

about stock enhancement. Organizational enhancement activities are also being done to improve leadership skills among officers and encourage cooperation among members. Strategies for sustaining stock enhancement have been initiated and will be the focus of succeeding IEC activities with all project stakeholders.

So far, three intermediate culture runs were conducted in the New Washington Estuary. The first run was started in June 2013 with 129,000 tiger shrimp fry, purchased from a nearby hatchery. However, various problems like unpredictable weather changes, typhoons, and unstable conditions in the culture site caused very high mortality during the acclimation rearing phase. Learning from the experiences of the first culture trial, modifications were made in the 1200 sq.m. nursery culture site, resulting in a more successful second run. A total of 390,000 shrimp fry were stocked for intermediate culture in February 2014. Typhoons were again experienced during this time, but eventually, a total of 15,000 shrimps were released in April 2014. A total of 100 of the released shrimps were tagged. The third run was conducted in June 2014 using 270,000 shrimp fry cultured in a wider nursery area of 6,000 sq.m. In July 2014, we were successful in releasing an estimated 120,000 shrimps and 240 were tagged.

Catch monitoring with the help of local fishers and the participation of the local university - Aklan State University - is still being conducted to evaluate impacts of release. So far, anecdotal reports from fishers are positive. Many have already noticed some increase in tiger shrimp population in the New Washington Estuary.

### **Interim report of the baseline survey for stock enhancement of tiger shrimp in Batan Bay**

Hisashi Kurokura

Baseline survey of stock condition of tiger shrimp in project area has been performed from September 2013 to July 2014. Gill net, push net and set net fishing were performed separately and catch amounts of each species were recorded. Totally, 89, 77 and 156 operations were performed before second stock release, and 29, 20 and 12 individuals of tiger shrimp were caught by gill net, push net and set net, respectively. Size distribution showed bimodal shape representing evidence of size selection of each fishing gear. Gill net could only catch shrimps larger than 110mm in total length and push net can catch shrimps smaller than 100mm. Appearance of tiger shrimp cannot be explained in the relation with species composition of the catch. Twelve out of 13 individuals of which locality

of the sampling by set net were caught by the set nets located south-east area of the acclimatizing and releasing site, and small tiger shrimp were caught in surrounding area of pond for acclimatizing rearing after first release, and the possibility that caught shrimp had been escaped from the pond for acclimatizing rearing cannot be denied.

In the pushing net operation for the confirmation of normal behavior of released shrimp, the catch amount and catch size increased with time by 10days after release. From this, we can make hypothesis that released shrimp stayed several days in shallower place around the rearing pond and then move to the bottom of deeper area. These results are providing us information for the improvement of the survey methods for the detection of impacts of release.