

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 1793

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, 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.

The Municipality of Concepcion is a first class, coastal municipality in the Province of Iloilo. It is 97 kilometers from the provincial capital, Iloilo City. Concepcion is politically subdivided into 25 barangays, 11 of which are island barangays.

The primary industry of the people of Concepcion is in fishing. The Visayan Sea, where Concepcion is situated, is one of the most prolific in fish production and provides a significant proportion of fish in the region.

The Department of Agriculture - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) strongly supports the Establishment of a Multi-Species Marine Hatchery at the Northern Iloilo State University (NISU) Concepcion Campus based on conducted feasibility study. The Multi-Species Marine Hatchery will ensure the sustainable supply of seedstocks such as milkfish, grouper, seabass, pompano, mudcrabs, shrimps and other finfishes will ensure continuous production and securing livelihoods especially in the aquaculture sector.

Production from this satellite hatchery will answer the large gap between the supply and demand for milkfish fry and fingerling of the Province and the Region. The facility will also ensure the success of the proposed Mariculture Park in the municipality of Concepcion with the steady supply of seed stocks.

The facility which is in line with the Bangus Fry Sufficiency Program of the national government and BFAR 6 will provide necessary support to the realization of a Multi-Species Marine Hatchery at NISU Concepcion Campus, Concepcion, Iloilo. The hatchery operation will provide the necessary input in the supply chain for provision of fry for fingerling production, necessary for fishpond and cage production. The BFAR piloted the Public-Private Partnership with NISU Concepcion, YLD Holdings Corporation, and ABAW Small Fisherfolk Association of Concepcion, Iloilo. This will showcase the value chain link from fry to processing of milkfish.

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

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 1793

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

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, 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 multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Concepcion, Province of Iloilo.

SEC. 2. Prior to the establishment of the 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 multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the Northern Iloilo State University (NISU) through a Memorandum of Agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for NISU personnel and the local government personnel of the Municipality of Concepcion on the management and operation of the 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 Concepcion, 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 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,