

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2869

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the intensive rehabilitation and conservation of the marine resources and spawning area in Maqueda Bay located in the Province of Samar. It also prohibits some activities, considered to be the causes of the destruction of the marine resources, within the vicinity of the bay and provides penalties for violation thereof.

Maqueda Bay is located in the southwestern part of the Province of Samar. The bay used to be known for its scenic beauty and rich marine and aquatic resources. It was once a fishing haven for the people of Eastern Visayas. For the past years, the bay had been serving as the source of life for the people of Samar where thousands of *Samareños*, who live within the vicinity of the bay, depend mainly on it for food supply. More importantly, it serves as source of their livelihood. But now, most of the wealth of Maqueda Bay has long gone. It has a bleak future as a source of livelihood for the countless people living along the bay's areas.

The deleterious effects of pollution primarily cause the sad state of the bay from the industrial, domestic and agricultural wastes coming from the surrounding towns. The inflow of polluted water and the increasing urbanization has been causing the deterioration of the bay's water and its marine and aquatic resources. Studies have shown that the bay will deteriorate further if no steps are taken to check the continuous pollution of the Maqueda Bay. This problem is further compounded by the utilization of the bay's resources.

In recognition of the vital role of Maqueda Bay to the lives of the people of Samar and to restore its beauty and marine wealth, immediate approval of this bill is strongly recommended.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **2869**

Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE INTENSIVE REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION
OF THE MARINE RESOURCES AND SPAWNING AREA OF MAQUEDA BAY
IN THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR, PROHIBITING CERTAIN PRACTICES AND
PENALIZING VIOLATION THEREOF, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR.

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

Section 1. The marine resources and spawning area of Maqueda Bay, located in the Province of Samar, shall be intensively rehabilitated and conserved under the supervision of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or juridical, to engage in the following practices within the vicinity of Maqueda Bay.

- a) Dynamite fishing;
- b) Fishing with the use of motorized boat or *banca*;
- c) Purse seine fishing;
- d) Trawl fishing or net fishing;
- e) Dumping of garbage and other toxic wastes;
- f) Gathering of shells or corals; and
- g) Any and all-similar acts which may adversely affect the development and conservation of the bay.

Section 3. Any person who violates the provision of this Act shall be penalized by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year nor more than three (3)

years or a fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) nor more than twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) or both such fine/imprisonment at the discretion of the court. If the offender is a corporation, firm, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of the corporation, firm, partnership or association. In case the offender is an alien, he shall, in addition to the penalty herein prescribed, be deported without further proceedings on the part of the Commission on Immigration and Deportation.

Section 4. All equipment used in violation of this Act and rules and regulations issued in relation thereof shall be forfeited in favor of the Philippine government.

Section 5. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

Section 6. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued development, rehabilitation and conservation of Maqueda Bay shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

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

Approved.