

# SPECIAL RELEASE

## **FISHERIES SITUATION REPORT in COTABATO PROVINCE January to March 2025**

Date of Release : 03 June 2025  
Reference No. : 47R12-SR-2025-08

### **Cotabato Province: Fisheries Production decreased by 40.41 percent in First Quarter 2025**

The total volume of fisheries production for Inland Municipal and Aquaculture in Cotabato Province in the first quarter 2025 registered at 1,340.17 metric tons, indicating a double digit decreased of 40.41 percent from the 2,248.87 metric tons in the same quarter of the previous year. (see Table 1)

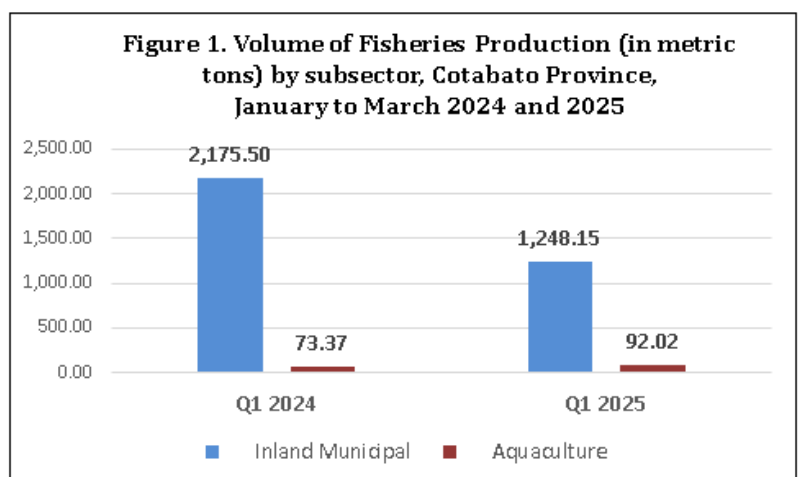
**Table 1. Volume of Fisheries Production (in metric tons) by subsector, Cotabato Province:  
January-March 2024 and 2025**

Fisheries Subsectors	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	% Change (Q1 2025/ Q1 2024)
<b>TOTAL FISHERIES, Cotabato Province</b>	<b>2,248.87</b>	<b>1,340.17</b>	<b>-40.41</b>
Inland Municipal	2,175.50	1,248.15	-42.63
Aquaculture	73.37	92.02	25.42

*Note: Percent change may yield different results when computed manually due to rounding.*

*Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, Quarterly Inland Fisheries Survey and Quarterly Aquaculture Survey (openstat.psa.gov.ph)*

During the first quarter of 2025, inland municipal production of 1,248.15 metric tons registered a double digit decrease of 42.63 percent from the 2,175.50 metric tons in the same quarter of the previous year. Meanwhile, aquaculture production of 92.02 metric tons registered a double digit increase of 25.42 percent from the 73.37 metric tons in the same quarter of the previous year. (see Figure 1)



*Note: Percent change may yield different results when computed manually due to rounding.*

*Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, Quarterly Inland Fisheries Survey and Quarterly Aquaculture Survey (openstat.psa.gov.ph)*

## INLAND MUNICIPAL

**Table 2. Inland Municipal Fisheries: Volume of Production (in metric tons), by Species, Cotabato Province: January to March 2024 and 2025**

Species	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	% Change (Q1 2025/Q1 2024)
<b>TOTAL INLAND MUNICIPAL, Cotabato Province</b>	2,175.50	1,248.15	-42.63
1. Carp	603.17	208.15	-65.49
2. Catfish (Hito)	376.53	200.36	-46.79
3. Gourami	71.12	60.61	-14.78
4. Mudfish (Dalag)	166.24	112.91	-32.08
5. Tilapia	889.82	611.83	-31.24
6. Other Species	68.62	54.30	-20.87

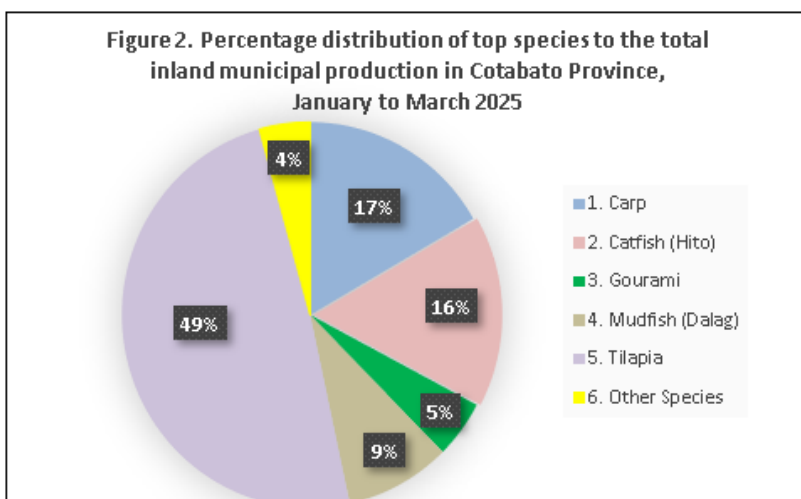
*Note: Percent change may yield different results when computed manually due to rounding.*

*Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Quarterly Inland Fisheries Survey (openstat.psa.gov.ph)*

### **Cotabato Province: Major inland species stretched down as results of double digit decrease by 42.63 percent in First Quarter 2025**

The output deficits were mainly reported in carp decreased by 65.49 percent with 208.15 metric tons, catfish dropped by 46.79 percent with 200.36 metric tons, gourami declined by 14.78 percent with 60.61 metric tons, mudfish (dalag) fall by 32.08 percent with 112.91 metric tons, tilapia down by 31.24 percent with 611.83 metric tons and other species lower by 20.87 percent with 54.30 metric tons compared to same quarter of the previous year. The deficits underscores performance of inland fisheries resulting to a double digit decrease of 42.63 percent in First Quarter 2025. (see Table 2)

Some of the major inland municipal species which contributed a double digit share on the total production of Inland Municipal Fisheries in January to March of 2025 includes tilapia with 49.00 percent, carp with 17.00 percent, catfish with 16.00 percent. Other major inland municipal species include mudfish (dalag) with 9.00 percent, gourami with 5.00 percent and other species with 4.00 percent contributed to the total production of inland municipal fisheries this first quarter of 2025. (see Figure 2)



*Note: Percent change may yield different results when computed manually due to rounding.*

*Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Quarterly Inland Fisheries Survey (openstat.psa.gov.ph)*



## AQUACULTURE

**Table 3. Aquaculture Fisheries: Volume of Production (in metric tons), by Species, Cotabato Province: January to March 2024 and 2025**

Species	Q1 2024	Q1 2025	% Change (Q1 2025/Q1 2024)
<b>TOTAL AQUACULTURE FISHERIES, Cotabato Province</b>	73.37	92.02	25.42
1. Carp	0.85	0.25	-70.59
2. Catfish (Hito)	6.73	21.95	226.15
3. Gourami	0.69	0.48	-30.43
4. Mudfish (Dalag)	1.1	0.77	-30.00
5. Tilapia	63.97	68.54	7.14
6. Other Species	0.03	0.03	0.00

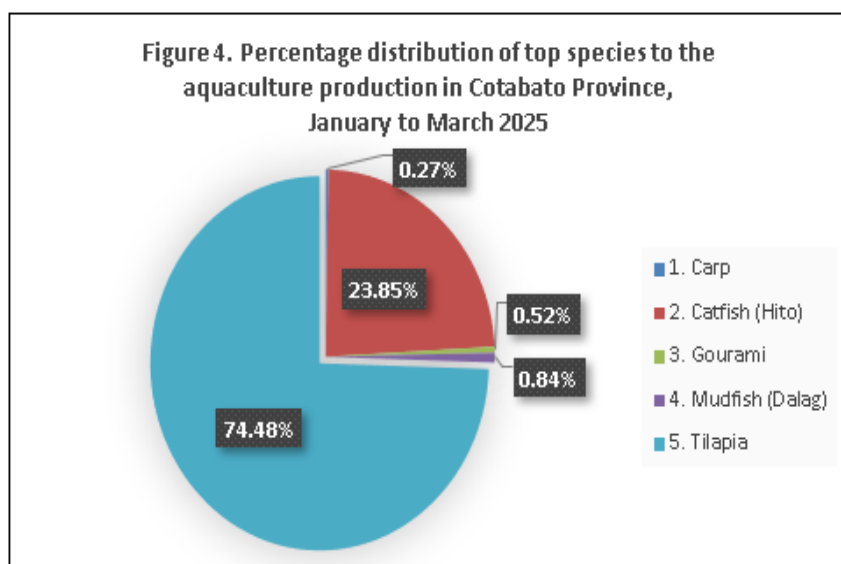
*Note: Percent change may yield different results when computed manually due to rounding.  
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Quarterly Aquaculture Survey (openstat.psa.gov.ph)*

### **Cotabato Province: Tilapia and catfish pulled up in registered double digit increase by 25.42 percent in First Quarter 2025**

Of the top five major percent shares species in aquaculture fisheries, increment were primarily noted in tilapia increased by 7.14 percent with 68.54 metric tons and catfish (hito) go up by 226.15 percent with 21.95 metric tons compared to the same period last year. These two species pulled up the aquaculture fisheries posted with double digit increase by 25.42 percent in First Quarter 2025.

On the other hand, carp decreased by 70.59 percent with 0.25 metric tons, gourami dropped by 30.43 percent with 0.48 metric tons and mudfish (dalag) down by 30.00 percent with 0.77 metric tons. (see Table 3)

Some of the major aquaculture species which contributed a double digit share on the total production of Aquaculture Fisheries in the First Quarter of 2025 include tilapia with 74.48 percent and catfish (hito) with 23.85 percent. Other major aquaculture species were mudfish with 0.84 percent, gourami with 0.52 percent and carp with 0.27 percent contributed to the total production of aquaculture fisheries. (see Figure 4)



*Note: Percent change may yield different results when computed manually due to rounding.  
Source: Philippine Statistics Authority, Quarterly Aquaculture Survey (openstat.psa.gov.ph)*



## TECHNICAL NOTES

### Overview

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) through the Fisheries Statistics Division (FSD) under the Economic Sector Statistics Service (ESSS) is responsible for the conduct of periodic surveys related to fisheries. The fisheries sector is composed of three (3) subsectors, namely; commercial, municipal fisheries and aquaculture. There are four (4) quarterly surveys that generate volume and value of production by species at the national, regional and provincial level. The statistics primarily serve as input to the compilation of performance of agriculture and national accounts. The data sets are also used for policy making and program implementation on fisheries.

Inland Fisheries is one of the fisheries subsectors. Inland Fisheries covers fishing operations performed in inland bodies of water using fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less, or fishing not requiring the use of fishing vessels. The Quarterly Inland Fisheries Survey (QIFS) serves as the activity that gathers information on volume and price of species caught by inland fishing household.

Aquaculture is one of the fisheries subsectors. It involves propagation and culturing of fish and other fishery species in farming facility such as fishpond, fish pen and fish cage. It also includes oyster, mussel and seaweed culture. The Quarterly Aquaculture Survey (QAqS) serves as the activity that gathers information on volume and price of species harvested in the aquafarms.

During its quarterly conduct, data collection, supervision, field editing and data processing are done at the field offices. Three levels of data review are undertaken which are the provincial, regional and national. As a final point, the FSD is responsible for the release of the estimates and preparation of reports.

### Concepts and Definition

**Aquaculture** is a fishery operation involving all forms of raising and culturing of fish and other fishery species in fresh, brackish and marine water areas.

**Aquafarm** is a farming facility used in the culture or propagation of aquatic species including fish, mollusk, crustaceans and aquatic plants for purposes of rearing and culturing to enhance production.

**Fishpond** refers to a land-based type of aquafarm; a body of water (artificial or natural) where fish and other aquatic products are cultured, raised or cultivated under controlled conditions.

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



**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 water bottom or with anchored floats for aquaculture purposes.

**Rice Fish** refers to an integrated farming system involving raising of fish in rice paddies.


**Small Farm Reservoir** (small water body) includes reservoirs and lakes with an area of less than 10 m<sup>2</sup>, small ponds, canals, irrigation canals, swamps and small, seasonal, inland floodplains. They may be permanent or temporary and can be separated into natural waters or constructed ones.

**Freshwater environment** refers to water without salt or marine origin. It is pure fresh water. Examples of no mixture of seawater (Laguna de Bay, Taal Lake, Candaba Swamps, Liguasan Marsh and rivers, canals, dams and paddy fields and rice fields).

**Inland fisheries** is the catching of fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other aquatic animals and plants in inland water like lakes, rivers, dams, marshes, etc. using fishing vessels of three (3) gross tons or less, or fishing not requiring the use of fishing vessels.

**Fishing Grounds** are areas in any body of water where fish and other aquatic resources congregate and become target of capture.

**Inland fishing household** is a household with at least one member engaged in inland fishing.



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