

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

17<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session

House Bill No. **3211**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**RECEIVED**

DATE: **22 AUG 2016**

TIME: **2:54 PM**

BY: **[Signature]**

REGISTRATION UNIT  
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Introduced by **EMMANUEL A. BILLONES**

***Explanatory Note***


The even distribution of rainfall throughout the year makes Roxas City and the Province of Capiz highly suitable for agriculture and aquaculture industries. Its waters teem with the best gifts of the sea—blue marlin, tuna, prawns and shrimps, crabs, eel, shellfish and other marine species. Prawns and milkfish are also cultured in fishponds.

The vibrant economy of Roxas City rests on its food production and processing especially marine products. The fishing port at Barangay Libas provides anchorage and center for trade and marine products. There are also several sophisticated food-processing plants in the city exporting their products to Japan, the United States and *European countries*. *The abundance of marine products has earned Roxas City the moniker "Seafood Capital of the Philippines."*

Thus, the establishment of a fisheries and aquatic resource center in Roxas City is indeed imperative to complement or complete the existing circumstances and prerequisites of being a total seafood capital of the Philippines.

The center will provide technical assistance and services to the fishery sector not only in Roxas City but also in the whole province of Capiz. It shall set the directions, objectives, and the operations of many fishing activities. It will engage in technology, research and development in the field of fishery, and streamline all concerns of fisheries and aquatic sectors.

This bill was filed during the Thirteenth Congress and was approved on third reading by the House of Representatives. It was subsequently transmitted to the Senate for concurrence but the dearth of time had impeded the approval of the said bill. Thus, the refiling of this bill is needed and its immediate approval is earnestly sought.

  
**EMMANUEL A. BILLONES**  
Representative  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Capiz

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES CENTER IN THE**  
**CITY OF ROXAS, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ, 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 is hereby established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture, a fisheries and aquatic resources center in the City of Roxas, Province of Capiz.

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the funding requirements for the establishment and operation of the fisheries and aquatic resources center in the City of Roxas, Province of Capiz. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its continued operation and maintenance shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 3.** This Secretary of Agriculture shall issue such rules and regulations necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

**SECTION 4.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,