



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

Fisheries Regional Office No. 10
Macabalan, Cagayan de Oro City
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PUBLIC ADVISORY
(January 23, 2019)

News has been circulating online regarding the spread of HIV-infected fishery products that has caused alarm to our markets as consumers have refrained from buying fish for fear of being infected with the HIV.

This is to assure the consuming public that all fishery products coming in and out of the region have been duly monitored and inspected by our BFAR-10 Inspection and Quarantine Services personnel to ensure the safety and general welfare of the public. Moreover, the spread of HIV is not possible by consuming fishes or fishery products. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus or HIV can only be transferred from one person to another- either by engaging in unprotected sex, blood to blood transmission, use of intravenous drugs with infected needles, and breastfeeding. Only these particular body fluids – seminal, vaginal and rectal fluids; blood, and breastmilk – from an infected person can transmit HIV. This has been confirmed by the Department of Health – Northern Mindanao through their massive information dissemination to counter this rapidly-spreading fake news.

Furthermore, no official reports have been received by BFAR-10 Regional Office or any of its provincial offices regarding deaths of individuals caused by consuming HIV-infected fishery products, contrary to the 372 deaths in Cagayan de Oro as mentioned in the fake news circulating online.

Let us all be vigilant and arm ourselves with the right information as we battle out the proliferation of fake news. Help prevent the spread of fake news.

Sources: <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1783550/Cagayan-De-Oro/Local-News/DOH-NorMin-Eating-fish-cant-cause-HIV-infection>

<https://www.philstar.com/nation/2019/01/23/1887309/doh-no-flu-outbreak-hiv-infected-fish>

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