

TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**H. No. 1792**

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Introduced by **Representative Binky April M. Tupas**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY**  
**IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Northern Iloilo facing the Visayan Sea is considered as the most productive fishing ground in the country. Majority of the registered fisherfolk at 32,089 or 66% of the total registered fisherfolk in the Province are from this area contributing most of the fish production from aquaculture and capture fisheries. Major fish produce are blue swimming crab, sardines, *bisugo*, and slip mouth.

Fisheries need to be sustainably managed in the Province especially in Northern Iloilo. With the growing demand for fishery commodities and the exploitation of our fisheries resources, there is a need for a sustainable management of the resource. Management of the fishery requires a balance between socio economic and governance interventions.

Carles is a first-class municipality in the Province of Iloilo. It is famous in Panay island for its rich fishing grounds. It is the northernmost municipality in the province and is 142 kilometers (88 mi) from the provincial capital, Iloilo City, and 71 kilometers (44 mi) from Roxas City. The land area is 11,204.68 hectares while the territorial waters are 367,625 hectares. Carles is divided into 33 barangays, 18 of which are island barangays.

The Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) strongly supports the Establishment of a Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery at Barangay Punta, Carles, Iloilo based on conducted feasibility study. The Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery will ensure the sustainable supply of seedstocks such as milkfish, grouper, seabass, pompano, mudcrab, shrimps and other fin fishes which will ensure continuous production and securing livelihoods especially in the aquaculture sector.

Production from this central marine hatchery will answer the large gap between the supply and demand for milkfish fry and fingerling of the Province and of the Region.

The market gap analysis conducted by BFAR 6 is provided below:

**Table 2. Milkfish fry market gap analysis**

Western Visayas		
Supply (pcs)	Demand (pcs)	Gap
74 M	351 M	277 M

Proposed Core Hatchery		
Supply (pcs)	Demand (pcs)	% Market Share
25 M	16 M	63%

Market	Actual Market Estancia	Potential Market
Primary Market	63%	126%
Secondary Market	37%	-

Source: FS team

Note: M – million

The Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery will provide the eggs/larvae for the operation of existing satellite hatcheries in the region. The facility will also ensure the success of the proposed Mariculture Park in Northern Iloilo with the steady supply of seed stocks. The facility is also in line with the Bangus Fry Sufficiency Program of the national government and BFAR 6 which will provide necessary support to the realization of a Central Multi-Species Marine Hatchery at Barangay Punta, Carles, Iloilo.

The estimated investment from the national government is Php 30 M and the projected income on an annual basis for milkfish, pompano, mangrove crab, and shrimp are provided below:

Commodity	Annual Gross Income (Php)	Annual Net Income (Php)	Expected ROI (%)	PP
Milkfish	9 million	4 million	15.05	4.84
Pompano	37 million	30 million	112.39	0.85
Mangrove Crab	23.5 million	19.2 million	72.74	1.28
Shrimp	15.3 million	7.3 million	27.66	3

This bill was already passed on Third Reading by the 19th Congress. Its implementation will further strengthen resilience and enhance productivity of the fisheries sector and allied industries.

For these reasons, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
BINKY APRIL M. TUPAS

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL MULTI-SPECIES MARINE**  
**HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF**  
**ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*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 central multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo.

**SEC. 2.** Prior to the establishment of the central multi-species marine 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.

The DA-BFAR shall, within three (3) years after the establishment of the central multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the Northern Iloilo State University (NISU) through a Memorandum of Agreement. The DA-BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for NISU personnel and the local government personnel of the Municipality of Carles on the management and operation of the central multi-species marine hatchery.

The DA-BFAR and the NISU shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the fisheries industry.

**SEC. 3.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The NISU shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

**SEC. 4.** Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture and the NISU shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the central multi-species marine hatchery to the NISU.

**SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,