

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1987

Introduced by: REP. MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In complying with the provisions of R.A. 8550, it has been experienced and proven by the commercial boat operators that the 15 km area is too far/wide for their operation considering that majority of the fishing vessels are small and medium in scale. Thus, they could not make the most of their fishing operations given the seaworthiness and capability of their vessels to exploit the area.

It should be noted also that the government has yet to implement financial support/incentives for improvement of fishing vessels, acquisition of equipments and tax and duty exemptions as mandated by the Code (Sec. 34 and 35).

Considering these facts, it would be appropriate for commercial fishing boats/vessels to operate at fishing grounds 7.1 to 15 km area from the shoreline within municipal waters if ever the concerned LGU permits/allows thru enactment of Municipal Fishery Ordinance.

Approval of this bill is therefore earnestly requested.


MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 18 AND RULE 18.1 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 18 of RA 8550 is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

2
3 Sec. 18 Users of Municipal Waters – All fishery related activities in municipal
4 waters, as defined in this Code, shall be utilized by municipal fisherfolks and their
5 cooperatives/ organizations who are listed as such in the registry of municipal fisherfolk.

6
7 The municipal or city government, however, may, through its local chief executive and
8 acting pursuant to an appropriate ordinance, authorize to permit small and medium
9 commercial fishing vessels to operate within the [ten point one (10.1) to fifteen (15)]
10 **SEVEN POINT ONE (7.1) TO FIFTEEN (15)** kilometer area from the shoreline in
11 municipal waters as defined herein, provided, that all the following are met:

- 12 a. no commercial fishing in municipal waters with depth less than seven (7) fathoms as
13 certified . . .

1 b. xxx

2 c. xxx

3

4 **SECTION 2.** Rule 18.1 is hereby amended and read as follows:

5

6 Rule 18.1 Guidelines – The municipality/city government which intend to allow the entry
7 of commercial fishing boats in [10.1 to 15] **7.1 TO 15** km shoreline:

8

9 a. xxx

10

11 b. xxx

12

13 (1) xxx

14

15 (2) xxx

16

17 (3) xxx

18

19 c. xxx

20

21

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

25

26 **SECTION 4. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
27 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

28

29 **SECTION 5. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
30 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

31

1 Approved,
2