

# Kapanogeng

**IVATAN, BATANES ISLAND GROUP PROVINCE, NORTHERN PHILIPPINES.** *This ritual is practiced by the Ivatan of Basco municipality to start the annual fishing season.*



© Cecilia V. Picache (Sabtang, 2010)

Shoulder-borne catch, a vated, (*Melampygus cuvier valenciennes*, English name, caranx) suspended on an oar.

THE ROOT WORD is *akdeng*, meaning a wound caused by fingernails or any sharp object pressed against the skin. In this ritual inaugurating the fishing season, pricking of the skin of a pig with fish hooks is the highlight. The idea is to make the hooks “lucky” by staining them with the blood of the pig and by sympathetic magic.

The ritual begins when the community assembles at the designated place in the morning, usually in the yard of the man elected to be the *mandinaw nu vanuwa*. They

clean the ceremonial boat then place the sacrificial animal (pig) on the bottom of the boat. They bring out their hooks already tied to fishing lines. The hooks are inserted into the skin and flesh of the animal to its torturous disconcertment, which gratifies the fishermen because it presages that the fish would swallow the bait and would not be able to escape. When done, the animal is killed. The hooks attached to the body are then extricated, not by unhooking, but by cutting off the skin and flesh to which the hooks are attached. The rest of the animal is then partitioned and cooked for the participants.

The ritual finally closes when the *mandinaw nu vanuwa* launches his boat out to sea and starts fishing. When he returns, he is expected to provide a prediction of how fishing will fare for that year.

FHH



© Cecilia V. Picache (Sabtang, 2010)

Catch of migratory fish, arayu.



© Renato S. Rastrollo / NCCA GAMABA (Sabtang, 2010)

Rolling surf on a quiescent beach in Batanes.