

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3386



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

According to the Department of Health (DOH), fish is one of our primary sources of protein as part of our food pyramid to make our bones and teeth stronger and build our muscles and tissues. The World Health Organization (WHO) even reported that more than one billion people worldwide depend on fish. Furthermore, it is one of our main sources of livelihood in the Philippines as we are surrounded by bodies of water that likewise serve as fishing grounds. Unfortunately, almost 90% of our world's fish stock is exploited due to illegal activities, such as overfishing on an estimate of 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, not even considering 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 "empty" oceans due to illegal fishing and overfishing. Unfortunately, our fishermen themselves, including those illegal fishermen locally and from neighboring countries, engage in such illegal activities, which damages our marine ecosystem and risks our fish stocks to a low number. According to the Oceana, an International Ocean Advocacy Organization, the Philippines is now experiencing the lowest level of coastal food supply, thus, we need to be more aggressive in creating policies that shall ensure ample food supply of seafood in our food chain for the next years and beyond.

The waters of Camarines Sur show great potential for marine hatcheries because of the abundance of edible marine species of high commercial value there. The Municipality of Pasacao depends on the Ragay Gulf for fishing, 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 17th, 18th and 19th Congresses and was approved on Third Reading, thus, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA



HON. VINCENZO RENATO LUIGI R. VILLAFUERTE



HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE



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AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SATELLITE MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PASACAO, 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 Pasacao, 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 satellite multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer the management of the same to the local government of the Municipality of Pasacao. The DA-BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the local government personnel on the management and operation of the satellite multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION. 3. - The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the satellite multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Pasacao, 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 satellite multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION. 4. - Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the satellite multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Pasacao.

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

Approved,