

EDITORIAL

This 7th volume of *The Palawan Scientist* includes three very informative full research articles and two notes, all dealing on aquatic organisms and habitats.

The first article authored by Ma. Theresa R. Aquino et al. which confirmed the presence of *Manta alfredi* in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) Cagayancillo, Palawan, Philippines, could serve as basis in revising the list of protected species within the park and in the Philippines. The second paper, authored by Lucila Garagara et al., which determined the water parameters and bird watching potentials of an abandoned open pit mine in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan could be used as basis in developing the area as eco-tourism site. In the third paper, Mr. Rodulf Anthony T. Balisco reported that Gracious sea urchin *Tripneustes gratilla* in Pag-asa Island, West Philippine Sea are underexploited but management measures are needed to avoid overharvesting.

The research notes of Mr. Segundo F. Conales et al. provided data on high density of the giant clam *Tridacna crocea* in unexploited reefs of TRNP, Philippines. Finally, the author of the notes on size composition and abundance of Red Striped sea cucumber *Thelenota rubralineata* in Cagayancillo, Palawan, is suggesting that the aesthetic and ecological value of the species could be higher than its dried value thus it could be better to conserve the species for eco-tourism purposes.

It is hoped that these articles could help promote a greater and deeper concern for the value and wise utilization of biodiversity and other aquatic resources in Palawan and elsewhere.

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