

SPECIAL RELEASE

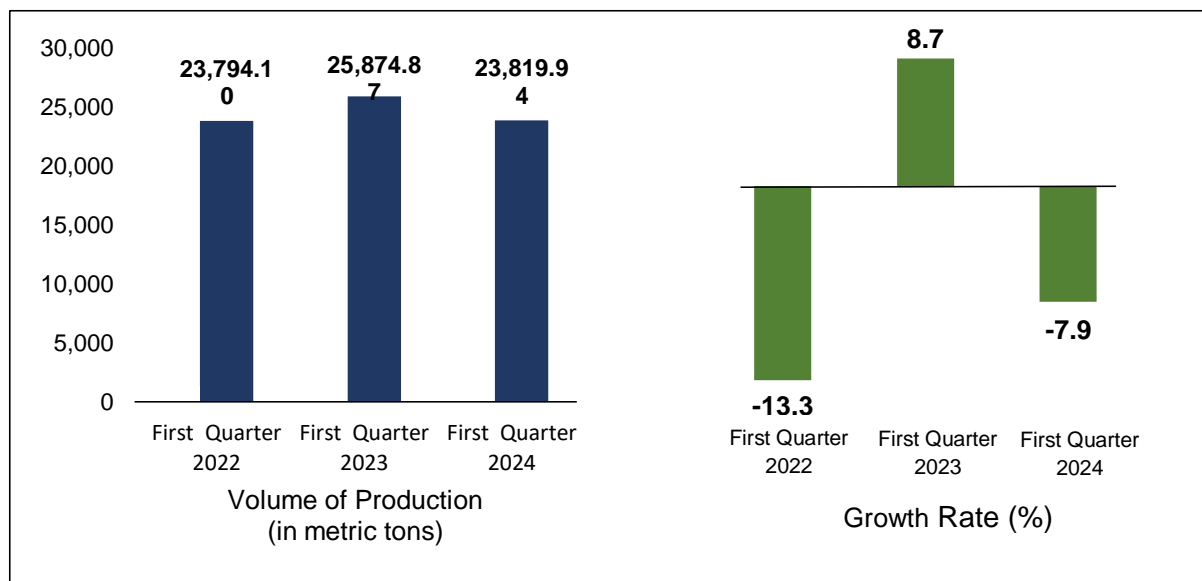
ILOCOS REGION'S AQUACULTURE FISHERIES SITUATION FIRST QUARTER 2024

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The Ilocos Region was able to produce 23,819.94 metric tons in its aquaculture subsector in the first quarter 2024. However, the production was lower by 7.9 percent compared to the 25,874.87 metric tons output in the same period in 2023.

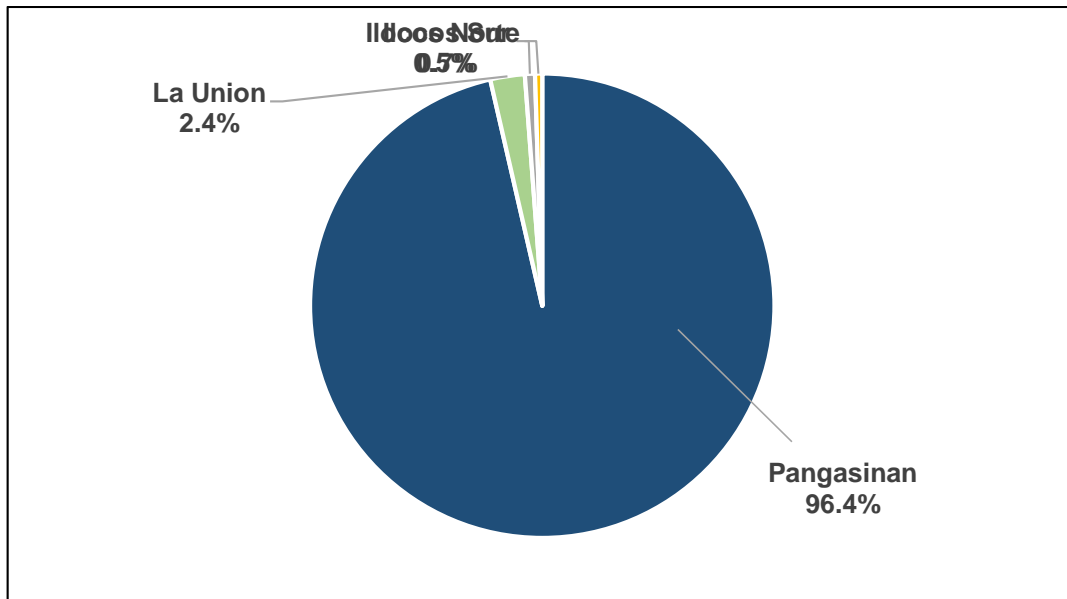
Figure 1. Aquaculture Volume of Production and Growth Rate, Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2022 to 2024^P



Note: p - preliminary

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2022-2024 Fisheries Production Survey

Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of Aquaculture Production by Province, Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2024^P



Note: p - preliminary

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2024 Fisheries Production Survey

The majority of the region's aquaculture production came from Pangasinan. It contributed 22,962.68 metric tons or 96.4 percent of the region's overall production. La Union followed with 564.89 metric tons, equivalent to 2.4 percent of the total production. Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte contributed 171.50 and 120.88 metric tons production, or 0.7 percent and 0.5 percent, respectively.

Ilocos Sur posted positive growth of 59.4 percent in aquaculture production in the first quarter 2024 from the 107.56 metric tons output in 2023 of the same period. Meanwhile, Ilocos Norte, La Union, and Pangasinan declined in production by 31.4 percent, 23.6 percent, and 7.6 percent, respectively.



**Table 1. Volume of Aquaculture Production by Province
Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2023 VS 2024^P**

Region/ Province	Volume of Production (in metric tons)		Growth Rate (%)
	2023	2024	
Ilocos Region	25,874.87	23,819.94	(7.9)
Ilocos Norte	176.12	120.88	(31.4)
Ilocos Sur	107.56	171.50	59.4
La Union	739.75	564.89	(23.6)
Pangasinan	24,851.43	22,962.68	(7.6)

Note: p – preliminary

Total may not sum up due to rounding off

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2024 Fisheries Production Survey

Marine cage compromised 69.5 percent of the total aquaculture production in the region in the first quarter 2024. However, the production went down from 17,905.57 metric tons in the first quarter of 2023 to 16,553.21 metric tons in the same period this year. Similarly, production in brackishwater fishpond and freshwater fishpond decreased by 10.2 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively. On the other hand, brackishwater cage and brackishwater pen have increased by 68.4 percent and 19.3 percent, respectively.

**Table 2. Growth Rates of Aquaculture Production by Environment
Ilocos Region, First Quarter 2023 VS 2024^P**

Environment	Volume of Production (in metric tons)		Growth Rate (%)
	2023	2024	
Marine Cage	17,905.57	16,553.21	(7.6)
Brackishwater Fishpond	6,060.29	5,443.49	(10.2)
Freshwater Fishpond	1,638.90	1,500.46	(8.4)
Brackishwater Cage	58.81	99.02	68.4
Brackishwater Pen	82.43	98.32	19.3
Others	128.88	125.44	(2.7)

Note: p – preliminary

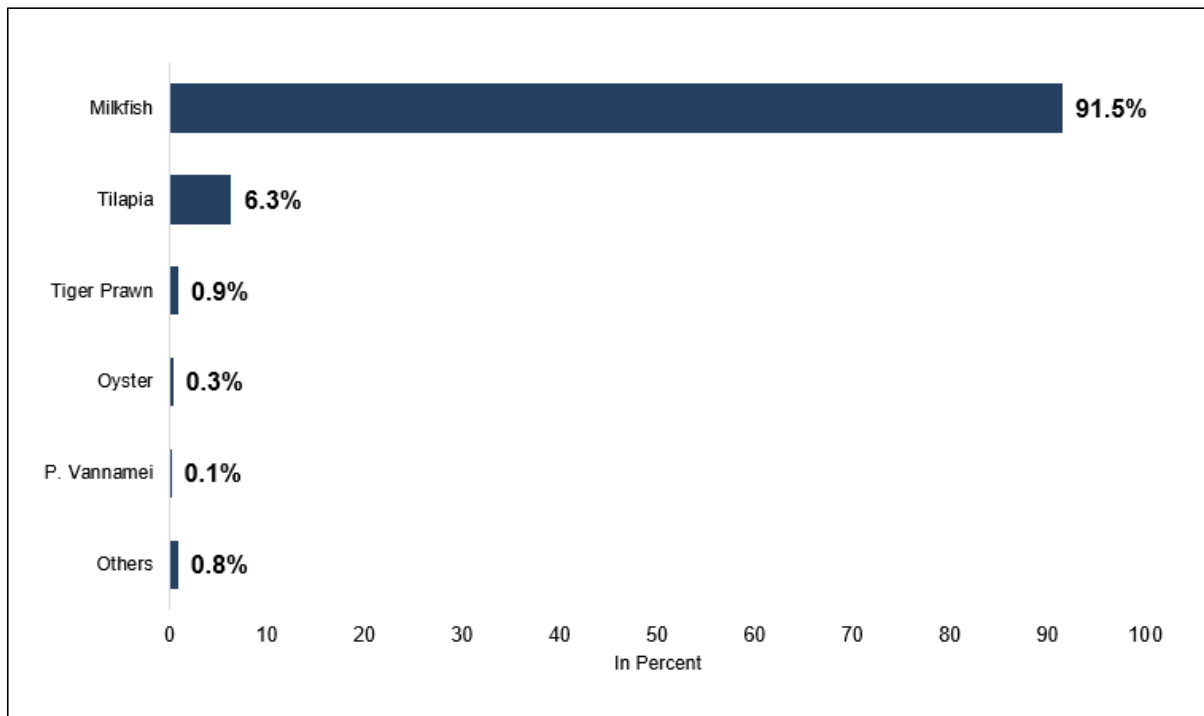
Total may not sum up due to rounding off

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2024 Fisheries Production Survey



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Figure 3. Percentage Distribution of Aquaculture Production by Species, Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2024^P



Note: p – preliminary

Total may not sum up due to rounding off

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2024 Fisheries Production Survey

Milkfish, also known locally as bangus, accounted for 91.5 percent of the region's aquaculture production. The said species registered 21,797.78 metric tons which is lower than the 23,772.68 metric tons output in the first quarter. At 1,505.79 metric tons, tilapia came in second. The production is equivalent to 6.3 percent share to the regional output. Meanwhile, tiger prawn was the third top-farmed species in the region at 208.20 metric tons (0.9 percent). Oyster and *P. vannamei* shared 0.3 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively. Other species collectively shared 0.8 percent to the total aquaculture production of the region in the first quarter 2024.



**Table 3. Volume of Aquaculture Production by Species
in Ilocos Region, First Quarter 2023 VS 2024^P**

Species	Volume of Production (in metric tons)		Growth Rate (%)
	2023	2024	
Milkfish	23,772.68	21,797.78	(8.3)
Tilapia	1,638.70	1,505.79	(8.1)
Tiger Prawn	215.35	208.20	(3.3)
Oyster	87.86	76.34	(13.1)
<i>P. Vannamei</i>	12.26	35.40	188.7
Others	148.02	196.42	32.7

Note: p – preliminary

Total may not sum up due to rounding off

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2023-2024 Fisheries Production Survey

The top four species in the aquaculture sector of the region in the first quarter 2024 posted production decreases. Milkfish production decreased by 8.3 percent. Similarly, tilapia, tiger prawn and oyster production decreased by 8.1 percent, 3.3 percent and 13.1 percent, respectively. On the other hand, *P. vannamei* production increased to 35.40 metric tons from the 12.26 metric tons record in the first quarter 2023.



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 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, region, and province. The aquaculture survey is intended to generate quarterly data on the 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 environments. Examples are fishponds, fish pens, fish cages, mussels, oysters, 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 – a mixture of seawater and freshwater with salinity that varies with the tide. Examples 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 – refers to a stationary or floating fish enclosure made of synthetic net wire/bamboo screen or other materials set in the form of inverted mosquito net (hapa type) with or without cover with all sides either tied to poles staked to the bottom of the water or with anchored floats for aquaculture purposes.

Fish Pen – refers to a fish enclosure made of closely-woven bamboo screens, nylon screens or nets or other materials attached to poles staked at the bottom up to the surface of the lake, river or other shallow bodies of water for the purpose of growing and/or culturing of fish to various sizes in fresh, brackish and marine waters. A fish pen varies in shapes. Its enclosure covers the entire water depth from the water surface down to the bottom.

Fishpond – refers to 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.

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


ATTY. SHEILA O. DE GUZMAN
Regional Director, RSSO 01 ✓

Designation	Initial	Date
SSS	TBO	05 July 2024
SrSS	DAPR	04 July 2024
SS II	RKT	03 July 2024
COSW	NPBM	07-01-2024

