

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1001**



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Introduced by Lone District of Agusan del Norte Representative  
**HON. DALE B. CORVERA**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY**  
**OF CABADBARAN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE, AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Most coastal communities comprising the City of Cabadbaran earns a huge part of their livelihood and subsistence from the nearby waters of Butuan Bay, Bohol Sea and the Surigao Strait. In fact, Fishing ranks fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) in the top ten types of employment in the city. There are at least 1,360 registered fisherfolk, 91 fish traders and 7 fish brokers who participates in the estimated yield of 3.5 metric tons of fish catch per day.

However, in the most recent survey conducted by the Cabadbaran City government, it was revealed that its fisheries sector has been consistently experiencing shortages of bangus and tilapia fingerlings, low fish catch and encroachment of commercial fishing vessels. These problems are magnified by the fact that there are no easily available funding sources for fisherfolk who desires to own their fishing boats and gears.

Article XII, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution provides that “the goals of the national economy are a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth; a sustained increase in the amount of goods and services produced by the nation for the benefit of the people; and an expanding productivity as the key to raising the quality of life for all, especially the underprivileged.”

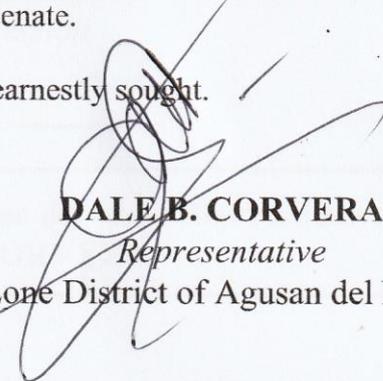
The proposed measure attempts to fulfill the declared policy enshrined in the aforementioned constitutional provision and address the problem in Cabadbaran’s fishing sector through the establishment of a marine breeding farm and hatchery in the City of Cabadbaran. It is hoped that the propagation of marine species and the continuous conduct of research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, will minimize, if not completely solve, the problems of the sector.

It is also worth noting that under the proposed measure, the BFAR and the city local government are mandated to develop an extension program that shall cater to the local

fisherfolk on the propagation of high-value marine species as an attempt to give more opportunities, income, and wealth to those who have less in life.

This version of the bill is a rehash of HB 8123 which was filed during the 19<sup>th</sup> Congress and approved by the House of Representatives on third reading on 29 May 2023. Unfortunately, no counterpart bill was filed by the Senate.

For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**DALE B. CORVERA**  
*Representative*  
Lone District of Agusan del Norte

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:*

**SECTION 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), a multi-species marine hatchery in the City of Cabadbaran, Province of Agusan del Norte.

**SEC. 2.** Prior to the establishment of the multi-species hatchery, the DA-BFAR shall conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of its construction to comply with the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR shall, through a memorandum of agreement, transfer its management to the local government of the City of Cabadbaran, Province of Agusan del Norte. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

**SEC. 3.** The DA-BFAR and City Government of Cabadbaran shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that will enhance the

fishing industry. Furthermore, they shall develop an extension program that shall cater to the local fisherfolk on the propagation of high-value marine species.

**SEC. 4.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the City of Cabadbaran, Province of Agusan del Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

**SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the City of Cabadbaran, Province of Agusan del Norte.

**SEC. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*