

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1002



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

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Seven (7) out of eight (8) barangays of the Municipality of Carmen are coastal communities. Based on the records of the municipality, there are at least 676 registered fishermen, who are mostly the breadwinners of their respective families, heavily dependent on fishing for lack of alternative employment. In fact, Fishing ranks second (2nd) among the top employment sectors in the area.

In a recent survey conducted by the municipality, the average annual income per household ranges from P25,000 – P34,999, which is way below when compared to the 2018 food threshold determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority at P88,044 annually. The food threshold is the amount needed by a family of five to meet their basic food needs. On the other hand, P125,772 is needed by a household of five to meet both their basic food and non-food necessities.

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.”

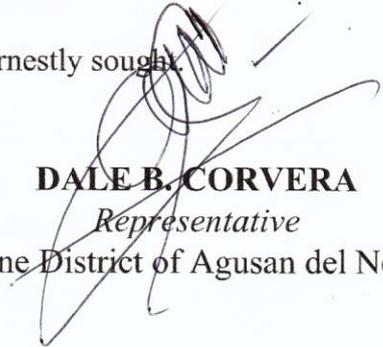
The proposed measure attempts to fulfill the declared policy enshrined in the aforementioned constitutional provision and alleviate the economic as well as social status of the citizens of the Municipality of Carmen. It is hoped that the propagation of marine species and the continuous conduct of research 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 Carmen Local Government Unit 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 8124 which was filed during the 19th 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 Municipality of Carmen, 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 Municipality of Carmen, 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 Municipality of Carmen, 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 Municipality of Carmen, 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,