

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 1120

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Barotac Viejo is a third-class municipality in the province of Iloilo. According to the 2010 census, it has a population of 41,470 people. The Municipality of Barotac Viejo is in the northern part of the Province of Iloilo, facing the strait of Guimaras and the island of Negros. It is bounded on the north by San Rafael, on the west by Banate, on the south by the Visayan Sea, and on the east by Ajuy.

Barotac Viejo has two rivers, namely the Barotac Viejo River and the Barotac Cayo River. It has several creeks or springs. The Barotac Viejo River is the longest and the widest river passing through the heart of the town. It has never been dry but it sometimes overflows its banks on rainy days. The river is utilized for bathing, laundry and fishing. In addition, the municipality has approximately ten miles of shallow shorelines and nearby fishponds are also present.

This Bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Barotac Viejo to catalyze the development of aquaculture in the town which can provide both direct and indirect employment to its people.

The approval of this Bill would help increase the income of fisher folks who, together with farmers, remained among the poorest in the country. Latest study on the poverty statistics for basic sectors showed that fishermen posted the highest poverty incidence for nine basic sectors in the Philippines at 41.4 percent, and this had remained unchanged since 2006.

The bill was deliberated and approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17th Congress.

In view thereof, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
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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 multispecies marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo.

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within three (3) years after the establishment of the multispecies marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC) through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for NIPSC personnel on the management and operation of the multispecies marine hatchery.

The BFAR-DA and the NIPSC shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the fisheries industry.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multispecies marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The NIPSC concerned shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Agriculture and the NIPSC shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the multispecies marine hatchery to the NIPSC.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,