

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1985**

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**Introduced by: REP. MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Use of fine mesh net is prohibited in Republic Act 8550 also known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. However, the Code has not taken into consideration that nets with legal mesh sizes when used doubly or even tripled as in trammel net set-up could be considered a fine-mesh net. When this type of set-up is used, small fishes other than those specified in the Code, are caught because it has similar effect of fine-mesh nets.

This bill specifies the dimension the nets that may be used which can help to further guarantee the sustainability of aquatic resources in our country.

Approval of this bill is therefore earnestly requested.

  
**MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTION 89 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN**  
**AS THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 89 of RA 8550 is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

2

3       Sec. 89. Use of Fine Mesh Net. - It shall be unlawful to engage in fishing using  
4 nets with mesh smaller than that with which may be fixed by the Department:

5 **PROVIDED, THAT THE PRESCRIBED MESH SIZES IN "TRAMMEL NET"**  
6 **SET-UP AND SIMILAR TYPE OF FISHING OPERATION ARE PROHIBITED.**

7 Provided further, That the prohibition on the use of fine mesh net shall not apply to the  
8 gathering of fry, glass eels, elvers, tabios, and alamang and such species which by their  
9 nature are small but already mature to be identified in the implementing rules and  
10 regulations by the Department.

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1    **SECTION 2. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules  
2    and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified  
3    accordingly.

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5    **SECTION 3. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
6    unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

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8    **SECTION 4. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
9    publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

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11    Approved,  
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