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## Documentation and inventory of Aramang stocks *N. tenuipes* in northern Cagayan, Phillipines

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Aparri, Cagayan is a coastal municipality at the northern most tip of Cagayan Valley, Philippines where fishing is one of the major sources of income for the people. The drift filter net is one of the gears used to catch *Nematopalaemon tenuipes*, an endemic species locally known as "Aramang". This study generally aimed to document activities relevant to gathering of aramang, to have an inventory of aramang catch for the last five years and undertake molecular identification to find ways to develop strategies towards its conservation & protection. Fishermen were interviewed to elicit data on their total catch and income and to validate the existing data on aramang production for the last 5-years from the Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources and Department of Agriculture office in Aparri. Catch distribution of aramang was taken through an interview with aramang fishers of the Aparri Aramang Fishers' Association. Samples for species identification were collected from aramang gatherers, sorted, measured and preserved in plastic test tubes with 90% of ethanol. Photos and initial data on the samples' physical characteristics were recorded. Samples were brought to UP-MSI, Diliman, Quezon City for DNA barcoding. Results of the study revealed that under the Gentlemen's agreement in catching red shrimps, the fishing activity always starts with a meeting of all fishers to agree on price per can and date of the fishing operation. Results also show that there was a fluctuating trend on aramang production for the last 5-years. For the distribution of aramang catch, the highest percentage goes to the traders who export the aramang to Japan in its dry form. Income from aramang catching as disclosed by fishermen during the interview ranges from 11,000 to 25,000 for owners and 1,000 to 3,000 for crew per fishing activity. Two species of aramang were identified from samples by experts from UP-MSI.

### Biography

Lenimfa P Molina working as Campus Research and Extension coordinator of Cagayan State University - Aparri, Aparri, Cagayan Valley, Philippines and conducting researches along Fisheries and Post- Harvest. She has presented some papers in international research conferences and she also have published papers in international journals, both online and in print.

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