

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4908



Introduced by Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As a manifestation of support to this timely piece of legislation, this representation respectfully refiles this bill, which has constantly been receiving support from the past and present Congress.

Recent developments have pointed out the misgivings of the local fish market to supply the increasing demand of the growing populace. While the government has adopted different policy actions to address this issue, this representation strongly believes that there is a need to further expand the approach in addressing it. Introducing measures that will eventually lead to the long-term development of the fishing industry must also be put into action to better compliment the short-term effort of the government.

The proposed measure aims to empower marginal fishermen by organizing them into cooperatives. This would tremendously help the fishing industry as the growth of cooperatives among fry gatherers, small-scale fishermen, and small fish farmers will enable them to receive an equitable share in the benefits delivered to the industry. Logistically speaking, it will also be easier for the government to provide support and assistance logistically speaking.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN MARVIN "YUL SERVO" C. NIETO

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF COOPERATIVES
FOR FRY GATHERERS, SMALL SCALE FISHERMEN AND FISH FARMERS**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. It is policy of the State to promote the growth of cooperatives among fry gatherers, small-scale fishermen, and small fish farmers to enable them to receive an equitable share in the benefits delivered from the fishing industry. Such cooperatives shall receive the support and assistance of the government.

SECTION 2. Definition. For the purpose of the Act, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. Fry gatherer - shall refer to an individual, usually self-employed who is engaged in the catching, gathering or collecting of fish fry with the use of nets, traps, or other fishing gear for the purpose of selling them.
- b. Small scale fishermen - shall refer to an individual, either self-employed or employed by others who is engaged in fishing, utilizing for the purpose fishing boats of three gross tons or less or using gear without the use of such boats.
- c. Small fish farmer - shall refer to an individual who owns not more than one hectare of fishpond or leases not more than three hectares of fishpond or owns not more than one-half hectare of fish pens.
- d. Cooperative - shall mean an association of fry gatherers, small farmers organized and registered pursuant to Presidential Decree Numbered One Hundred Seventy-Five, as amended.
- e. Organization of Cooperatives - fry gatherers, small-scale fishermen and small fish farmers shall be organized as cooperatives and be registered under Republic Act 6939 under the supervision of the Cooperative Development Authority.

SECTION 3. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Development Authority under the Office of the President shall initiate and develop programs to promote, encourage, and assist the organization of such cooperatives.

SECTION 4. Privileges of Cooperatives. In addition to the privileges granted to cooperatives under Presidential Decree Numbered One Hundred Seventy-Five, as further amended by Republic Act Numbered Six Thousand

Nine Hundred Thirty-Nine, fishery cooperatives organized under this Act shall have the following fishery privileges:

- a. Availment of the privilege of constructing and operating oyster culture beds; gathering fish fry in municipal waters; operating fish fry in municipal water operating fishing boats of three gross or less in municipal waters, or fishing in municipal waters with nets, traps or other fishing gear not prohibited by Republic Act. No. 8550, as provided in Section Twenty-Nine of Presidential Decree Numbered Seven Hundred Four, subject to the conditions imposed thereof;
- b. Availment of loans under liberal terms as provided for in Section Forty-Two and Forty-Three of Presidential Decree Numbered Seven Hundred Four and Republic Act. No. 8550;
- c. Availment of training programs, measures and studies conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and other government agencies and institutions; and
- d. Availment of technical assistance provided by government agencies and private institutions.

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Cooperative Development Authority shall, in coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All law decrees order rule and regulation or part thereof inconsistent with the provision of this act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,