

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2313**

Introduced by the Honorable BENHUR L. SALIMBANGON

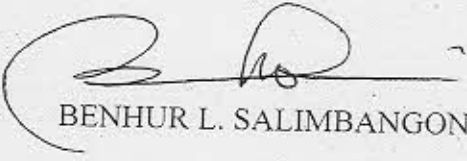
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The vastness of the Philippine maritime zone and its rich resources dictate that we should have a marine-based economy. Our aquatic territory exceeding 220 million hectares is more than seven (7) times our land territory which is only 30 million hectares. Being on archipelago of more than seven thousand islands, the Philippines should have been the center of the fishing industry in Asia, if not of the world.

To ensure that the fisheries and aquaculture sectors have the necessary support to maintain their sustainable and viable industries, there must be an army of knowledgeable and capable fisheries officers at the municipal/city level to provide assistance to these sectors. These fisheries officers will provide frontline services so that the sectors will be kept current in the technologies that they will need to be competitive; will have assistance in complying with fisheries laws, rules, and regulations; and will have access to local and international markets for their produce.

This Bill seeks to further strengthen the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources by upgrading the Bureau Director and Assistant Directors to the ranks of Undersecretary and Assistant Secretary, respectively. The higher ranks of these bureau officials will give them a position of strength when they negotiate for Philippine fisheries, especially in international trade negotiations and agreements.

Approval hereof is earnestly sought.


BENHUR L. SALIMBANGON



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AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (BFAR),
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 66 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 8550,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998, PROVIDING
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. Section 66 of Republic Act 8550, otherwise known as the Philippine
2 Fisheries Code of 1998, shall be amended to read as follows:
3

4 "SEC. 66. *Composition of BFAR.* – As a line bureau, the BFAR shall be headed
5 by a Director **WITH THE RANK OF UNDERSECRETARY** and assisted by two (2)
6 Assistant Directors **WHO SHALL HAVE THE RANK OF ASSISTANT**
7 **SECRETARY AND** who shall supervise the administrative and technical services of the
8 bureau respectively. It shall establish regional **AND** provincial [and municipal] offices.
9 **THE BUREAU SHALL ALSO HAVE MUNICIPAL/CITY FISHERIES**
10 **OFFICERS WITH RANKS** as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out
11 effectively and efficiently the provisions of this Code."
12

13 SEC. 2. The amount necessary to effectively carry out the implementation of this Act
14 shall be included in the annual appropriations of the Department of Agriculture.
15

16 SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
17 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
18

19 Approved,
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