

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 667



Introduced by **REP. CESAR V. SARMIENTO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Global statistics would reveal that nearly half of all fish eaten today is farmed, not caught. This is true for the Philippines. Latest statistics show that 45.6% of fish produced came from aquaculture zones production compared to 27.2% for municipal fisheries and 27.2% for capture fisheries. The diminishing productivity encountered by both municipal and capture fisheries proves that mariculture parks are the key to providing sustainable livelihood to coastal fishermen.

Mariculture, or sea farming, involves the cultivation of marine organisms for food and other products in the open ocean, in an enclosed section of the ocean, or in tanks, ponds or raceways which are filled with seawater.

Catanduanes, being an island, is endowed with rich marine and aquatic resources. All towns in the province, except for one, have a coastal area. Majority of my constituents' livelihood is fishing and the establishment of such parks in my district will provide opportunities for a sustainable sea farming that will benefit our coastal communities.

Mariculture is an economic enhancement strategy that involves key infrastructure development and technology transfer that will equip fishermen, cooperatives, associations, and investors to venture into cost efficient and sustainable mariculture projects. It is in this light that the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cesar V. Sarmiento".

CESAR V. SARMIENTO

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 667

Introduced by **REP. CESAR V. SARMIENTO**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MARICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PARK IN
THE MUNICIPALITIES OF VIRAC, BATO, BARAS, GIGMOTO, VIGA,
PANGANIBAN, BAGAMANOC, SAN ANDRES, CARAMORAN AND
PANDAN IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, a Mariculture Development Park in the municipalities of Virac, Bato, Baras, Gigmoto, Viga, Panganiban, Bagamanoc, San Andres, Caramoran and Pandan in the Province of Catanduanes.

SECTION 2. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA) and the Catanduanes State Colleges College of Agriculture and Fisheries (CSC-CAF) are hereby tasked to provide technical assistance in the establishment and maintenance of such facilities as may be necessary to implement the intents and purposes of this Act. For this purpose, the BFAR-DA together with the CSC-CAF and the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs), shall formulate the operating guidelines necessary for the operation and maintenance of the said mariculture development parks.

SECTION 3. The BFAR-DA, in coordination with CSC-CAF and the concerned LGUs, shall conduct continuing experimentation for the purpose of improving said park and for maximizing income potentials of the fishermen in the area.

SECTION 4. The base of research operations shall be the BFAR-DA in Virac, Catanduanes and the CSC-CAF.

SECTION 5. The BFAR-DA, CSC-CAF in collaboration with the LGUs concerned shall take steps as may be necessary to promote and attract investments in this economic endeavor.

SECTION 6. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of said mariculture development parks, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The LGUs concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenues in an amount deemed appropriate for its operationalization

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,