



PRESS RELEASE

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UOG Sea Grant donates fish harvest

As part of recovery efforts post-Typhoon Mawar, the University of Guam Sea Grant's aquaculture program donated fresh tilapia harvest from its recirculating aquaculture system to island residents.

The distribution was held at the Mangilao Mayor's Office on Friday, May 26.

The aquaculture system serves as a model for non-profit and community-based organizations that are interested in starting their own backyard aquaculture systems.

Director Austin Shelton UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant said while the aquaculture program was launched to increase food security on the island, program efforts are also focused on providing urgent relief for communities affected by any disaster.

"After a typhoon, this is the time that the island needs food security the most. We are happy to get our tilapia fish out into the community to those who need it most, in this time of need," he said.

UOG Sea Grant aquaculture specialist Dave Crisostomo said, "Food security and resiliency have come out to be the top priorities now. So, all these projects that we are doing for aquaculture and aquaponics are geared towards this goal."

After receiving the donation, Mangilao Vice Mayor Kevin Delgado commended the program for providing food and promoting sustainability. The donation of fresh tilapia came at a time when many residents lost their refrigerated food supplies.

UOG Sea Grant started the aquaculture program to also promote practices that combine traditional knowledge with modern techniques.

The Office of the Governor and the Governor's Aquaculture Task Force are strategic partners in achieving food security and sustainability.

UOG Sea Grant's aquaculture program promotes Goal 14 (Life Below Water) of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to conserve and sustainably use the ocean and marine resources for development. In addition, sustainable and long-term growth in the aquaculture industry could also contribute to achieving Goals 2 (Zero Hunger) and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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Photo captions:

2023-tilapia1

The University of Guam Sea Grant team donates tilapia to the Mangilao Mayor's Office for distribution to residents on May 26. From left, Assistant Director of Communications for UOG CIS/Sea Grant/EPSCoR Kyle Mandapat; Director Austin Shelton IV, UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant; Mangilao Vice Mayor Kevin Delgado and UOG Sea Grant Aquaculture Project Assistant Johnny Borja.

2023-tilapia2

Mangilao Mayor's Office staff receives the fish donation from the UOG Sea Grant team at the Mangilao Mayor's Office on Friday, May 26.

2023-tilapia3

Residents from different villages receive tilapia from the Mangilao Mayor's Office. UOG Sea Grant donated fish from its own aquaculture system as part of its post-typhoon outreach. The distribution was held at the Mangilao Mayor's Office on Friday, May 26.