

2009 Most Outstanding MPA Finalist



PILAR MUNICIPAL MARINE PARK

Pilar, Cebu



GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION

The Pilar Municipal Marine Park (PMMP) is seated at the northwestern portion of Ponson Island, specifically in Sitio Magpuyo of Barangay Lower Pobalacion up to Sitio Guiwanon of Barangay Villahermosa, Pilar, Cebu.

DESCRIPTION

- Established under Ordinance No. 10 series 2005
- A marine sanctuary and a marine reserve comprise the 179.20 hectares of PMMP
- The marine sanctuary core zone covers an area of 17.93 hectares, with a buffer covering 11.8 hectares.
- The 149.90-hectare marine reserve encompasses coral reefs, seagrasses, mangroves, and sandy bottom ecosystems
- The park is part of Camotes Sea and has a fringing reef system located in 20 feet water and drops off at 50 to 100 feet

NOTEWORTHY FLORA AND FAUNA

- Copious mangroves line the periphery of the park
- Giant clams, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins are easily spotted
- Large barrel sponges are also observed.
- Fish abundance is remarkable in the drop off.
- Target species such as caesionids and snappers are found in large numbers.
- Mid-size groupers are present and schools of barracuda are noted

KEY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Representatives from the LGU, POs, and NGOs comprise the Pilar Municipal Marine Park Management Board specifically tasked to manage the park
- A Monitoring and Evaluation Committee is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the status of the park by monitoring bio-physical and socio-economic parameters and its overall project implementation
- An Enforcement Committee is responsible for the overall enforcement of the park.
- Approved management plan with a trust fund that will finance the operational expenses allocated for the management programs
- Violators of the ordinance are subjected to fines and penalties for illegal actions within the core zone, buffer zone, and marine reserve
- Fines/penalties from apprehended violators are shared to the LGU (75%) and arresting officers (25%).



BENEFITS

- Improved fish catches since the establishment of the park
- Fishes and squid of considerable size are caught in the area using artisanal fishing methods
- First class fishes caught in Pilar have a market in the resorts of nearby islands
- Snorkelers and recreational divers frequently visit the area for excursions



ISSUES & CONCERNS

- Bantay dagat outposts were greatly damaged by storms but are underway for reconstruction