

4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on

# Fisheries & Aquaculture

November 28-30, 2016 San Antonio, USA

## The dynamics, ecology, production and economic aspects of exploited populations of oriental angel wings in the coastal waters of Central Negros, Occidental, Philippines

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The people of Central Negros Occidental, Philippines pride themselves with the very important mollusk resource in their coastal waters, the oriental angel wing (*Pholas orientalis*) or locally called diwal. Being considered as a delicacy due to its succulent, sweet juicy taste, unique flavor, and likewise believed to have possessed an aphrodisiac element in it, this species has become a major source of livelihood for numbers of fishermen in this area. However, there is a need to have baseline information as basis for developing management schemes in order to either restore or conserve and protect the *P. orientalis* population towards sustainable production and utilization. This research paper presents results of the field survey conducted on the ecology, population status and distribution of the marine resource in the six municipalities comprising Central Negros. Likewise information on the history of the angel wing industry, its seasonality and yearly production including marketing which were gathered through interviews are presented. The prospects of the angel wing industry to prosper lie on the joint collaboration of the concerned divers, coastal residents, barangay and local officials, traders, the academe, funding agencies and the national government. Some fishery management strategies are presented and discussed in this paper, which are important to effectively manage the resource in this area toward sustainability.

### Biography

Liberato V Laureta is a Professor of College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences at University of the Philippines Visayas. He completed his MS in Aquaculture at University of the Philippines, the premier learning institution of the country, and PhD in Life Sciences (Marine Biology) at University of Liverpool in England. Being involved in research for many years, he published several papers in international and national peer-reviewed journals. His greatest contribution to science is the publication of the book entitled "*Compendium of the Economically Important Seashells in Panay, Philippines*" which has become reference for students of marine biology, fisheries, aquatic fauna or similar areas of study starting from high school to college. Fortunately, this book had been awarded as outstanding book in the field of Natural Science by two prestigious science institutions in the country. Currently, his research work focuses on "The development of suitable technologies for the hatchery and nursery operations of the Philippine green mussel *Perna viridis*".

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