**REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND INSTITUTIONS ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF NIGERIA, NGO, FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND COOPERATIVE TRAINING IN NIGERIA; AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS (HB.1310)**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Consequent upon the Debates and Resolution of the House at it Plenary sessions, a Bill Institute of Nigeria, Ngo, for Fisheries Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for other Related Matters (HB.1310) was referred to the Committee for further legislative action on Tuesday 13th March, 2018.

**2.0 OBJECTIVE OF THE BILL**

The Bill seeks to establish the Institute of Nigeria, Ngo, for Fisheries Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria with the broad functions of research, experimentation, sample application and patenting, education and training among others.

**3.0 HIGHLIGHT OF COMMITTEE’S ACTIVITIES**

The Committee conducted a Public Hearing of relevant Stakeholders on Monday and Tuesday, 7th and 8th of May, 2018 where both oral and written submissions were made. Additionally, the Committee consulted the under listed documents:

1. Gazette copy of the referred Bills
2. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended;
3. The House of Representatives Order;
4. The Internet;
5. Research made on similar provisions.

The Committee in its legislative action on the Bill, observed that the Bill ‘ A Bill for an Act to Establish the Fisheries Research Institute of Nigeria, NGO, for Fisheries Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for other related matters’ conflicts with other existing Acts, however, in the consideration of the general submissions made, the Committee adopted ‘a Bill to Establish the National Institute of Brackish Water Fisheries Research of Nigeria, NGO, for Fisheries Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for other related matters’ which will focus on researches into brackish water fishes with a mandate among others, to:

1. Conduct basic and applied research of national and strategic importance for sustenance of brackish water culture systems;

2. Act as repository of information on brackish water fishery resources with a systematic database;

3. Direct the processes of species and systems expansion in Nigeria brackish water aquaculture;

4. Provide platform for human resource development, capacity building and skill development through training, education and extension;

5. Conduct research into brackish water quality management, pollution control and fisheries resources economics and marketing; and

6. Improve and enhance the livelihoods of the creeks dwellers with emphasis on youths and women.

**4.0 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

The Institute seeks to draw its funding from:

(a) Annual subvention from the Federal Government;

(b) Monetary gifts, Research Grants or Aids and Contribution from National and International Organisations; and

(c) Internally generated revenue from research breakthroughs, products and services provided at the ratio of 75%-25% for the Institute and the Federal Government respectively.

**5.0 AMENDED AND DELETED CLAUSES**

The Bill consists of twenty-three (23 clauses), the Committee in its in-depth review, made the following amendments as tabulated in its report as presented to the House in plenary for approval.

**ALLOCATION OF CAR PACK SPACE**The Chairman directed the Director Management Services to oversee the allocation of car parking space to Membersfollow up and calls had been made to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Accountant General of the Federation Office to speed up the paymentinterfaced with the Clerk of the National Assembly (CNA) and the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance to resolve the impasse over the payment of Members allowanceThe Chairman however, noted that several follow up and calls had been made to the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Accountant General of the Federation Office to speed up the payment.

**ALLOCATION OF OFFICES**

The Chairman reiterated the order of allocation of offices as follows:

1. Health grounds
2. Requests made to the CHR
3. Requests made to the Sergeant-at-Arm (though wrongly routed, it would be considered for fairness)
4. Requests made to the Committee.

.

**Hon. Linus Okorie *FCA***

Chairman