



SPECIAL RELEASE

ILOCOS REGION'S AQUACULTURE FISHERIES PRODUCTION GROWS IN 1ST QUARTER 2021

(Results from the Fisheries Production Survey, 1st Quarter 2021)

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Aquaculture production of the Ilocos Region posted production of 27,449 metric tons in 1st quarter 2021. This was 0.87 percent higher than the production of 27,212 metric tons in the same period in 2020. Only the province of La Union contributed to the increment of the region's production in the aquaculture subsector.

**Table 1. Volume of Aquaculture Production by Province
Ilocos Region: 1st Quarter 2021 and 1st Quarter 2020**

Item	Production (MT)		Growth Rate (%)
	1st Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2020	
ILOCOS REGION	27,449	27,212	0.87
Ilocos Norte	344	374	(8.15)
Ilocos Sur	160	169	(5.29)
La Union	1,543	1,094	41.07
Pangasinan	25,402	25,574	(0.67)

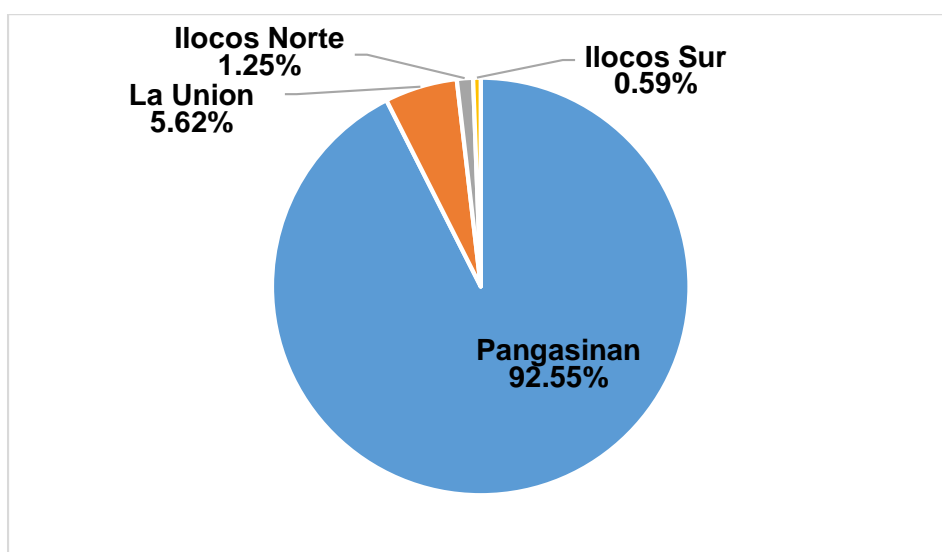
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 1st Quarter 2021 Fisheries Production Survey

Bulk of the region's aquaculture production for the 1st quarter 2021 was contributed by Pangasinan with a share of 92.55 percent. Its production was 25,402 metric tons, lower than the output in 1st quarter 2020 of 25,574 metric tons. Lower survival rate and late stocking of some species resulted to the decrease of the aquaculture production in the province.



La Union shared 5.62 percent to the region’s aquaculture fisheries production in 1st quarter 2021. The 1,543 metric tons production during the period was higher than the 1,094 metric tons output in 2020 of the same period. More fishponds, marine fish cages and fish pens were stocked and harvested to meet increasing demand of fishery products during the period.

Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of Aquaculture Production by Province, Ilocos Region: 1st Quarter 2021



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 1st Quarter 2021 Fisheries Production Survey

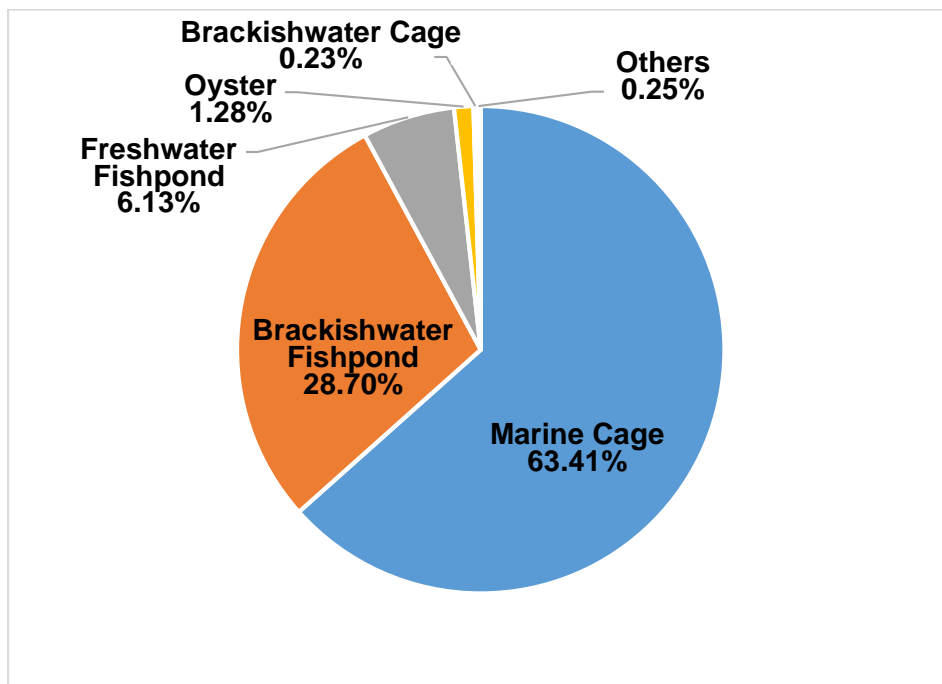
Ilocos Norte which shared 1.25 percent to the total aquaculture production of the region in 1st quarter 2021 posted decrement in output. From the 374 metric tons output recorded in the same period of 2020, it went down to 344 metric tons this year. Lesser survival rate due to warm weather in March and smaller sizes of catch caused the decrement in the province’s output.

Likewise, Ilocos Sur, that contributed 0.59 percent to the region’s total aquaculture production in the 1st quarter 2021, decreased in output by 5.29 percent. Lesser stocking rate due to unavailability of fingerlings and low survival rate as affected by sudden change in temperature led to the decrease in its aquaculture production during the quarter.



By ecosystem, marine cage contributed 63.41 percent share to the region's overall aquaculture production in 1st quarter 2021. This was followed by brackishwater fishpond with 28.70 percent share, freshwater fishpond with 6.13 percent share, oyster with 1.28 percent share, and brackishwater cage with 0.23 percent share.

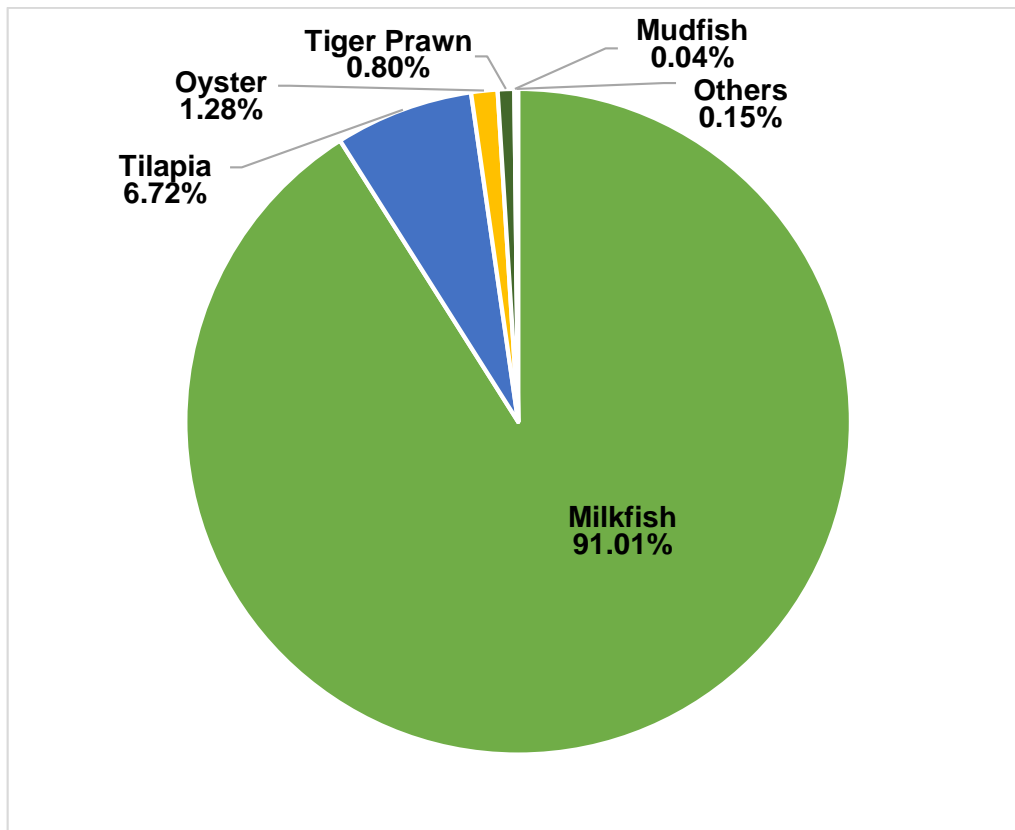
Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of Aquaculture Production by Ecosystem, Ilocos Region: 1st Quarter 2021



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 1st Quarter 2021 Fisheries Production Survey

The dominant species in aquaculture subsector of the Ilocos Region during the 1st quarter 2021 were milkfish, tilapia, oyster, tiger prawn and mudfish.

Figure 3. Percentage Contribution of Top Species to the Total Aquaculture Production, Ilocos Region: 1st Quarter 2021

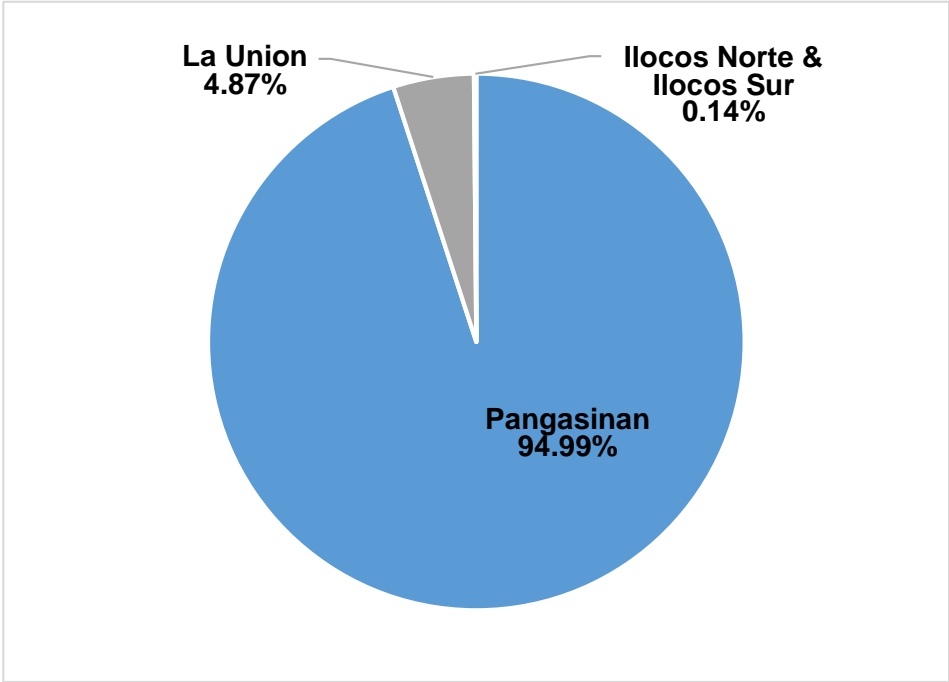


Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 1st Quarter 2021 Fisheries Production Survey

In the 1st quarter 2021, milkfish production of Ilocos Region recorded at 24,983 metric tons. It was higher by 1.99 percent than its output of 24,495 metric tons in 1st quarter 2020. Dispersal of bangus through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Regional Field Office I (BFAR-RFOI), more availability of fry, and early stocking were the factors that contributed to the increase in the regional output. Most of the milkfish caught were from Pangasinan.



Figure 4. Percentage Distribution of Milkfish Production by Province, Ilocos Region: 1st Quarter 2021



Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, 1st Quarter 2021 Fisheries Production Survey



TECHNICAL NOTES

The Fisheries Production Survey of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) is divided into four major fisheries surveys. These are the Quarterly Commercial Fisheries Survey (QCFS), Quarterly Municipal Fisheries Survey (QMFS), Quarterly Inland Fisheries Survey (QIFS) and Quarterly Aquaculture Survey (QAqS). The fisheries sector is composed of the three (3) subsectors, namely commercial, municipal fisheries, and aquaculture. The commercial and municipal fisheries surveys aim to provide quarterly data on volume and value of fish production by species, by region, and by province. The aquaculture survey is intended to generate quarterly data on volume and value of cultured species by environment, by type of aquafarm, by region, and by province.

Concepts and Definitions:

Aquaculture – fishery operation involving all forms of raising and culturing of fish and other fishery species in marine, brackish and freshwater environment. Examples are fishponds, fish pens, fish cages, mussel, oyster, seaweed farms and hatcheries.

Aquafarm – the farming facilities used in the culture or propagation of aquatic species including fish, mollusk, crustaceans, and aquatic plants for purposes of rearing to enhance production.

Brackishwater – mixture of seawater and freshwater with salinity that varies with the tide. Example are estuaries, mangroves, and mouths of rivers where seawater enters during high tide.

Fisheries – all activities relating to the act or business of fishing, culturing, preserving, processing, marketing, developing, conserving and managing aquatic resources and the fishery areas including the privilege to fish or take aquatic resources thereof (RA 8550).

Fisheries Sector – the sector engaged in the production, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing, developing, conserving and managing aquatic resources and fishing areas.

Fish Cage – stationary or floating fish enclosure made of synthetic net wire/bamboo screen or other materials set in the form of an inverted mosquito net (“hapa” type) with or without cover with all sides either tied to poles staked to the water bottom or with anchored floats for aquaculture purposes.



Fish Pen – an artificial enclosure constructed within a body of water for culturing fish and fishery/ aquatic resources made up of bamboo poles closely arranged in an enclosure with wooden materials, screen or nylon netting to prevent an escape of fish.

Fishpond – a body of water (artificial or natural) where fish and other aquatic products are cultured, raised or cultivated under controlled conditions. This is a land-based type of aquafarm. Note that the setting-up of fish cages in ponds does not make the operation of a fish cage and at the same time a fishpond.

Freshwater – water without salt or marine origins, such as generally found in lakes, rivers, canals, dams, reservoirs, paddy fields, and swamps.


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