

Bioprospecting and the Management of Philippine Marine Genetic Resources: Issues and Challenges¹

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Abstract

Scientific studies have proven that the Philippines is the epicenter of marine biodiversity. A geographical information system analysis on an extensive marine species database in the Indo-Malay-Philippines Archipelago (which is part of what is known as the Coral Triangle), confirmed that the highest concentration of marine species per unit area is found in the Philippines. Stock assessment and taxonomic surveys show that Philippine marine