

August 2015

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Mooring Buoy Installation Project in Apo Reef Natural Park

PCSSD'S COMPLETION OF PHASE 1



Group picture - Apo Reef Rangers from the DENR, Sablayan LGU, and Army with

*Tubbataha Management Office PASu Angelique Songco, Apo Reef PASu Fe
Raguindin, PCSSD Executive Director Karen Chan*

Manila, Philippines – Second week of August 2015, the Philippine Commission on Sports SCUBA Diving (PCSSD) with the support and cooperation of the Tubbataha Management Office (TMO), completed Phase 1 of Mooring Buoy Installation Project in Apo Reef Natural Park (ARNP) – Mooring Site Inspection and Evaluation Phase. This conservation initiative of the PCSSD required coordination with the TMO for their expertise and prior experience in installing mooring systems in Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park (TRNP) which is also considered as ARNP's 'big sister marine park'. The first order of business was the inspection of proposed mooring sites to check the kind of substrate/seabed in each of the proposed mooring sites. After then, it identified the most appropriate kind of mooring buoy system that is most effective in each of the proposed sites.



*Beach clean-up in
Apo Reef Natural
Park Grounds*

The initial underwater inspection of ARNP was a success and it is on its way to help in the interest of ensuring the growth and development of the marine park as a sustainable tourism destination and to boost SCUBA diving tourist patronage in Apo Reef. Consequently, SCUBA tourism can help generate livelihood, local employment through its rich marine natural resources. Furthermore, this is to fulfill the ultimate goal of the development and progress of Apo Reef Natural Park and promotion of tourism

industry in Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro in general.

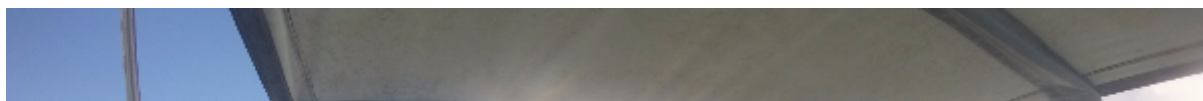
THE INSPECTION TEAM PREPARES THE DIVE & INSPECTION EQUIPMENT



(In Photo L-R: Martin of Apo Reef Club Dive Center, PCSSD ED Karen Chan, Tubbataha Management Office Dive Instructor Dominic Manuel, Odel and Obet of the Apo Reef Protected Area Office DENR, and Tubbataha Management Office PASu Angelique Songco)



(In Photo L-R: Tubbataha Management Office Dive Instructor Dominic Manuel, PCSSD ED Karen Chan, Odel and Obet of the Apo Reef Protected Area Office DENR, and Tubbataha Management Office PASu Angelique Songco)

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(In Photo L-R: Ranger Tuks of the Sablayan LGU, Martin of Apo Reef Club Dive Center, and Tubbataha Mangament Office PASu Angelique Songco)



(In Photo L-R: PCSSD ED Karen Chan, Apo Ranger Odel from the Apo Reef Protected Area Office DENR, Apo Reef PASu Fe Raguindin, and Tubbataha Mangament Office PASu Angelique Songco)

The ARNP lies approximately 33 kilometers off the coast of Sablayan in the province of Occidental Mindoro. The coral reefs cover a total area of 34 square kilometers, making it the second largest contiguous coral reef in the world. However, coral reefs in Apo Island are now facing an identified scourge of anchoring which is a serious risk to reefs' survival. The use of anchor tends to dig and uproot the corals that lay under the water surface which results to a huge loss to the marine environment.

INSPECTION PROPER

(In Photo: Ranger Tuks of the Sablayan LGU hammering the



8-foot probe while Ranger Odel of the Apo Reef Protected Area Office holding it firmly)



(In Photo L-R: Apo Ranger DENR Odel, Tubbataha Management Office PASu Angelique Songco, fixing the line/rope Martin of Apo Reef Club Dive Center and

Tubbataha Management Office Dive Instructor Dominic Manuel)



Inspecting the seabed to determine which mooring system is applicable to the particular site



*Tubbataha Management Office Dive Instructor Dominic Manuel inspects an existing
sinker, writes notes and observations on the slate*

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+ 63 928 - CHAMBER (2426237)

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