

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

4883

**HOUSE BILL NO.** \_\_\_\_\_



---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Siocon is a municipality in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte with a population of 46, 907 people as of the 2015 census. It is an area with two great bodies of water, the Sulu Sea and the Siocon River. As such, fishing is one of the major livelihoods of its residents, second only to farming.

As a municipality that depends on its aquatic resources for its economy and the livelihood of its residents, it is crucial that a sustainable supply of fisheries is maintained in the bodies of water around it. Indeed, one of the measures undertaken by the local government of Siocon is to rigorously enforce the prohibition of commercial fishing within fifteen (15) kilometers of municipal waters under Republic Act 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code, as amended. Another is its strict implementation of closed fishing seasons, when fish and other marine animals are allowed to grow and multiply. Despite these measures however, there is still a need for a pro-active measure to maintain and increase the supply of marine resource in the area, using scientific and research-based methods.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Siocon in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. A multi-species hatchery will address the problem of maintaining the supply of fish and other marine resources in Sulu Sea and Siocon River and contribute to the economic development of the municipality and its nearby areas. In turn, this will promote the policy of the State under the Constitution to provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services.

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

  
**ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 4883**

---

**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

---

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF SIOCON, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

**SECTION 2.** The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the establishment of the multispecies hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government of the Municipality of Siocon through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species hatchery.

**SECTION 3.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Siocon, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The local government of the Municipality of Siocon shall set aside funds from any available local revenue such amounts as may be appropriate to support the operation of the multi-species marine hatchery.

**SECTION 4.** Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, and eventual transfer of the management of the multi-species marine hatchery.

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

Approved,