

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1728**



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Reports have it that over seventy percent (70%) of the world's fish stocks are fully exploited or are already overfished. Overfishing is a major concern globally, with experts issuing warnings that if sustainable fishing is not practiced and oceans are not given time to recover, they could become 'virtual deserts' by 2050 or barely 33 years from now<sup>1</sup>.

Still, there is an ever-increasing demand for high-value marine species in both local and export markets. As fish stocks diminish, aquaculture is seen as way to satisfy the world's growing appetite for fish and at the same time allow wild fish species to multiply their numbers.

In the Philippines, aquaculture is a growing industry that provides livelihood to hundreds of thousands and their number is consistently on the rise. The potential of the sector in contributing significantly to the economic development of the country should be recognized and maximized, especially that many of our traditional fishing grounds are getting overfished.

The waters of Camarines Sur show great potential for marine hatcheries because of the abundance edible marine species of high commercial value there. The establishment of a marine hatchery in Libmanan 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.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/will-there-be-enough-fish-to-feed-the-world-in-2050>

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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 (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur.

**SECTION 2.** The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the 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 Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

**SECTION 4.** Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision and monitoring, and the transfer or withdrawal by the BFAR 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,*