Rare in the Philippines

Photo: Jason Houston
Fish Forever Global Goals

Fish Forever is Rare’s community-led solution to revitalize coastal marine habitats, including coral reefs and mangrove forests, protect biodiversity, and boost fishing communities’ livelihoods around the world. The program balances habitat conservation with human use and puts fishers at the center of the solution.

- 10 countries
- 100 partners
- 1,000,000 fishers engaged
- 500 local governments committed
- 125,000 mi² of coastal seas managed

Coastal Fisheries in the Philippines

Coastal seas are the beating heart of the ocean. The Philippines’ coastal waters sustain millions of people and an economy heavily dependent on local fisheries for food and jobs. However, coastal overfishing and destructive fishing techniques are diminishing fish catches and destroying marine habitats. Climate change is worsening this issue, making future fishing conditions—and life for coastal communities on the front lines of climate impacts—uncertain.

- 2% of global mangrove forests are found in the Philippines
- 100% of the Philippines’ mangroves are in coastal waters
- 80% of Filipinos live in coastal municipalities
- 85% of Filipino fishers are registered as small-scale (1.9 million)
- 50% of the Philippines’ fish is caught by small-scale fishers
- 9% of global coral reefs are found in the Philippines
- 93% of the Philippines’ coral reefs are in coastal waters

$981M USD total estimated value of the Philippines’ small-scale coastal fisheries

5th largest coastline in the world (22,548 miles of coast)

9% of global coral reefs are found in the Philippines

93% of the Philippines’ coral reefs are in coastal waters
Because of Fish Forever, members of our association are now reporting increased fish catch.”

– Virgilio Avisado
Tandayag Marine Sanctuary in the Municipality of Amlan

The Program

Fish Forever in the Philippines works with fishing villages and municipal governments to build and strengthen community-based coastal fisheries management of the Philippines’ municipal waters. The program works to:

- Establish managed access areas that provide fishing communities clear rights to fish in certain areas
- Create networks of fully-protected and community-led no-take marine reserves to replenish and sustain fish populations and protect critical habitat
- Build community engagement and effective management bodies to support local decision-making
- Enable fishers to adopt more sustainable and better-regulated fishing behaviors (e.g., become a registered fisher; record fish catch; respect fishing regulations; and participate in fisheries management)
- Collect, disseminate and help fishing communities use data for decision-making
- Advance coastal fishing communities’ inclusion in financial and market opportunities to increase household resilience
- Enact policy and unlock financing to promote and sustain this community-based management approach
The Network of Impact

Fish Forever in the Philippines has developed a strong partnership network to turn local change into national impact.

This partnership among Rare, local communities, governments and a broad range of partners leads to more abundant marine life, healthier coastal habitats, improved fish abundance, greater social equity, and more resilience to external impacts—especially those related to climate change.

“It’s about giving the community a voice, because they know what they want, they know what they need and how they will survive. Fish Forever has empowered them to feel good about themselves.”

– Mayor Alfredo Coro II
  Municipality of Del Carmen