

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 649



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Abulug lies between the municipalities of Ballesteros and Pamplona on the Northwestern part of Cagayan along the China Sea. It has been a flourishing fishing village long before Don Juan Salcedo sailed to the mouth of Abulug River in 1572.

Fish is one of the important industrial products of Abulug. However, the primitive practices of the fishermen *vis-à-vis* the lack of scientific knowledge in the maintenance, preservation, and conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources led to the damage of its natural resources. Furthermore, the livelihood of the farmers greatly suffered.

Measures have to be put in place to prevent further destruction of our fisheries and aquatic resources without sacrificing the plight of fishermen in the area. Article II, Section 7 of the 1986 Philippine Constitution specifically provides this protection:

“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.”

Hence, there is a need to establish a fishery research center in the Municipality of Abulug complete with technologically-advanced features and modern scientific equipment, which shall facilitate, monitor, and implement various research needs and activities of the fisheries sector. Likewise the center will provide a venue for intensive training and development of human resources in the field of fisheries, a repository of all fisheries researches and scientific information. It will also benefit the fishermen in the neighboring shore-towns of Ballesteros, Pamplona, Sanchez Mira, Claveria, Sta. Paxedes, and the Babuyan Islands, and even the Aparri in the First District of Cagayan.

This bill seeks to establish a Fisheries Research Center in the Municipality of Abulug with the aim of improving the Fishery Industry in the Second District of Cagayan. It 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.

Hence, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
ABULUG IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREOF

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 Department of Agriculture, a fisheries research center in the Municipality of Abulug, in the Province of Cagayan.

SEC. 2. 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. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,