

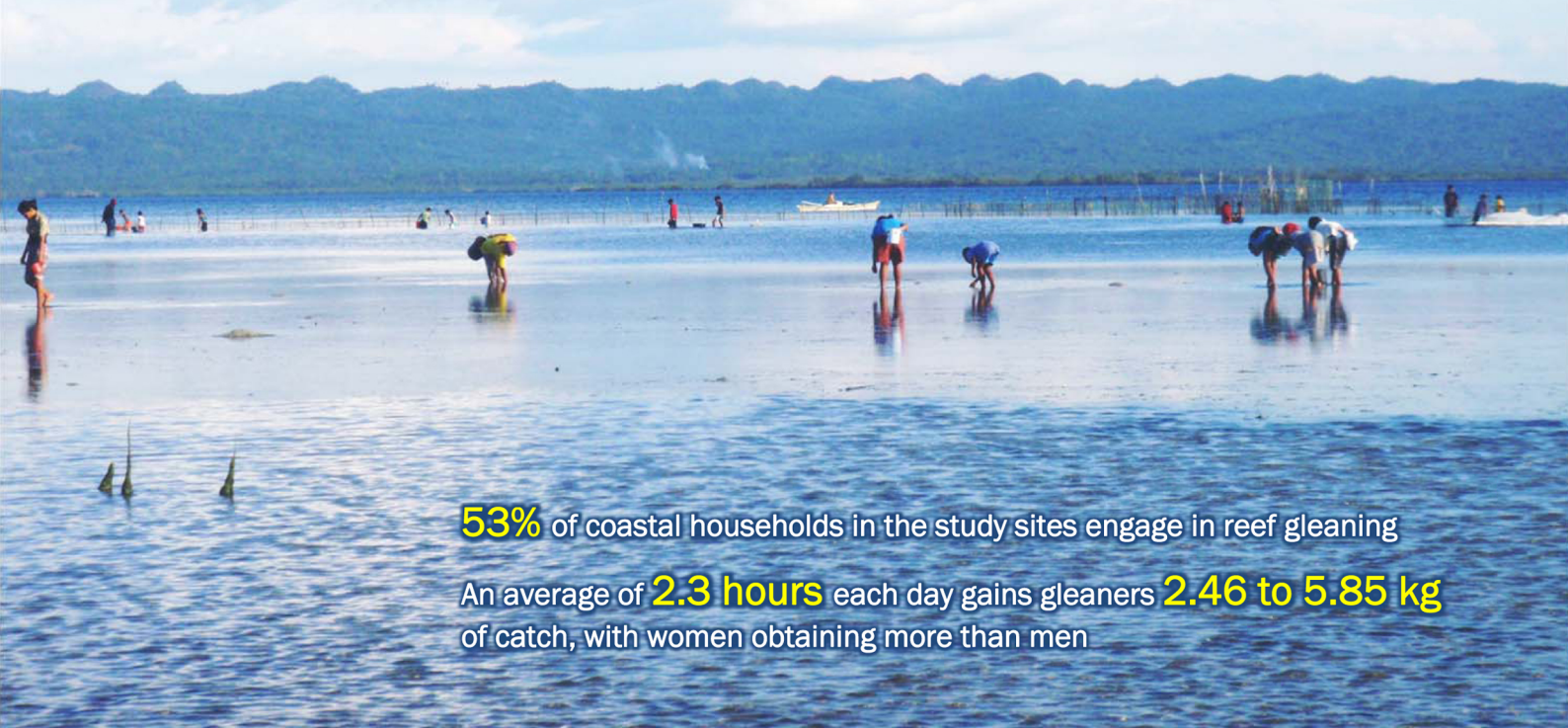
Reef gleaning in the Philippines:

Does it contribute to poverty alleviation & nutrient security?

Declining yields from artisanal, gear-based fisheries has led to increasing dependence on **subsistence fisheries** like reef gleaning.



Findings presented are from the EEPSEA-funded study “Economics of reef gleaning in the Philippines: Impacts on the Coastal Environment, Household Economy and Nutrition” by Asuncion B. De Guzman, Zenaida M. Sumalde, Mariel Denerie B. Colance, Mierra Flor V. Ponce, and Gemlyn Mar S. Rance. Five popular gleaning sites in the Philippines’ Mindanao and Visayas group of islands were surveyed. Reef gleaning, a form of subsistence fisheries, is an almost daily activity in all five sites. It is done on seagrass beds, rocky reef flats, and along the edge of mangrove forests. It involves men, women and children.



53% of coastal households in the study sites engage in reef gleaning

An average of **2.3 hours** each day gains gleaners **2.46 to 5.85 kg** of catch, with women obtaining more than men

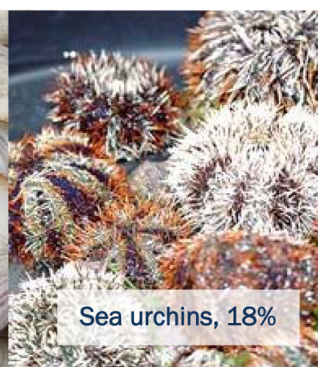
Edible mollusks, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers are common invertebrates in a gleaner’s catch.



Gastropods, 38%



Bivalves, 26%

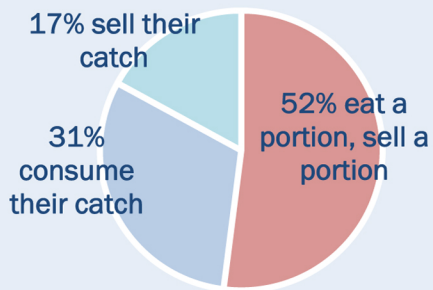


Sea urchins, 18%



Sea cucumbers, 6%

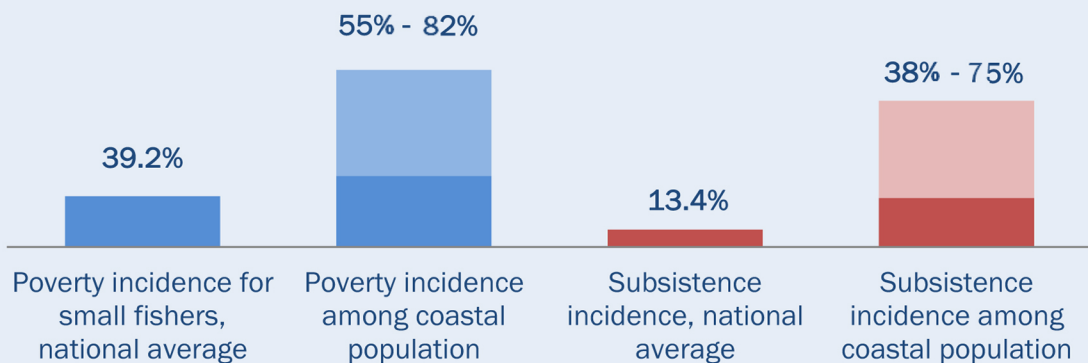
Most gleaning households sell a portion of their catch and reserve the rest for household consumption.



A large portion of the catch is eaten by the household so income from reef gleaning is very low.

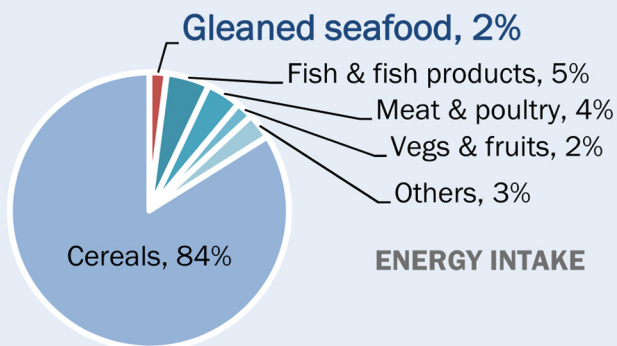
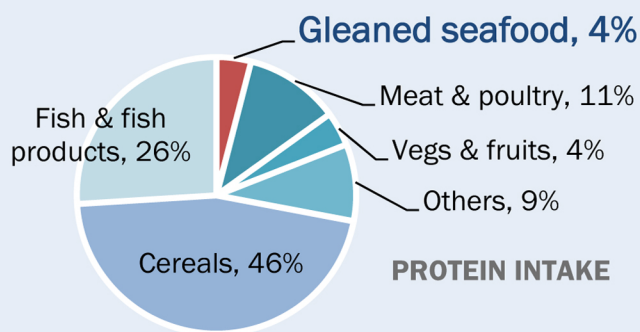
Php 26 to Php 92/gleaner per day is earned

Contributes only 5% to 28% to the household economy



Subsistence fishers remain the “poorest of the poor”

Although contribution to household income is marginal, reef gleaning is an indispensable source of protein and other nutrients for Philippine coastal communities.



High gleaning effort and destructive harvesting methods have led to the decline of invertebrate stocks in most areas threatening the sustainability of gleaning fisheries.

ACTION IS NEEDED.



- Formulate local policies to regulate gleaning effort and catches
- Identify “no entry” areas
- Implement “size limits” for high-value species
- Encourage less destructive methods of gathering
- Provide viable alternative livelihood options
- Make species inventory & catch assessment a regular collaborative activity between local government, academe, and local communities



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