



**IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"AN ACT TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED
AND UNREGULATED FISHING", FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND
COASTAL PROTECTION IN THE 3RD DISTRICT OF ALBAY**

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ABSTRACT

The study assessed the implementation of Republic Act No. 10654, which addresses illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing in the 3rd District of Albay. The objectives were to evaluate the law's mandate, prohibitions, penalties, and the roles of implementing agencies and identify enforcement challenges. A descriptive research design was employed, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data were collected through surveys and interviews with local fishermen, PNP officers, and the PNP Maritime Group. Findings revealed that while the legal framework of RA 10654 was adequate, significant challenges hindered its enforcement. These included limited patrol resources, inconsistent application of penalties, and low community awareness of the law. Additionally, gaps in coordination between agencies were identified, further impeding effective enforcement. Despite these issues, some progress was made in law enforcement, though accomplishments were limited by resource constraints. The study concluded that improved inter-agency collaboration, enhanced resource allocation, and targeted educational programs for the local community are necessary to strengthen the law's implementation. An intervention plan was proposed to address these challenges and ensure more effective enforcement, ultimately contributing to sustainable fisheries management in the region.

Keywords: *Illegal Fishing, Prohibited Acts, Law Enforcement, R.A 10654, Penalties*

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INTRODUCTION

Illegal fishing cannot be solely addressed through better fisheries management practices and strengthened legislation. Both administrative and criminal sanctions can be adopted to tackle illegal fishing. National fisheries legislation generally permits administrative and criminal enforcement approaches against illegal fishing. To address illegal fishing, multipronged legal solutions are needed like criminalizing serious fisheries violations.

Humans depend extensively on fish as a significant source of animal protein in their daily lives, even though future global food security is a major issue. The demand for fish protein is still increasing owing to the massive expansion of the global population; however, many of the world's fish populations are already degraded and unable to provide maximum sustainable production (Mozumder, 2023).

Republic Act No. 10654 is an act to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, amending Republic Act no. 8550, otherwise known as "the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," and for other purposes which acts to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in Philippine waters including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the adjacent high seas, consistent with the primordial objective of maintaining a sound ecological balance, protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment. The Philippines shall pursue its commitment to international conventions and cooperate with other states and international bodies, to conserve and manage threatened, aquatic species, straddling and highly migratory fish stocks and other living marine resources and To adopt the precautionary principle and manage fishery and aquatic resources, in a manner consistent with the concept of an ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management and integrated coastal area management in specific natural fishery management areas, appropriately supported by research, technical services and guidance provided by the State.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) turned over 12 motorized boats to the Police Regional Office 5 (PRO-5) on Monday aimed at strengthening the government's

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fight against illegal fishing in the Bicol region. Before the turnover, the two parties signed a memorandum of agreement to form a joint task force that would carry out the fight against poaching. Police Maj. Malu Calubaquib, PRO-5 spokesperson, said the task force dubbed "Kasurog Sea Rangers" (KSR) will conduct anti-illegal fishing and other law enforcement operations (Calipay, 2023).

Within this year 2023, there are eighty-seven (87) recorded cases of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing) within the area of West Cost in Albay.

This study includes the effects of illegal fishing as an environmental crime within the community as the researchers of this study are trying to assess it and how law enforcement implements and enforces the law on violation of environmental laws that protect our mother nature. This will also allow the readers to identify the possible effects.

FRAMEWORK

The theoretical framework of this study was based on **Policy Implementation Theory** and **Systems Theory**, which provided insight into how Republic Act No. 10654 was implemented and enforced. Policy Implementation Theory, developed by scholars such as Leonid Hurwicz, focused on the transformation of policies into practical actions by analyzing the mechanisms of enforcement, resource allocation, and stakeholder collaboration. It helped assess how well the legislative goals of RA 10654 were communicated and realized, identifying gaps between policy design and implementation. Systems Theory, developed by Ludwig von Bertalanffy, viewed the enforcement process as an interconnected system where each part, such as government agencies and community groups, played a role in achieving the overall objectives of the law. These theories together provided a comprehensive view of how enforcement challenges, resource limitations, and agency coordination impacted the effectiveness of RA 10654.

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The study also utilized the **CIPP Evaluation Model (Context, Input, Process, Product)** to evaluate the implementation of RA 10654. In this model, the **Context** examined the background, goals, and legal framework of the law. **Input** focused on the resources, strategies, and plans used to enforce the law. **Process** evaluated the day-to-day operations and collaborations among agencies. Finally, the **Product** assessed the outcomes, including reductions in illegal fishing and improvements in conservation efforts. This structured approach ensured a comprehensive assessment of the law’s effectiveness and highlighted areas for improvement.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study were to assess the implementation of Republic Act No. 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay. Specifically, the study aimed to evaluate the status of the law in terms of its mandate, prohibitions, penalties, and the roles and functions of the implementing agencies. It also sought to assess the effectiveness of the law’s enforcement, operations, conservation efforts, and monitoring and control measures. Additionally, the study aimed to identify the challenges and problems encountered by the implementing agencies during the enforcement of the law and proposed an intervention plan to address these issues, ensuring more effective implementation and sustainable fisheries management in the region.

METHODOLOGY

The study employed a descriptive research design using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data were collected through surveys and interviews with key stakeholders, including local fishermen, PNP officers, and members of the PNP Maritime Group in the 3rd District of Albay. The survey was designed to gather quantitative data on the respondents’ awareness, understanding, and experience with the implementation of RA

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10654, while interviews provided qualitative insights into the challenges and enforcement issues faced by implementing agencies.

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive statistics for the quantitative component and thematic analysis for the qualitative data. This approach allowed the study to assess the implementation of the law, identify gaps in enforcement, and evaluate the coordination between agencies involved in the law's execution. The mixed-method approach provided a comprehensive understanding of both the operational challenges and the on-ground realities faced by stakeholders in the enforcement of RA 10654.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This section presented the findings on the implementation of Republic Act No. 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay. It addressed the law's mandate, prohibitions, penalties, and the roles of implementing agencies, while also discussing challenges such as resource limitations and gaps in enforcement. The findings were analyzed concerning the study's objectives and existing literature, highlighting both successes and areas for improvement in the law's implementation.

1. Status of Ra 10654 "An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in 3rd District of Albay in 3rd District of Albay

a. Mandate

The Mandate RA 10654, also known as the "Amendment to the Fisheries Code of the Philippines," aims to strengthen the conservation and protection of marine resources by addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. It enhances enforcement mechanisms by increasing fines and penalties for violations, particularly illegal fishing

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practices, and fortifies the authority of agencies like the Philippine Coast Guard, BFAR, and LGUs, enabling better patrolling and monitoring of coastal areas.

The Act regulates the use of fishing gear and methods, prohibiting harmful techniques such as blast and cyanide fishing. It mandates the licensing and registration of fishing equipment to ensure only legal and environmentally friendly practices are employed. Additionally, RA 10654 promotes the creation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to safeguard biodiversity and restore damaged ecosystems.

The Act emphasizes public awareness, education, and collaboration between various government bodies and NGOs for a cohesive approach to fisheries management. Monitoring and reporting mechanisms are established to track the effectiveness of enforcement. Lastly, RA 10654 encourages sustainable development by offering economic incentives for responsible fishing and alternative livelihoods for fishing communities, supporting long-term marine resource sustainability.

b. Prohibition and Penalties

Republic Act No. 10654 establishes strict prohibitions and penalties to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Section 86 of the Act makes unauthorized fishing unlawful, requiring individuals to possess a license or permit from the Department of Agriculture or Local Government Units for any fishing activity. Commercial fishing in municipal waters without a license is also prohibited. Violators caught with illegal fishing gear or operating vessels without proper permits face severe penalties, including fines ranging from PHP 500,000 to PHP 2,000,000 and imprisonment of 6 months to 6 years. Repeat offenders and those causing significant damage to marine ecosystems are subject to even harsher penalties, such as confiscation of vessels and gear used in illegal activities (Republic Act No. 10654, 2015).

The law enhances enforcement capabilities by granting more authority and resources to agencies like the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), which helps strengthen patrols and monitoring (Mendoza, 2020). Additionally,

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RA 10654 emphasizes the importance of public awareness and education to encourage compliance, promote sustainable fishing practices, and involve local communities in conservation efforts (Ramos, 2021). Studies affirm that education and community engagement are essential in promoting fisheries sustainability (Mason, 2022), while coordinated efforts through Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) effectively safeguard marine ecosystems (Smith & Chan, 2023).

c. Implementing Agency

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) serves as the lead agency responsible for enforcing Republic Act No. 10654, regulating fisheries resources, and promoting sustainable fishing practices across the Philippines. BFAR works closely with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Local Government Units (LGUs) to monitor fishing activities and ensure compliance with legal standards. BFAR's responsibilities include overseeing fisheries management, conducting educational campaigns, and collaborating with other agencies to address illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing (Republic Act No. 10654, 2015).

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) plays a crucial role in patrolling Philippine waters to prevent IUU fishing, apprehending violators, and confiscating illegal gear in collaboration with BFAR. Their maritime presence serves as a deterrent to illegal activities (Republic Act No. 10654, 2015). Meanwhile, Local Government Units (LGUs) are tasked with enforcing the law within their jurisdictions, managing marine protected areas (MPAs), and implementing local ordinances. LGUs also promote community-based monitoring systems to detect illegal fishing at the grassroots level (Republic Act No. 10654, 2015). Together, these agencies work in coordination to uphold the law and promote sustainable fisheries management in the Philippines.

d. Accomplishment

The PNP Maritime Group, along with the Philippine Coast Guard and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), has been actively enforcing RA 10654, resulting in notable

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operational accomplishments, particularly against Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. From 2021 to 2023, there was a significant increase in cases filed and fines imposed, especially under local fisheries ordinances. In 2021, 69 RA 10654 violations were recorded, rising to 112 in 2022, before slightly dropping to 78 in 2023. Local fisheries violations surged dramatically, from 16 in 2021 to 220 in 2023, with a corresponding spike in fines (Republic Act No. 10654, 2015).

Table 1-c
Accomplishments on RA 10654

Violations	Accomplishment			Case Disposition
	2021	2022	2023	
RA 10654 (Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing)	69	112	78	Filed in Court
Local Fisheries Ordinances (Filed/Referred to Court)	16	58	220	Filed in Court
Local Fisheries Ordinances (Fined)	109	535	2539	Fined
TOTAL	194	705	2837	

These trends reflect stricter enforcement, improved resource allocation, and enhanced collaboration among agencies. Studies support the effectiveness of penalties and robust monitoring in deterring IUU fishing. Sala et al. (2021) stress the importance of strong legal action, while Viridin et al. (2020) emphasize the critical role of local governments in fisheries management. The sharp rise in fines also aligns with Pascoe et al. (2020), who highlight the need for enhanced monitoring and enforcement capacities for sustainable fisheries management.

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2. Implementation of RA 10656 in the 3rd District of Albay

The implementation of Republic Act No. 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay is crucial in combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The law strengthens marine resource conservation through stricter regulations, enhanced enforcement, and severe penalties. In collaboration with agencies like BFAR, the Philippine Coast Guard, and LGUs, it promotes sustainable fishing while protecting the district's marine biodiversity, highlighting both challenges and successes in enforcement.

a. Enforcement

The enforcement of Republic Act No. 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay was evaluated through the experiences of key stakeholders, including the PNP Maritime Group, Local PNP, and fishermen. The PNP Maritime Group received the highest effectiveness rating across most indicators, such as detecting illegal activities (3.20), filing cases (4.00), and inspecting vessels (3.10). In contrast, the Local PNP and fishermen reported lower ratings, particularly in compliance and apprehension, highlighting challenges such as resource limitations and operational constraints. Fishermen, in particular, showed a lower compliance rate (2.52), suggesting the need for better outreach and education efforts

Table 2-a

Implementation of RA 10654 in terms of Enforcement

INDICATORS	Fishermen		Local PNP		PNP Maritime Group		TWM	AI
	TWM	AI	TWM	AI	TWM	AI		
1. Number of reported illegal activities detected and addressed.	2.67	I	3.33	I	3.20	I	3.07	I
2. Compliance rate with regulations by	2.52	I	3.12	I	3.10	I	2.91	I

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stakeholders (e.g., fishermen, fish vendors, and fish dealers).								
3. Case filed in court, admin, or ordinance against violators.	2.47	Less I	3.00	I	4.00	FI	3.16	I
4. Apprehending persons who are caught violating the Anti-Illegal Fishing Act	2.52	I	2.93	I	3.00	I	2.82	I
5. Proper supervision and inspection of fishing vessels being used in fishing	2.64	I	3.18	I	3.10	I	2.97	I
Average Weighted Mean	2.56	I	3.11	I	3.28	I	2.98	I

These findings suggest that while the PNP Maritime Group is seen as relatively effective, overall enforcement of RA 10654 requires improvement across all groups, particularly in addressing illegal fishing activities and regulatory compliance. Enhancing coordination between agencies, providing more resources for local enforcement bodies, and implementing educational programs could improve enforcement and lead to better management of marine resources.

According to Caddy and Seijo (2019), effective enforcement is crucial for preventing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Sumaila and Dey (2020) further emphasize that robust enforcement mechanisms are essential for sustainable fisheries management. Additionally, Zhao and Wang (2021) and Liu and Zhang (2022) highlight the importance of strong enforcement and community-based approaches to enhance compliance and resource protection.

b. Operations

The enforcement of RA 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay faces several operational challenges, as revealed by assessments from key stakeholders. Administrative efficiency received low

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 ratings, with fishermen scoring it at 2.44 and the PNP Maritime at 2.84, indicating that administrative procedures are seen as inefficient, which may hinder effective enforcement.

Table 2-b

Implementation of RA 10654 in terms of Operation

INDICATORS	Fishermen		Local PNP		PNP Maritime Group		TW M	AI
	TW M	AI	TW M	AI	TW M	AI		
1. Efficiency of administrative procedures for managing regulations.	2.44	Less I	2.98	I	3.10	I	2.84	I
2. Availability and functionality of enforcement and its resources (patrol boats, equipment, personnel).	2.44	Less I	2.83	I	2.45	Less I	2.57	I
3. Timeliness and effectiveness of the response to reported violations or incidents.	2.39	Less I	3.08	I	2.55	I	2.67	I
4. Investigation of suspected illegal activities within coastal areas	2.33	Less I	2.53	I	2.60	I	2.49	I
5. Surprise inspections for unregulated/ unreported fishing activities	2.24	Less I	2.58	I	2.75	I	2.52	I
Average Weighted Mean	2.37	Less I	3.32	I	2.69	I	2.79	I

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Response times and investigation of illegal activities were similarly perceived as inadequate, with fishermen rating these aspects at 2.39 and 2.33, respectively. Surprise inspections were also rated poorly, reflecting a need for more frequent and effective inspections to deter illegal fishing.

Resource availability and functionality were rated low, with fishermen at 2.44 and PNP Maritime at 2.57, indicating a need for better equipment and staffing. Strengthening RA 10654 enforcement requires improving administrative processes, investing in resources, and enhancing investigative procedures. These findings align with Teh and Sumaila (2019), who note that inadequate resources weaken enforcement, and the World Bank (2020), which highlights the impact of insufficient infrastructure. Cinner et al. (2019) emphasize prompt responses for effective enforcement, and the FAO (2018) stresses the importance of robust inspection systems for compliance.

c. Conservation and Collaboration

The enforcement of RA 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay highlights mixed effectiveness in conservation and collaboration efforts. Collaboration between law enforcement and local communities was rated lower by fishermen (2.47), compared to higher scores from the Local PNP (2.90) and PNP Maritime (3.10), suggesting that while law enforcement is somewhat satisfied, fishermen feel less involved.

Table 2-c

Implementation of RA 10654 in terms of Conservation and Collaboration

INDICATORS	Fishermen		Local PNP		PNP Maritime Group		TW M	AI
	TW M	AI	TW M	AI	TWM	AI		
1. Quantity and quality of collaborative efforts with local communities, NGOs, and relevant agencies.	2.47	Less I	2.90	I	3.10	I	2.82	I

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2. Initiatives taken to educate and involve local communities in conservation and protection efforts.	2.42	Less I	3.10	I	2.35	Less I	2.62	I
3. Increase in the population of protected species or improvement in habitat conditions.	2.42	Less I	3.13	I	2.45	Less I	2.67	I
4. Conduct meetings or gatherings with agencies to improve enforcement and implementation of the Anti-Illegal Fishing Act.	2.56	I	2.98	I	3.15	I	2.90	I
5. PNP Maritime conducts enforcement and operation of RA 10654 with other law enforcement agencies	2.59	I	2.98	I	2.50	I	2.69	I
Average Weighted Mean	2.49	Less I	3.02	I	2.71	I	2.74	I

Community education received low ratings from fishermen (2.42), indicating dissatisfaction with outreach efforts. Similarly, both fishermen and the PNP Maritime rated conservation efforts poorly, reflecting limited tangible outcomes in species recovery and habitat protection. While inter-agency collaboration was rated more positively (2.56-3.15), effective coordination has not yet translated into noticeable community-level improvements. Enhancing community engagement, conservation strategies, and inter-agency efforts is needed to improve the effectiveness of RA 10654.

According to Baral et al. (2020), involving local stakeholders in decision-making fosters trust and compliance in fisheries management. Ayers and Kittinger (2019) also emphasize the importance of educating local communities to promote sustainable practices, while Leenhardt et al. (2019) stress the need for long-term monitoring to measure conservation success. Finally, Hara et al. (2021) highlight that multi-agency collaboration strengthens enforcement but must result in tangible community benefits.

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d. Monitoring and Control

The monitoring and control mechanisms under RA 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay are perceived as ineffective by fishermen and other stakeholders. Fishermen rated the existence and effectiveness of monitoring systems at 2.39, while the Local PNP and PNP Maritime rated them at 2.88 and 3.05, respectively.

Table 2-c

Implementation of RA 10654 in terms of Monitoring and Control

INDICATORS	Fishermen		Local PNP		PNP Maritime Group		TWM	AI
	TWM	AI	TWM	AI	TWM	AI		
1. Existence and effectiveness of monitoring systems (e.g., satellite tracking, surveillance cameras).	2.39	Less I	2.88	I	3.05	I	2.77	I
2. Regularity and comprehensiveness of reports on environmental conditions and compliance status.	2.40	Less I	3.08	I	2.30	Less I	2.59	I
3. Ability to adapt and modify strategies based on monitoring outcomes or feedback.	2.42	Less I	2.85	I	2.65	I	2.64	I

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4. Employment of fisheries observer and other monitoring personnel	2.40	Less I	2.85	I	2.40	Less I	2.55	I
5. Control of fishing activities to avoid overfishing	2.31	Less I	2.63	I	2.95	I	2.63	I
Average Weighted Mean	2.38	Less I	2.86	I	3.24	I	2.83	I

The overall low scores suggest that current monitoring tools, such as satellite tracking and surveillance cameras, are not fully operational or utilized effectively. Reporting on environmental conditions and compliance also received low scores (Fishermen at 2.40, Local PNP at 3.08), indicating infrequent and incomplete reporting.

The adaptability of strategies based on monitoring outcomes was also rated poorly (Fishermen at 2.42, Local PNP at 2.85), reflecting a limited capacity to adjust enforcement measures. Similarly, the employment of monitoring personnel showed low effectiveness, with fishermen scoring it at 2.40, and control of fishing activities rated at 2.31 by fishermen and 2.95 by the PNP Maritime. These findings suggest insufficient staffing and resource allocation for monitoring and controlling fishing activities.

To improve RA 10654’s enforcement, increased investment in technology, better reporting practices, and more personnel are needed. As Leenhardt et al. (2019) argue, effective monitoring systems are critical for marine management, while Ayers and Kittinger (2019) highlight the importance of regular reporting for informed decision-making. Baral et al. (2020) stress that adequate staffing is crucial for successful fisheries management.

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3. Significant Agreement among the Ranks on the Implementation of RA 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay

The Kendall correlation coefficient analysis for RA 10654 implementation in the 3rd District of Albay shows strong agreement among the three respondent groups regarding enforcement operations. A computed W-value of 0.56 and T-value of 5.04, higher than the critical T-value of 1.96 at a 5% significance level, indicates significant agreement on the effectiveness of enforcement strategies. However, the lack of W- and T-values for conservation, collaboration, and monitoring suggests these aspects were either not thoroughly assessed or perceived differently among stakeholders. While enforcement is well-regarded, varying perceptions about conservation and monitoring efforts may exist, highlighting the need for further evaluation in these areas.

4. Problems Encountered in the Implementation of RA 10654

The implementation of RA 10654 faces several key challenges, particularly in combating Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing. The most significant issue is the lack of coordination and collaboration between enforcement agencies, ranked 1st overall with a frequency of 188. Conflicting regulations and jurisdictional issues, ranked 2nd, create confusion and stall enforcement efforts, especially at the local level. Additionally, inadequate technology and monitoring systems (ranked 3rd) hinder real-time tracking of illegal fishing activities, while insufficient funding and logistical support (ranked 4th) severely limit law enforcement operations. Limited awareness among local communities (ranked 5th) further exacerbates the problem, as fishermen may unintentionally violate the law due to a lack of education. Corruption, though ranked 7th, undermines enforcement and erodes public trust.

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Table 4

Problems encountered in the implementation of RA 10654

INDICATORS	Fishermen		Local PNP		PNP Maritime Group		Total	Rank
1. Coordination and collaboration between enforcement and other law enforcement agencies can hinder effective enforcement of the law, allowing Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing activities to persist.	144	3	5	2	19	4	188	1
2. Corruption within regulatory bodies can undermine the proper implementation of RA 10654, as some individuals may exploit loopholes for personal gain.	31	6	12	5	13	7	156	7
3. Inadequate technology and monitoring systems make tracking and controlling fishing activities challenging, leading to difficulties in enforcing regulations.	149	2	2	5	20	2	161	3
4. Limited awareness among local communities about the importance of sustainable fishing practices and the penalties for Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing can contribute to non-compliance.	129	7	26	1	20	2	175	5
5. Conflicting regulations and jurisdictional issues among local government agencies may create confusion and hinder a coordinated effort to combat Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing.	152	1	7	4	16	6	185	2

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6. Insufficient funding and logistical support can impede the effective implementation of monitoring and enforcement measures.	37	4	20	3	20	2	177	4
7. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing often involves vessels encroaching local international boundaries, requiring collaboration between cities/municipalities. The absence of effective cooperation agreements can hinder efforts to combat transboundary Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing.	133	5	15	5	17	5	165	6

Addressing these issues—through improved agency coordination, investment in technology, increased funding, and public awareness campaigns—is crucial for the effective enforcement of RA 10654. Studies by Farrugio et al. (2020) highlight how poor coordination weakens enforcement, while García et al. (2020) stress the importance of technological investment for monitoring. Mora et al. (2020) further emphasizes that corruption in regulatory bodies impedes governance, worsening the issue of IUU fishing. These challenges must be addressed to promote sustainable fisheries management and protect marine resources.

5. Intervention Plan to ensure the implementation of RA 10654 in the 3rd District of Albay

The intervention plan aims to ensure the effective implementation of RA 10654, focusing on strengthening enforcement, improving coordination, and enhancing monitoring systems. It emphasizes building the capacity of local enforcers and agencies, such as BFAR, LGUs, and the Philippine Coast Guard, to ensure seamless operations. Key strategies include the installation of vessel tracking systems, conducting joint operations, and educating local fishing communities about sustainable practices and the legal implications of IUU fishing.

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The plan involves training workshops for enforcers, collaborative efforts across sectors, and regular monitoring and evaluation to assess impact. By addressing gaps in enforcement, promoting community engagement, and ensuring robust monitoring, the intervention seeks to reduce IUU fishing and protect marine resources for long-term sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS

RA 10654's implementation in the 3rd District of Albay reveals that while the law represents a robust framework for addressing illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, challenges persist across several areas. Enforcement mechanisms, though strengthened, face issues with inadequate coordination, insufficient technology, and limited community engagement, which hinder the overall effectiveness of the law. Significant progress has been made in collaboration between enforcement agencies, with a strong agreement among stakeholders on the effectiveness of enforcement efforts. However, gaps in monitoring systems and community involvement remain, highlighting the need for improved communication and collaboration. Additionally, conservation measures have yet to yield significant results in terms of species recovery and habitat protection. To achieve the full potential of RA 10654, it is essential to enhance enforcement strategies, increase public awareness, and improve resource allocation for monitoring and technology, ensuring that the law's objectives of sustainable marine resource management are met.

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