal zone management plan that includes zoning regulations, sustainable development guidelines, and protection of critical habitats. This will ensure responsible and balanced use of coastal resources.
- Sustainable Fishing Practices: Promote sustainable fishing practices, such as implementing size limits, seasonal fishing restrictions, and protected areas to allow fish populations to replenish. Establish partnerships with local fisherfolk communities to encourage compliance with these practices.
- Biodiversity Conservation: Protect and conserve marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds. Create marine protected areas and establish regulations to safeguard these habitats from destructive activities, such as illegal fishing and habitat destruction.
- Coastal Erosion Control: Implement measures to mitigate coastal erosion, such as the construction of coastal barriers, nourishment programs, and planting of mangroves or other natural vegetation along vulnerable shorelines. This will help preserve coastal infrastructure, protect communities, and maintain beach quality.
- Beach Safety Regulations: Establish safety regulations for beach activities to ensure the well-being of residents and visitors. This can include setting designated swimming areas, implementing lifeguard services, and providing public education on water safety.
- Partnership with Coastal Communities: Foster partnerships with local coastal communities to involve them in decision-making processes, educate them about sustainable practices, and empower them to actively participate in the conservation and management of coastal resources.
- Disaster Preparedness and Response: Develop and regularly update a disaster preparedness and response plan specific to coastal hazards, such as storms, flooding, and tsunamis. Conduct drills, distribute early warning systems, and provide training to relevant stakeholders.
- Environmental Education: Integrate environmental education programs into schools and community outreach initiatives to raise awareness about the importance of preserving coastal resources, reducing pollution, and promoting responsible behavior among residents and visitors.
- Enforcement and Monitoring: Allocate resources for frequent monitoring and enforcement of coastal water policies. Establish penalties and sanctions for violators to deter illegal activities and ensure compliance with regulations.

These policies involve working together with different groups and getting them involved in decision-making. By coordinating activities between the local barangays and national and municipal regulations, a unified plan is created to manage marine resources effectively. This helps in using near shore water resources sustainably and also improves governance at different levels of administration. In general, these policies encourage cooperation among stakeholders, which is important for keeping the peace and supporting sustainable development in the municipal waters of San Jose, Camarines Sur.

Figure 1 below shows the involvement of different stakeholder groups at the barangay level varied in focus. In the study of policy engagement across different barangays in San Jose, Camarines Sur, it was found that there is a variable pattern in the application of Average Policy Scenarios (APS) to promote peace and order in the municipal waters. The analysis revealed distinct levels of stakeholder collaboration in governance, which is crucial for maintaining peace and

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effective management of these waters. Among the barangays, Adjangao displayed the least involvement, with a rating of 3.1 APS, which suggests a *'Medyo Istriktong Actibo'* or Somewhat Actively Involved approach in policy engagement. This level indicates a moderate degree of policy implementation geared towards peace and order, which may require further strengthening to enhance effectiveness. Conversely, Sabang emerged as the most proactive barangay, with a rating of 3.6 APS, classified under *'Istriktong Actibo'* or Actively Involved. This higher engagement level signifies a strong implementation of policies that potentially contribute more effectively to the governance and peace in the municipal waters. Furthermore, both Tagas and Telegrafo demonstrated comparable involvement, each scoring 3.3 APS and also falling under the *'Istriktong Actibo'* category. This indicates a strong commitment to policy enforcement, which is likely contributing to better peace and order outcomes in their respective areas. These findings highlight the variation in policy engagement and its implications for the governance of municipal waters in San Jose, Camarines Sur. Understanding these differences is pivotal in assessing the effectiveness of local governance strategies aimed at achieving peace and order.

Table 1 Policies that Promote Peace and Order in the Municipal Water of San Jose, Camarines Sur.

Policies scenarios	Barangays					
	Adjangao	Manzana	Sabang	Tagas	Telegrafo	All
Marine Pollution Prevention						3
Coastal Zone Management						3.2
Sustainable Fishing Practices						3
Biodiversity Conservation						2.8
Coastal Erosion Control						4
Beach Safety Regulations						3.2
Partnership with Coastal Communities						3.2
Disaster Preparedness and Response						4
Environmental Education						3
Enforcement and Monitoring						3.6
Average Policies Scenario	3.1	3.2	3.6	3.3	3.3	

Legend: _ Pabaya/Not involved; _Lenyente/Minimally involved; _Medyo Istriktong Actibo/Somewhat involved _ Istriktong Actibo/Actively involved

The variation in policy engagement levels across the barangays highlights the importance of contextualized and adaptive governance strategies. These strategies should be tailored to meet the specific needs and circumstances of each barangay to optimize the effectiveness of policy implementation and achieve sustained peace and order in municipal waters. Understanding and addressing these variations can lead to more targeted and effective governance approaches, ensuring equitable and efficient management of resources and better overall outcomes for the communities of San Jose, Camarines Sur.

- *Initiative Activities Undertaken in Promoting Peace and Order in the Municipal Water of San Jose, Camarines Sur*

In many coastal towns, local communities have established their own Bantay Dagat (BD) Task Force to assist with coastal law enforcement in the absence of adequate police personnel. The BD initiative represents a collaborative approach to coastal protection that has been active in the Philippines since the 1970s (Monje, 2012). Comprising fishing community members or barangay *kagawad* (councilmen) with specialized training as fish wardens, these BD groups closely cooperate with local authorities such as the barangay captain, police, and coast guard.

In San Jose, Camarines Sur, the Bantay Dagat (BD) groups have taken a frontline role in combating destructive fishing practices, actively safeguarding marine ecosystems. These grassroots organizations not only strive to preserve biodiversity but also work to maintain the ecological balance critical for community harmony. As highlighted in the research by De Silva, Samarasekara, Thusyanthini, and De Silva (2022), destructive fishing impacts marine life at multiple levels—from disrupting food chains to threatening endangered species and exacerbating marine pollution. In this context, BD groups stand as examples of hope, crucial in mitigating these ecological threats.

Focusing on the effectiveness of these interventions, certain barangays have been particularly notable in their efforts. The barangays of Mansana, Tagas, and Telegrafo, for example, have achieved an ASAS rating of 3.3, indicative of *'Mayo Na'* or complete control over illegal fishing practices. This achievement reflects their strong commitment to enforcing regulations and maintaining peace within their municipal waters. In contrast, Sabang has struggled somewhat, with a lower rating of 2.6, or '*Manigsaro'* meaning controlled but not fully contained. The presence of *Baklad* (fish cages) in Sabang has been a significant issue,

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highlighting the complexities and challenges in fully eradicating harmful fishing practices despite the community's concerted efforts.

The issue also highlights the local resistance and the socio-political challenges these communities face. A common sentiment among the locals captures a paradoxical view of the 'baklad'—they are seen both as a solution and as part of the problem. One local expressed this dilemma: *'Sana all may baklad, dahil sa baklad, ang mga saradit na parasira mayo nang nababanwit na sira, asin kung igwa pa man, tada tada na sana'* (If only everyone had a baklad; because of these fish cages, small-scale fishers can no longer catch fish, and if they do, it's just the leftovers). This reflects mixed opinions about traditional fishing methods—some believe they are sustainable, while others argue they obstruct conservation efforts.

The complexity of enforcing regulations is impaired by a lack of personnel, intertwined personal relationships, and political connections. Local authorities often face conflicts of interest, influenced by economic considerations or ties of family, friendship, or politics with those involved in these practices. This dilemma is corroborated by the findings of Israel & Sierra (2023), who conducted a study in the neighboring barangay of San Sebastian. Their research addressed the same fishing waters and revealed that local fishers feel they are treated unfairly. Authorities reportedly neglect to act against transient fish poachers who engage in overfishing and destructive practices. Overall, the BD groups' activities in San Jose underscore the significant role of community-led initiatives in marine conservation. Through their persistent efforts, these groups not only enforce local ordinances but also foster a culture of sustainable practices that align with broader environmental governance goals. As they continue to tackle the complex challenges of preserving marine ecosystems, their work exemplifies the critical importance of local action in achieving global environmental sustainability, promoting a balanced coexistence between human communities and the natural environment.

- *Other Illustrative Quotations from the Focus Groups and KII.*

"*Maray pa garo mag pangki na lang. Pero likay man giraray kan dakop."* (It might be preferable to revert to using 'panki' or gill net fishing. However, one must remain vigilant to avoid being caught.)

"*Ata nang eyo na man lang and pang hanap buhay me sa pagsira, kastahan pang dakopon o ipag bawal."* (Indeed, fishing is their sole means of livelihood, yet regrettably, it is prohibited and subject to sanctions.)

"Aw num! Tamiling darakula and gamit na motor pang-sira, sigi sana ang pag dakop nin sira." (Oh why? Because they have larger motorized boats, they unceasingly keep on catching fish.)

Table 2 Sanction Activities on Destructive Fishing Undertaken by Barangay BD in Promoting Peace and Order in the Municipal Water of San Jose, Camarines Sur.

Sanction Activities Scenario	Barangays					
	Adjangao	Manzana	Sabang	Tagas	Telegrafo	All
Sinsoro (Beach Seine)						2
Sapyaw						2
Bangus Skimming						4
Blast Fishing (Dynamite Fishing)						4
Tubli (Sodium Cyanide Fishing)						3.2
Kalansisi (Commercial Fishing)						2
Baklad (Fish Cage)						3.4
Pangki (Gill Net)						2
Coral and Sand Mining						3.8
Average Sanction Activities Scenario	2.8	3.3	2.6	3.3	3.3	

Legend: - *Kadakol* (Uncontrolled); - *Nagkapera* (Somewhat Uncontrolled); - *Manigsaro* (Controlled); - *Mayo Na* (Totally Controlled)

➢ *Data on the Status Violations of Peace and Order*

The data presented in this study are sourced from the official blotter of the PNP Maritime Group, PRO 5, in the Municipality of San Jose, Camarines Sur. The findings indicate that among the monitored areas, only Sabang recorded an apprehension for a violation under Section 86, as

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amended by Republic Act No. 10654, which pertains to unauthorized fishing activities. Specifically, the law prohibits individuals from capturing, gathering, or causing the capture or gathering of fish, fry, or fingerlings of any fishery species or fishery products without holding a valid license or permit issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA) or the Local Government Unit (LGU) (LAWPhil Project, 2024).

This research finding sheds light on the importance of complying with regulatory frameworks aimed at sustainable fishing practices and the preservation of marine resources. The significant implications of unauthorized fishing activities underscore the necessity of stringent enforcement measures to protect the marine ecosystem and ensure the long-term viability of fisheries in the region. This study underscores the critical role of regulatory compliance in promoting responsible fishing practices and safeguarding marine biodiversity. Further research and policy initiatives are warranted to address the challenges posed by unauthorized fishing activities and enhance the sustainability of fisheries management in the area.

Table 3 Data on the Status Violations of Peace and Order in the Municipal Water of San Jose, Camarines Sur.

Barangays	Status Violations Scenario	Date	f
Adjangao	Violation of Sec. 86 as amended by RA 10654	May 15, 2023	0
Manzana			0
Sabang			1
Tagas			
Telegrafo			

The fact that Sabang was the only area with recorded enforcement action underscores the broader challenge of ensuring comprehensive adherence to fishing regulations across all monitored areas. This inconsistency in enforcement could potentially jeopardize the effectiveness of the regulations aimed at preserving marine ecosystems and sustaining the fisheries industry. This research underlines the necessity for strengthened enforcement of fishing regulations and improved compliance across all areas. There is a pressing need for further research to identify barriers to effective enforcement and compliance. Additionally, innovative policy initiatives should be considered to enhance the sustainability of fisheries management and protect marine biodiversity more effectively in the region. The findings from Sabang serve as a reminder of the potential effectiveness of stringent regulations when properly enforced and highlight the need for continuous evaluation and adaptation of regulatory frameworks to ensure the long-term viability of marine resources in San Jose, Camarines Sur.

V. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This dual focus on policy engagement and regulatory enforcement underscores the interconnected nature of effective governance, the importance of stakeholder collaboration, and the necessity for consistent regulatory compliance. To enhance overall effectiveness, it is crucial for future strategies to incorporate a more integrated approach that addresses both aspects. Tailored interventions that improve policy engagement in areas like Adjangao, alongside a broader application of enforcement measures in all barangays, are essential for sustainable management of municipal waters and the preservation of marine resources. Further research and policy initiatives are warranted to better understand the barriers to effective policy implementation and enforcement of fishing regulations. Enhancing these areas will undoubtedly contribute to more strong governance frameworks, ultimately leading to improved socio-economic conditions and environmental sustainability within San Jose, Camarines Sur.

To effectively address challenges associated with policy engagement and the enforcement of fishing regulations in the Municipality of San Jose, Camarines Sur, a comprehensive and strategic approach is essential. The following recommendations are proposed to improve governance and enhance regulatory compliance, ensuring that management efforts for municipal waters are more coordinated, inclusive, and effective. These improvements will contribute to the sustainable management of local marine resources and significantly boost community welfare:

- Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement: Regular forums and workshops should be established involving fishers, local businesses, and community leaders to foster a collaborative environment for policy development and enforcement.
- Enhancing Monitoring and Surveillance: Investments in technology and training should be made to enable more effective monitoring of fishing activities, ensuring that regulations are upheld consistently and transparently.
- Capacitating Local Governance: Training and resources should be provided to local authorities to improve their capability in managing fisheries, enforcing regulations, and engaging with the community.
- Developing Incentive Programs: Incentives for compliance and penalties for violations should be introduced, creating a balanced system that encourages adherence to fishing regulations while deterring illegal activities.
- Promoting Education and Awareness: Educational campaigns should be implemented to inform the public about the importance of sustainable fishing practices and

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the long-term benefits of regulatory compliance for the community's economic and environmental health.

- Fostering Community-Based Management: Initiatives that empower local communities to take an active role in managing their fishing resources should be supported, enhancing their commitment to sustainable practices.
- Implementing Regular Policy Reviews: Fishing policies should be regularly reviewed and updated in consultation with stakeholders to ensure they remain relevant and effective.

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