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## Researchers achieve breakthrough in slipper lobster farming in the Philippines

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By Responsible Seafood Advocate

**Researchers successfully rear slipper lobster larvae to juveniles, marking a key step forward in slipper lobster farming in the Philippines**



Researchers successfully rear slipper lobster larvae to juveniles, marking a key step forward for aquaculture in the Philippines. Photo courtesy of [EAFDEC/Aquaculture Department](https://www.facebook.com/seafdec.aqd?_cft__[0]=AZUejg7VUjnVsMI3w12lrf99cGwNAkn2oajr3t3mst2UBY1G7dVwxDN53vdr3pScPG_KOCsNTUxUwZUKXXc9irEfzcNAxOcGhdZnUU_UNHx877MdsqyuJKWLPuWnx8jrHj29_CdMhk6P1ZEctJFI9uBQ&_tn_=-UC%2CP-R). ([https://www.facebook.com/seafdec.aqd?\\_cft\\_\\_\[0\]=AZUejg7VUjnVsMI3w12lrf99cGwNAkn2oajr3t3mst2UBY1G7dVwxDN53vdr3pScPG\\_KOCsNTUxUwZUKXXc9irEfzcNAxOcGhdZnUU\\_UNHx877MdsqyuJKWLPuWnx8jrHj29\\_CdMhk6P1ZEctJFI9uBQ&\\_tn\\_=-UC%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/seafdec.aqd?_cft__[0]=AZUejg7VUjnVsMI3w12lrf99cGwNAkn2oajr3t3mst2UBY1G7dVwxDN53vdr3pScPG_KOCsNTUxUwZUKXXc9irEfzcNAxOcGhdZnUU_UNHx877MdsqyuJKWLPuWnx8jrHj29_CdMhk6P1ZEctJFI9uBQ&_tn_=-UC%2CP-R))

Researchers at the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Department (SEAFDEC/AQD) in Tigbauan, Iloilo have **successfully grown slipper lobster larvae into juveniles** ([https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=987177500114302&id=100064661833050](https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=987177500114302&id=100064661833050)), moving closer to the goal of farming the valuable seafood.

The juveniles were the first produced by SEAFDEC/AQD, hatched last September from an egg-bearing lobster collected in Carles, Iloilo.

"Slipper lobster juveniles are the final product of a hatchery. Once we master producing more of them, we can move on to the mass production of slipper lobster in nurseries and grow-out farms," said Dan Baliao, chief of SEAFDEC/AQD.

The slipper lobster underwent four phyllosomal larval stages and a nisto stage before molting into juveniles after 42 days, measuring 0.6 centimeters in width and 1.6 centimeters in length. The initial hatching of slipper lobster eggs at SEAFDEC/AQD was part of a Japan-funded project aimed at developing a new aquaculture industry in the Philippines.

Locally known as "pitik-pitik" and scientifically as *Thenus orientalis*, slipper lobsters are priced between P500 and P700 per kilogram (U.S. \$8 to \$12 per kg), offering a more affordable alternative to the spiny lobster, which can cost over P1,500 (U.S. \$26).



(<https://link.chtbl.com/aquapod>).

*@GSA\_Advocate ([https://twitter.com/GSA\\_Advocate](https://twitter.com/GSA_Advocate))*

## Author

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**RESPONSIBLE SEAFOOD ADVOCATE**

[editor@globalseafood.org](mailto:editor@globalseafood.org) (<mailto:editor@globalseafood.org>)

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