



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. 4457

Introduced by **Representative Raul C. Tupas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Batad is a fifth class municipality in the province of Iloilo. According to the 2010 census, it had a population of 19,385 people. The town is composed of 24 barangays, 19 are inland while 5 are coastal area.

Batad is generally far (125 kilometers from the capital of the province, Iloilo City) and due to the remoteness, majority of the people still rely on farming and fisheries for subsistence.

Rice, Corn, and Sugarcane comprise the major agricultural products of Batad. Along its coastal barangays, prawns, crabs and all kinds of fishes are abundant during peak fishing months. Livestock and Poultry raising are secondary sources of income of some farmers.

One of the attractions in Batad is the biggest constructed dam in the province of Iloilo, the *Alapasco Dam*. The dam was constructed in 1993 and was finished in 1997 with a length measuring 264.90 meters and a height of 21 meters. The dam serves as a water storage reservoir in the low foothills of cornfields and it has a hatchery of golden tilapia.

This Bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Batad 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 will contribute to the growth and development of the fisheries sector and allied industries. It will also 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 "BOBBY" C. TUPAS

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THEREFOR**

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