

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session  
HOUSE BILL No. **2682**



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Introduced by **HON. JASON P. ALMONTE**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

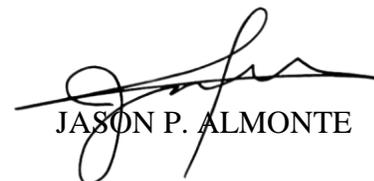
The City of Oroquieta, located along the rich fishing grounds of Panguil Bay, has long depended on its coastal resources to support the livelihoods of its people. However, dwindling fish stocks, environmental degradation, and climate-related pressures have posed significant threats to the sustainability of fisheries in the area.

This bill proposes the establishment of a multi-species marine hatchery in the City of Oroquieta, Province of Misamis Occidental, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture. The hatchery shall serve as a vital facility for the breeding, propagation, and production of fingerlings of key aquatic species, including fish, shrimp, and crab. These efforts aim to augment the supply of seed stock for local aquaculture ventures, reduce dependence on wild catch, and promote more stable and sustainable fishery-based livelihoods.

The measure provides for a full-scale feasibility study, to be conducted by BFAR, prior to construction and operate the hatchery during a two-year transition period before turning over its management to the local government. The measure also mandates continuing research to enhance hatchery technologies and ensure adaptability to local conditions.

This measure has been approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives and transmitted to the Senate during the 19th Congress.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
JASON P. ALMONTE

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AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY OF  
OROQUIETA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, 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 City of Oroquieta, Province of Misamis Occidental.

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. 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 Oroquieta. 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 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 technologies that will enhance the fishing industry.

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 Oroquieta, Province of Misamis Occidental, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds 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 Oroquieta, Province of Misamis Occidental.

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,