

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. _____ 203



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ARTHUR C. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fine mesh nets are networks of fabric of cords or threads creating small and fine open spaces surrounding them for the purpose of catching or entrapping fish and other water creatures. Under Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine Fisheries Code, the use of fine mesh nets is prohibited, except certain sizes that are allowed and prescribed by the Department of Agriculture as provided for in the law. The reason for the prohibition is that fine mesh nets capture even small fries that are not yet harvestable and thus contribute to the dwindling population of many species of fish.

While RA 8550 provides for exceptions as to sizes that may be prescribed by the Department, it has been observed that such authorized sizes when used doubly or tripled as in the case of trammel net set-ups and similar types of fishing operations produce the same results as those of the prohibited fine mesh nets, that is the unnecessary capture of small fries and fingerlings.

Thus, this bill seeks to prohibit the use of otherwise allowed sizes of fine mesh nets when used in trammel net set-ups and similar contraptions. The purpose is to prevent the wastage of fingerlings and fries caught and thus ensure the sustainability and growth of our aquatic resources.

For the foregoing reasons, the immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


ARTHUR C. YAP
Representative

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE USE OF FINE MESH NETS IN TRAMMEL
NET SET-UP AND OTHER SIMILAR FISHING OPERATIONS,
PROVDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTIONS 4 AND 89 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550,
OTHERWISE KNOWN THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Amendment of Section 4 of the Fisheries Code.*** Section 4 of
2 Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as the Fisheries Code of the Philippines, is
3 hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **SECTION 4. *Definition of Terms.*** - As used in this Code, the following
5 terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

6 xxxx

7 **73) TRAMMEL NET** - A NET MADE OF A MIDDLE LAYER OF
8 FINE MESH AND TWO OUTER LAYERS COARSE MESH SO
9 ARRANGED THAT FISH PASSING IN EITHER DIRECTION
10 CARRY SOME OF THE FINE NET THROUGH THE COARSE
11 AND ARE THUS CAPTURED.

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13 **SECTION 2. *Amendment of Section 89 of the Fisheries Code.*** - Section 89 of
14 Republic Act No. 8550 is hereby amended to read as follows :

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1 SECTION 89. *Use of Fine Mesh Net.* - It shall be unlawful to engage in
2 fishing using nets with mesh smaller than that with which may be fixed by
3 the Department: *Provided, THAT PRESCRIBED FINE MESH NET*
4 *SIZES WHEN USED IN TRAMMEL NET SET-UP AND SIMILAR*
5 *TYPES OF FISHING OPERATIONS ARE PROHIBITED:*
6 *PROVIDED FURTHER,* that the prohibition on the use of fine mesh net
7 shall not apply to the gathering of fry, glass eels, elvers, tabios, and
8 alamang and such species which by their nature are small but already
9 mature to be identified in the implementing rules and regulations by the
10 Department.

11 XXX

12 SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days
13 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, in
14 coordination with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall promulgate the
15 rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

16 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any of the provisions of this is declared
17 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby
18 shall remain in full force and effect.

19 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders,
20 proclamations, rules and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the
21 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

22 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
23 after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
24 general circulation.

25 Approved.