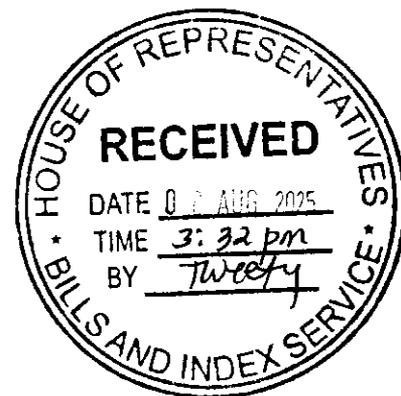


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3280**



Introduced by Honorable EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

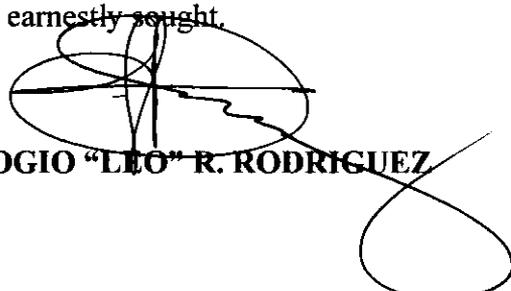
Section 1, Article XII of the 1987 Constitution provides that the goals of the national economy include a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income, and wealth. Furthermore, it declares that expanding productivity is the key to raising the quality of life. Additionally, Section 7, Article XIII mandates the State to protect the rights of subsistence fishermen by providing support through appropriate technology and research, as well as financial, production, and marketing assistance.

In line with these Constitutional mandates, this bill proposes the establishment of a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Bato, Province of Catanduanes, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. The Bato marine hatchery will serve as the island's marine research and production facility for breeding and distribution of fingerlings that can thrive in the local environment. Through continuous research and experimentation, the hatchery aims to develop new methods and technologies for application in the local setting to boost marine production, reduce pressure on wild populations, and contribute to the adoption of modern, efficient, and sustainable fisheries practices.

The island province of Catanduanes, being geographically separated from mainland Luzon and frequently affected by severe typhoons, will significantly benefit from the establishment of a hatchery. This facility promotes geographically specific and science-based solutions, to capacitate Catandunganons to harness its marine resources sustainably, contribute to food security, generate livelihood opportunities, and foster inclusive economic growth in the Bicol Region.

Notably, the House of Representatives had already approved this bill seeking to establish a Multi-Species Marine Hatchery and Research Center in the Municipality of Bato, Province of Catanduanes on Third and Final Reading during the 19th Congress. However, due to lack of material time, the Senate was unable to consider and approve the said measure. In this view, to address the pressing food security and livelihood needs of the Bicol Region, this representation has filed the same bill in the 20th Congress.

Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


EULOGIO "LEO" R. RODRIGUEZ

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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3280

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY AND RESEARCH
CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in the 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 Bato, Province of Catanduanes.

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 three (3) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Bato. 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 Municipality of Bato, Province of Catanduanes, 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 Municipality of Bato, Province of Catanduanes.

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,