

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

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**5413**

**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

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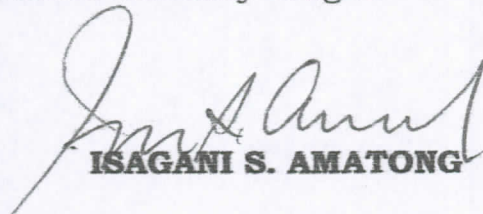
**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Sibuco is a coastal municipality in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte with a population of 34,620 as of the 2015 census. It faces the Sulu Sea and thus, fishing is one of the major livelihoods of its residents.

Fishing sardines is the focus of the Sibuco fishermen. However, there are other species of fish that are caught in the Sulu Sea such as tuna, red grouper, Salay-salay Ginto (scad), and cuttlefish, which are regarded as "high-valued species" because of its greater price in the market. To promote fishing of "high-valued species" and to help the marginal fishermen boost their income, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources together with the Southern Philippines Deep Sea Fishing Association, Inc. (SOPHIL) has already distributed free fishing gears for "high-valued species" to some fishermen in the area. Despite this commendable action, however, another more pro-active measure to promote "high-valued species fishing" is to add to the supply of high-valued species in the Sulu Sea by using scientific and research-based methods.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Sibuco in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. A multi-species hatchery will address the problem of low-income fishing of the residents and will increase the supply of "high-valued species" in the Sulu Sea, thereby contributing to the economic growth of Sibuco and nearby coastal areas and to the livelihood of the residents. As such, the policy of the State to provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services, under the Constitution, will be promoted.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**ISAGANI S. AMATONG**



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUCO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.

**SECTION 2.** The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the establishment of the multispecies hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government of the Municipality of Sibuco through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species 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 Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

The local government of the Municipality of Sibuco shall set aside funds from any available local revenue such amounts as may be appropriate to support the operation of the multi-species marine hatchery.

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

