



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1833**

Introduced by:
REP. FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS
1ST District, Surigao del Norte (*Siargao Island*)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Bill was first filed in the House of Representatives of the 14TH Congress, was re-filed and finally approved on Third Reading but remained pending at the Senate Committee of Agriculture until the *sine die adjournment* of the 15th Congress. Re-filed *in toto* in the present Congress, this bill seeks the establishment of research stations for fish breeding and/or hatchery for *grouper, prawn, lobster, crab*, and other high-value marine species in the Municipalities of Dapa, Del Carmen, Socorro, and Pilar in the Province of Surigao del Norte.

The waters of Siargao Island teem with edible marine species of high commercial value especially grouper (*lapu-lapu*), prawn (*sugpo*), crab and lobster. In spite of the abundance, there is now the great danger of depletion due to unscientific and indiscriminate fishing practices. There is therefore, a need for the establishment of a research station for fish breeding and/or hatcheries for high value marine species to ensure the supply of spawners, fries and fingerlings to operators of fishponds, fish pens or fish tanks including dispersal programs in the island.

Approval of this Bill is, therefore, urgently recommended.

FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS



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REP. FRANCISCO T. MATUGAS
1ST District, Surigao del Norte (Siargao Island)

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING RESEARCH STATIONS FOR FISH BREEDING AND/OR HATCHERIES FOR
GROUPEL, PRAWN, LOBSTER, CRAB AND OTHER HIGH-VALUE MARINE SPECIES IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF DAPA, DEL CARMEN, SOCORRO, AND PILAR IN THE PROVINCE OF
SURIGAO DEL NORTE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the Bureau of Fisheries and
2 Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), research stations
3 for fish breeding and/or hatcheries for grouper, prawn, lobster, crab and other
4 high-value marine species in the municipalities of Dapa, Del Carmen, Socorro and
5 Pilar in the Province of Surigao del Norte.

6
7 SEC. 2. The BFAR-DA is hereby authorized to establish, acquire and maintain
8 such facilities and equipment as may be necessary to implement the intents and
9 purposes of this Act. For this purpose, the research stations for fish breeding and/or
10 hatcheries may promulgate such rules and regulations regarding the breeding,
11 propagation and distribution of fries, fingerlings and spawners to those engaged in
12 the fishing industry.

13
14 SEC. 3. The Secretary Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs
15 the establishment of said research stations and/or hatcheries, the funding of which
16 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local governments
17 concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenues in an amount
18 deemed appropriate for their operationalization.

19
20 SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two
21 (2) newspapers of general circulation.

22
23 Approved,