

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 648



Introduced by Rep. **BABY ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Barangay Centro in the Municipality of Abulug, 2nd District of Cagayan lies within the shoreline of the Province of Cagayan. It is basically a fishing town ideal for the establishment of a multi-purpose fish breeding station and crab, prawn, shrimp, and lobster hatchery.

This bill seeks to establish a multi-purpose fish breeding station and crab, shrimp, prawn and lobster hatchery in said barangay. The multi-purpose breeding station and hatchery is intended principally, for the propagation of *bangus*, *lapu-lapu*, crabs, prawns, shrimps, and lobster among others. The project is expected to provide continuous supply of fry and fingerlings for dispersal in other communal bodies of water in the Cagayan region. This would make possible year-round fishing and will provide the people with sufficient supply of fish catch at any given time. A corollary activity is the breeding and hatching of species of large fish for sport fishing. The fry will be reared to fingerling sizes before they are released in the sea. With this, sport fishing will be developed and promoted in the area.

This proposal will have a direct impact on the government's food production program and is in line with Article II, Section 7 of the 1986 Philippine Constitution which states that:

"Section 7. 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. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fish workers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources."

It is further aimed at supporting efforts in achieving economic stability in the area.

This bill has been filed during the 15th Congress, favorably acted by the concerned Committee, approved by the House on Third and Final Reading, and consequently

transmitted to the Senate for its action. It was also favorably acted by the concerned Senate Committee but its consequent approval by the Senate was stalled by the sine die adjournment of the 15th Congress.

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


HON. BABY ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-PURPOSE FISH BREEDING STATION AND CRAB,
PRAWN, SHRIMP AND LOBSTER HATCHERY IN BARANGAY CENTRO,
MUNICIPALITY OF ABULUG, 2nd DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, a multi-purpose fish breeding station and crab, prawn, shrimp, and lobster hatchery in Barangay Centro, Municipality of Abulug, Second District of Cagayan.

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on fish, crab, prawn, shrimp, and lobster culture especially as they apply to local conditions, for the purpose of improving existing technology and for maximizing income potentials of the fishing industry.

SEC. 3. The Department of Agriculture shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program for the establishment of the said fisheries research center, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenues in an amount deemed for its operationalization.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,