



# SPECIAL RELEASE

## ILOCOS REGION'S AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION DECREASES IN FIRST QUARTER OF 2022

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The Ilocos Region recorded 23,794.10 metric tons of aquaculture fisheries production in the first quarter 2022. The figure is 13.32 percent lower than the first quarter 2021 output. The lower production in Pangasinan, La Union, and Ilocos Norte pulled down the overall output of the region. On the other hand, only Ilocos Sur posed increase in production at 7.35 percent higher compared in the same quarter last year.

**Table 1. Volume of Aquaculture Production by Province  
Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2021 and 2022**

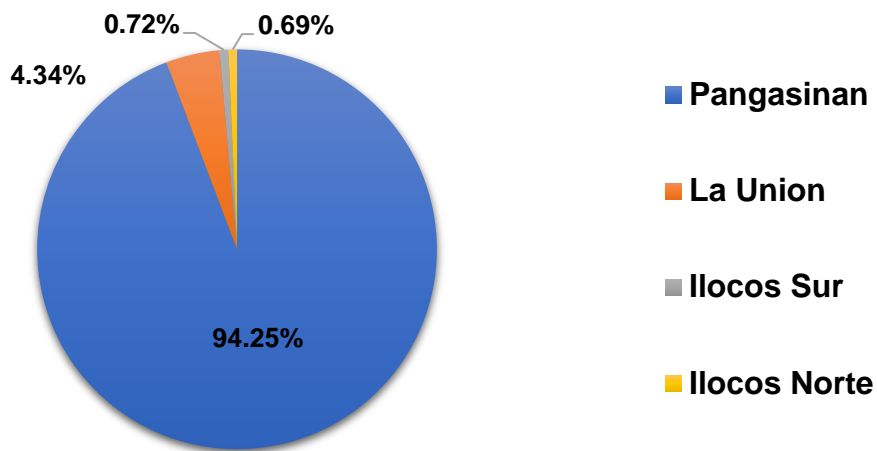
Item	Production (MT)		Growth Rate (%)
	First Quarter 2022	First Quarter 2021	
<b>Ilocos Region</b>	<b>23,794.10</b>	<b>27,449.49</b>	<b>(13.32)</b>
Ilocos Norte	161.34	343.67	(53.05)
Ilocos Sur	172.29	160.49	7.35
La Union	1,033.63	1,543.31	(33.03)
Pangasinan	22,426.83	25,402.02	(11.71)

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, First Quarter 2021 and 2022 Fisheries Production Survey

The majority of the region's aquaculture fisheries production came from the province of Pangasinan. The province covered 94.25 percent of the region's overall production at 22,426.83 metric tons. Next to Pangasinan is the province of La Union which recorded 1,033.63 metric tons during the period. Lastly, Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte, combined, contributed 1.41 percent to the region's overall production.



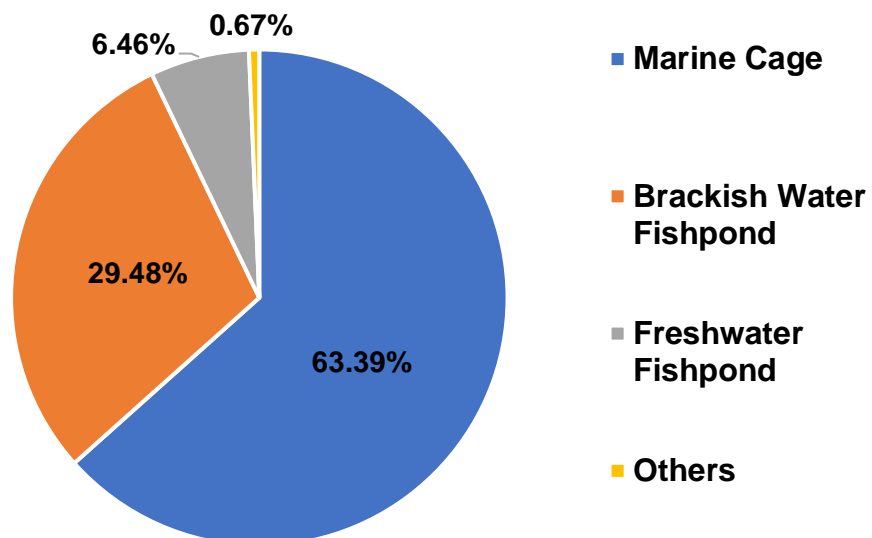
**Figure 1. Percentage Distribution of Aquaculture Production by Province Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2022**



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

Marine Cage has the most production among the types of aquafarms in Ilocos Region with 15,082.82 metric tons. It contributed 63.39 to the region’s aquaculture production. Brackishwater fishpond was also a major contributor in the region’s aquaculture production. Approximately 29.48 percent (7,014.89 metric tons) came from brackfishwater fishpond. Placing at the third spot, freshwater fishpond contributed 6.46 percent with a production of 1,537.75 metric tons. Other aquafarm types shared the remaining 0.67 percent of the total aquaculture production of the region.

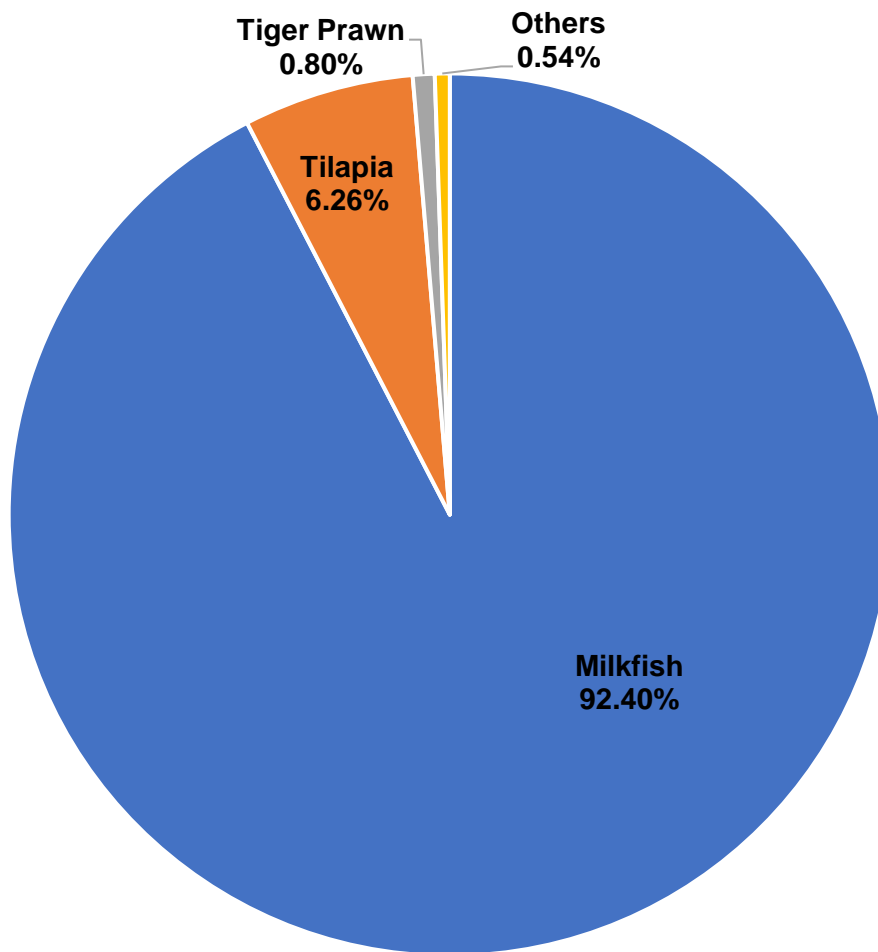
**Figure 2. Percentage Distribution of Aquaculture Production by Aquafarm Type Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2022**



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



**Figure 3. Contribution of Top Species to the Total Aquaculture Production Ilocos Region: First Quarter 2022**



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

Milkfish remained the top specie in aquaculture production in the Ilocos Region in the first quarter 2022. The specie shared 92.40 percent of the region's total aquaculture production while the rest contributed the remaining 7.60 percent. Other top species that contributed to the overall aquaculture include tilapia, tiger prawn, oyster, and siganid.

## **Aquaculture by Province**

### **Pangasinan**

The total production of Pangasinan was 22,426.83 metric tons in the first quarter 2022. It was lower by 11.71 percent compared to the output in first quarter 2021. Most of the production came from marine cages with a production of 14,689.49 metric tons, sharing 65.50 percent. Brackishwater fishponds also contributed more than a quarter of the province's total production with a share of 28.23. The remaining 6.27 percent was shared by other aquaculture farms in the region.

The Bangus capital of the Philippines lived out its title by producing 20,945.82 metric tons of milkfish, that is, 95.27 percent of the total milkfish production in the Ilocos Region. Other top species that contributed to the total aquaculture production of the province include tiger prawn, oyster, and siganid.

### **La Union**

The production of La Union for the first quarter 2022 was posted at 1,033.63 metric tons. More than half of this output came from brackishwater fishponds which recorded 603.73 metric tons. This was followed by marine cages with 388.05 metric tons. The remaining 41.85 metric tons were produced by other aquaculture farms in the province. The production in first quarter 2021 was 1,543.31 metric tons.

Milkfish, like in Pangasinan, is also the number one fish specie produced in La Union during the first quarter 2022. It contributed 95.53 percent of the total aquaculture output of the province. The remaining produce were oyster, grouper, tiger prawn, catfish, and others.

### **Ilocos Sur**

The aquaculture production output of Ilocos Sur in first quarter 2022 increased by 7.35 percent. From the 160.49 metric tons in first quarter 2021, it grew to 172.29 in first quarter 2022. The top aquafarm type in the first quarter of 2022 was freshwater fishpond producing 93.49 metric tons.



It was followed by brackishwater fishpond with 68.22 metric tons. Marine cage ranked third with 5.28 metric tons produce.

The province produced 125.18 metric tons of tilapia, and followed by milkfish at 36.22 metric tons. Other fishes harvested include oysters, siganids, tiger prawns, and others.

## **Ilocos Norte**

Ilocos Norte aquaculture production in first quarter 2022 was posted at 161.34 metric tons, lower than 343.67 metric tons output in first quarter 2021. By aquafarm type, freshwater fishpond has the biggest share in production with 69.10 percent (111.48 metric tons), followed by brackishwater cage with 14.18 percent (22.87 metric tons). On the other hand, brackishwater fishpond compromised 7.37 percent (11.89 metric tons) of the province's aquaculture production.

The dominant fish specie in the aquaculture in Ilocos Norte is tilapia. The province was able to produce 138.92 metric tons of tilapia. Milkfish, on the other hand, recorded 15.98 metric tons production. Other fish species cultured include siganid, mudfish, carp, and freshwater prawn.



## 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 I

JYY/TBO/DAI/CJBP



Parammata Bldg. C, Diversion Road, Sitio 5, Brgy. Biday, City of San Fernando, La Union  
Telefax: 607-0247/ 888-2582  
[www.rss01.psa.gov.ph](http://www.rss01.psa.gov.ph)