

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 789



Introduced by Representative Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 18 of R.A. No. 8550, otherwise known as the Fisheries Code of 1998 allows fishing vessel with a gross weight of 50 tons to catch within the 15- kilometer municipal fishing water previously reserved to local fisher folks. This provision allows commercial fishing numbering to 3,275 as of 1998, to proliferate and monopolize fish catch operation in areas once considered as marginal fisher folks and total destruction of coastal water resources which had reached its maximum sustainability; a consequence that entail economic and environmental costs, and the dehumanization of the lives of Filipino fishermen.

Although the law allows equal playing field for both small fisher folks and commercial fishers to develop the fishing industry of the country, it will however result to inequitable and grossly unfair competition that will ultimately result to marginalization of the lives of ordinary fisher folks.

This bill seeks to amend Section 18 of R.A. No. 8550 to rectify the inequity that the Fisheries code had created by granting the municipal water for the exclusive use of the municipal fisher folks.

In view of the foregoing, approval of the attached bill is urgently urged.

HARLIN CAST. ABAYON

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AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 18, ARTICLE I OF R.A. NO. 8550, ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF THE FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, INTEGRATING ALL LAWS PERTINENT THERETO, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph one, Section 18 of R.A. No. 8550 is hereby amended, to read as follows:

"SECTION 18. Users of Municipal Water. - All fishery related activities in municipal water, as defined in this Code, shall be utilized EXCLUSIVELY by municipal fisher folk and their cooperative agencies who are listed as such in the Registry of Municipal Fisher folk."

SECTION 2. Paragraph two, Section 18 of the same Code is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations or part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Code, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. - If any portion or provision of this Code is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall continue in full force and in effect.

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

Approved,