

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



Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6000

Introduced by Honorable Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 7, Article XIII (*Agrarian and Natural Resources Reform*) of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. x x x"
(Underscoring supplied).

The Province of Leyte comprises of forty-one (41) municipalities. Thirty (30) of these municipalities are located along the island coast. The inland bodies of fresh water in Leyte are ideal for growing prawns, milkfish, carpa, tilapia and blue crabs. Likewise, land-locked municipalities also derive their income by producing bangus, tilapia and other cultured aqua-marine products.

This bill, therefore, seeks to establish aquatic research and experimental breeding stations in suitable municipalities, specifically in the First District of the Province of Leyte, for the culture, breeding and propagation of high value fishes.

The proposed measure intends principally to propagate bangus, lapu-lapu, crabs, prawns, shrimp, tilapia and many more. This would make possible year-round fishing and thus, assure ample supply of fish for the people in the area at any given time. The breeding stations will also impart various fishing techniques and prevent the destructive and indiscriminate fishing practices which endanger the ecosystem where these species thrive.

Since fishery is a vital source of livelihood in the local community, this measure shall encourage more fishermen to engage in better fishing techniques to promote the continued propagation of high value fishes in natural, as well as, artificial environments.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Petilla', written in a cursive style.

REMEDIOS "MATIN" L. PETILLA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AQUATIC RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL
BREEDING STATIONS IN THE CITY OF TACLOBAN AND
MUNICIPALITIES OF BABATNGON, PALO, TANAUAN AND
TOLOSA IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE FOR THE CULTURE,
BREEDING, AND PROPAGATION OF HIGH VALUE FISHES AND
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, aquatic research and experimental breeding stations in the City of Tacloban and Municipalities of Babatngon, Palo, Tanauan and Tolosa in the Province of Leyte.

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on high value fishes, crabs, prawns

and shrimps especially as they apply to local condition for the purpose of improving existing technologies and for maximizing income potentials of the fishery industry.

SEC. 3. The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations for the Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the breeding stations shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,