



PROVISIONAL PROSPECTUS

Conducting the Study on the Ballpen Squid from the Lift Net Supply Chain in Calauit Island, Busuanga, Palawan, Philippines on 23–27 March 2026

I. Introduction

Under the project “Improving Fishers’ Livelihood and Fisheries Co-Management in Inland and Coastal Small-Scale Fisheries” (2025–2029) supported by the Japanese Trust Fund VII (JTF7), SEAFDEC promotes well-functioning supply chains to enhance fishers’ income and well-being. Strengthening supply chain systems also creates opportunities for women and youth to engage in value-added activities and market networks, contributing to greater social equity in small-scale fisheries. This initiative supports the project’s broader objectives of improving supply chain development, increasing household income, fostering community resilience with gender inclusivity, and advancing sustainable fishing practices. It also builds the capacity of fisheries officers to better understand and manage small-scale fisheries supply chain dynamics at national and local levels. As part of this effort, the Regional Consultation Workshop on the Study of the Small-Scale Fisheries Supply Chain in Southeast Asia was held from 24 to 26 September 2025 to select methodologies and pilot sites. The Philippines was chosen as a study country, with a focus on the small-scale fisheries supply chain in Calauit Island, Busuanga, Palawan.

Calauit Island, home to the Tagbanua-Calamian Tribe, is characterized by extensive mangrove forests and ancestral waters that are sustainably managed by the Indigenous community, despite limited integration into the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) fisherfolk registration system. These waters support diverse high-value fisheries resources, including octopus, squid, groupers, lobsters, crabs, shrimps, sea shells, and mackerel that contribute to local livelihoods and food security. Most catches are consumed locally or sold through nearby markets with weak and informal linkages, while the supply chains of abundant species, particularly squid, remain poorly documented and understood. This study, therefore, maps and analyzes the squid supply chain in Calauit Island, Busuanga, Palawan, focusing on the Ballpen Squid (*Uroteuthis edulis*) caught using lift nets. As one of the important components of municipal catch and local trade, its abundance and year-round availability make the Ballpen Squid a suitable focal species for examining linkages among harvesting, post-harvest handling, and market distribution in small-scale fisheries supply chains.

II. Objectives

The purpose of the travel is to collect data on the small-scale fisheries, focusing on the Supply Chain the Ballpen Squid caught from a Lift Net in Calauit Island, Busuanga, Palawan, Philippines, with specific objectives of the study to

- 2.1 Map and analyze the structure, functions, and key actors from harvesting to marketing and consumption, and
- 2.2 Identify constraints and inefficiencies affecting production, processing, distribution, and market access within the supply chain.

III. Expected outputs

- 3.1 Report of the trip to collect the data.
- 3.2 Results of the Study on Supply Chain of the Ballpen Squid from the Lift Net in Calaut Island, Busuanga, Palawan, Philippines.

IV. Survey plan

- 4.1 Conduct a meeting between SEAFDEC and BFAR to review the overall project, orient the field survey team, and plan the survey activities as appropriate.
- 4.2 Implement a survey on the Supply Chain, the Ballpen Squid caught from a lift net in Calaut Island, Busuanga, Palawan, with the identified respondents and selected sampling sites.
 - The survey will apply the market margin methodology to assess value distribution along the small-scale fisheries supply chain by analyzing price differences from production to final market levels.
 - The survey will be conducted through in-depth interviews to examine how profits and costs are shared among fishers, traders, processors, and retailers.
 - In case there is a finding that the fisher or middle person sells to restaurants, the survey for the restaurant will be conducted
- 4.3 After completing the survey, hold a team meeting to review and verify the collected data and information for analysis and reporting.

V. Participants

- 5.1 One SEAFDEC/TD staff
- 5.2 One Project Focal Person from the BFAR center
- 5.3 Four BFAR officers in Calaut Island, Busuanga, Palawan
- 5.4 Expected 70 respondents for the study, targeting stakeholders directly involved in
 - Small-scale fishers (30),
 - Middlemen/ retailers (5),
 - Post-harvest processors (5),
 - Consumers (30).

The restaurant will be surveyed if applicable.

VI. Tentative Schedule

Time	Activity	Remark
Monday, 23 March 2026 (Day 1)		
09.00-10.30	Project orientation with the BFAR officers	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
10.30-12.00	Explanation of the study plan and data collection	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
12.00-16.00	Explanation of the study plan and data collection (cont.)	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
Tuesday, 24 March 2026 (Day 2)		
09.00-12.00	Conduct data collection with fisherfolk	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
12.00-13.00	Lunch	

13.00-15.00	Conduct data collection with fisherfolk (cont.)	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
15.00-16.00	Daily summary of data collection	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
Wednesday, 25 March 2026 (Day 3)		
09.00-12.00	- Conduct data collection with fisherfolk (cont.) - Conduct data collection with middle persons/ retailers, post-harvest processors, and restaurants (if applicable).	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-15.00	Conduct data collection with middle persons/ retailers, post-harvest processors, and restaurants (if applicable) (cont.)	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
15.00-16.00	Daily summary of data collection	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
Thursday, 26 March 2026 (Day 4)		
09.00-12.00	Conduct data collection with consumers	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-15.00	Conduct data collection with consumers (cont.)	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
15.00-16.00	Daily summary of data collection	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
Friday, 27 March 2026 (Day 5)		
09.00-12.00	Review and validation of collected data with the survey team	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR
12.00-13.00	Lunch	
13.00-16.00	- Reflection from the survey team - Wrap-up for the study trip and next plan	SEAFDEC/TD and BFAR

VII. Contract information

For more information, please contact Ms. Jariya Sornkliang (Email:jariya@seafdec.org)
