

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE:	17 AUG 2016
TIME:	2:01 PM
BY:	peh
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

HOUSE BILL NO. 3063

Introduced by **ENGR. CARLITO S. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish in the Province of Aklan, a Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Training, Development, and Product Center, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA). The construction of the Center is part of the government's commitment to deliver precise interventions and promote inclusive growth in the fishery sector.

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), is an agency of the Philippine government under the Department of Agriculture that is responsible for the development, improvement, management and conservation of the Philippines' fisheries and aquatic resources.

The Province of Aklan is gifted with aquatic resources and fishery is currently the dominant economic activities, aside from tourism. The neighboring Sibuyan Sea makes Aklan a rich fishing area. Annual harvest is estimated at 13,814 metric tons. The province has 11 coastal municipalities where different species of fish and other marine resources like seaweed and oysters are abundant. The culture of prawns, crabs and milkfish (bangus) is a major activity. Prawns and crabs are the major exports of Aklan. BFAR recognizes the need to uplift the plight of fisherfolk in the province.


In fact, the first community fish landing center (CFLC) in Western Visayas was launched in Barangay Bugtongbato, Ibaday town, recently. The P2.8-million facility will serve as a hub for landing and trading of fish and other seafood products, and a venue for skills trainings, and processing, value-adding, and conservation and protection of fishery resources. The project was funded by BFAR and the local government of Ibaday under BFAR's Targeted Action to Reduce Poverty and Generate Economic Transformation in the Fishery Sector program. It was one of the 252 CFLCs that BFAR plans to put up nationwide to improve the economic condition of fisherfolk communities.

Other areas in Aklan where BFAR aims to build such centers are Malay, Altavas, Makato, Kalibo, Buruanga, and New Washington. These would house post-harvest equipment and tools that will enable fisherfolk to preserve the good quality of their fish and fishery products, which they could sell for a higher price. Local consumers will also benefit from the fish landing centers as they will have better access to safe and quality fishery commodities. The facilities will also be opened as venues for skills trainings on disaster-resilient fisheries-based livelihoods and resource management such as monitoring fish catch and stock assessment. However, these facilities are not sufficient training centers.

At present, there is no training center for fisheries and aquatic resources, its development, management and conservation despite the advent of Republic Act 8550 (The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998). Likewise, RA 8435 (Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997) could not be fully realized in the province because no Center has the optimum goal in modernizing the fisheries sector of the country in order to enhance their profitability, and prepare said sector for the challenges of the globalization through an adequate, focused and rational delivery of necessary support services. This

Center will go alongside the fish landing centers all over Aklan for the fisherfolk of the whole province.

Immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ENGR. CARLITO "Lito" MARQUEZ 

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 3063

Introduced by **ENGR. CARLITO S. MARQUEZ**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL FISHERIES AND
AQUATIC RESOURCES TRAINING,
DEVELOPMENT, AND PRODUCT CENTER IN THE
PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. There shall be established in the Province of Aklan, a Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Training, Development, and Product Center, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA).

The BFAR shall collaborate with, and tap the expertise, resources and facilities of, the state universities and colleges in the province in the establishment, management and operation of the center.

SECTION 2. The provincial center shall, at a minimum, provide onsite and online access to the following:

- (a) Applied technology for innovative and sustainable fish breeding and hatchery of high-value marine species;
- (b) Training activities and technical assistance to provide sustainable development and production support and education to fisherfolk;
- (c) Technical assistance for sustainable production and environmentally sound postharvest development services;
- (d) Technical assistance in the establishment, operation, enhancement and maintenance of government-operated marine sanctuaries, seaweed nurseries, seaweed processing plants, and marine-culture park facilities;
- (e) Catalog, display, and promote local fisheries and aquatic products, and provide marketing and product distribution assistance to fisherfolk; and
- (f) Database of available insurance and credit assistance for fisherfolk, and local and international grants and scholarships for fisheries and aquatic resources studies and research.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Training, Development, and Product Center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Apart from the fund from the GAA,

the local government units concerned shall set aside from any available local revenue an amount deemed appropriate to support the operation of the center.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved.