

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4442



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**Introduced by Representative Gil "Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta**

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY**  
**IN BARANGAY BINDUYAN, CITY OF PUERTO PRINCESA,**  
**PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS**  
**THEREFOR**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

What happens when fishermen run out of fish to catch? This was the dilemma of many of our marginal fisherfolks in most of the coastal areas of the country. Due to overfishing activities and unsustainable fishing methods, many coral reefs and spawning areas of marine resources near the coastal villages were depleted of its fish population.

The main livelihood of people in coastal communities is to catch fish and other marine creatures like shrimp, shells, seaweeds and squids. As the fish were in real short supply, coastal residents had to go far off the coast to find fish and it was really expensive.

Aside from spending more resources on gas just to get enough catch, the fishermen also had to deal with harsh weather environments at the sea where, when the waves are high, they couldn't go far.

In the province of Palawan and the City of Puerto Princesa, the opportunities looked promising in areas where natural resources can be found everywhere including places where marine resources are a good source of livelihood. But admittedly, these resources may not be sustainably available since the resource competition is intense.

To lighten the impact of resource depletion, the available technologies that improve stocks of high value marine commodities could be propagated by establishing a multi-species marine hatchery in areas where it is most likely to succeed, and where resource end users could best benefit from these facilities.

While the DA-BFAR's mandate includes popularization of aquaculture and similar endeavors, the task to manage and sustain a multi-species marine hatchery in the City of Puerto Princesa area could best be handled by Western Philippines University where their human resources and logistics are readily available.

It is noteworthy that this legislative measure was filed by former Representative Gil "Kabarangay" P. Acosta, approved by the House, and transmitted to the Senate in the Seventeenth Congress.

Taking into account the points raised, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gil A. Acosta', written over a vertical line that extends from the text below.

Gil "Kabarangay Jr." A. Acosta  
Representative  
3<sup>rd</sup> District of Palawan

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*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 multispecies marine hatchery in the Barangay Binduyan, City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan.

**SECTION 2.** The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the multispecies marine hatchery to the Western Philippines University within five (5) years after its construction through a memorandum of agreement. With the assistance of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center Aquaculture Division, the BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for WPU personnel on the management and operation of the multispecies marine hatchery.



**SECTION 3.** The BFAR-DA and the WPU shall develop an extension program to be funded by the Department of Agriculture and the Committee on Higher Education which shall cater to marginal fisherfolk to educate them on new methods and technology especially on the propagation of high-value marine species.

**SECTION 4.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multispecies marine hatchery in Barangay Binduyan, City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The WPU shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

**SECTION 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the multispecies marine hatchery to the WPU.

**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.