



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 4456

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

Barotac Viejo is a third class municipality in the province of Iloilo. According to the 2010 census, it has a population of 41,470 people. The Municipality of Barotac Viejo is in the northern part of the Province of Iloilo, facing the strait of Guimaras and the island of Negros. It is bounded on the north by San Rafael, on the west by Banate, on the south by the Visayan Sea, and on the east by Ajuy.

Barotac Viejo has two rivers, namely the Barotac Viejo River and the Barotac Cayo River. It has several creeks or springs. The Barotac Viejo River is the longest and the widest river passing through the heart of the town. It has never been dry but it sometimes overflows its banks on rainy days. The river is utilized for bathing, laundry and fishing. In addition, the municipality has approximately ten miles of shallow shorelines and nearby fishponds are also present.

This Bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Barotac Viejo to catalyze the development of aquaculture in the town which can provide both direct and indirect employment to its people.

The approval of this Bill would help increase the income of fisher folks who, together with farmers, remained among the poorest in the country. Latest study on the poverty statistics for basic sectors showed that fishermen posted the highest poverty incidence for nine basic sectors in the Philippines at 41.4 percent, and this had remained unchanged since 2006.

In view thereof, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.


RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

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FUNDS THEREFOR**

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Establishment of Multi-Species Marine Hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo Act."

SECTION 2. Establishment of Multi-Species Marine Hatchery – There shall be established under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo.

SECTION 3. Supervision of the BFAR - Within three (3) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA shall transfer its management to the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC). It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for NIPSC personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION 4. Continuing Research- The BFAR-DA and NIPSC shall conduct continuing research and development on the multi-species marine hatchery to discover new methods that will enhance the fishing industry.

SECTION 5. Budget Allocation. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department of Agriculture's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The NIPSC shall set aside funds from any available revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The BFAR-DA and the NIPSC shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision and monitoring, and the transfer or withdrawal by the BFAR, of the multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION 7. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,