

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3385



Introduced by **HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA, HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, AND HON. TERRY L. RIDON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fish is one of our primary sources of protein and livelihood in the Philippines as we are surrounded by bodies of water that likewise serve as fishing grounds. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported that more than one billion people worldwide depend on fish. Unfortunately, almost 90% of our world's fish stock is exploited due to illegal activities. For instance, in the Philippines, our number one fishing problem is overfishing which accounts for 70% of our fishing grounds. As of 2022, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resource (BFAR) reported that there are a total of 2,302,648 registered fisherfolk in the Philippines, excluding unregistered ones.

Fishing is not problematic as it is necessary for our daily sustenance, however, if we exploit our natural resources and fail to replenish, by 2048, we might end up with an "empty" oceans. Unfortunately, our fishermen likewise do overfishing, which damages our marine ecosystem. We need to create policies that shall ensure that for the next years and beyond, we will continue to have ample supply of seafood in our food chain.

The waters of Camarines Sur show great potential for marine hatcheries because of the abundance of edible marine species of high commercial value in it. The Municipality of Libmanan has the Libmanan River that stretches for 94 kilometers. It is considered one of the major waterways in the region as it serves as one of the venues for farming, fishing, and transportation, which makes the municipality a viable candidate for a marine hatchery. It likewise presents an opportunity for our fisherfolk to undergo training to improve productivity and be educated on the dangers of depletion due to unscientific and indiscriminate practices.

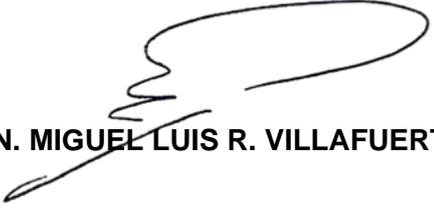
This bill was filed during the 18th Congress but only remained pending with the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources. However, during the 19th Congress, this was finally approved on Third Reading, thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Horibata".

HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "V. Villafuerte".

HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE



HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE



HON. TERRY L. RIDON

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBMANAN, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, 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 satellite multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur.

SECTION. 2. - Prior to the establishment of the satellite 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, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer the management to the local government of the Municipality of Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

SECTION. 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.

SECTION. 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 Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur, 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.

SECTION. 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 Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur.

SECTION. 6. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,