



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H. No. **4458**

Introduced by **Representative Raul C. Tupas**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

Carles is a second class municipality in the province of Iloilo. Based on the 2014 census, it has a population of 70,204 people. It is famous in Panay island for its rich fishing grounds. It is the northernmost municipality in the province and is 142 kilometers (88 mi) from the provincial capital, Iloilo City, and 71 kilometers (44 mi) from Roxas City. The land area is 11,204.68 hectares while the territorial waters are 367,625 hectares.

The Municipality of Carles lies in the Visayan Sea triangle, an imaginary triangle extending from the provinces of Iloilo, Negros, Cebu, Samar, and Masbate. This triangle is a part of the "Sulu-Sulawesi Triangle" of the Sulu Sea and neighboring Indonesia where a large concentration of marine organisms coupled with climate conditions support a massive marine ecosystem. Various commercial species are harvested along Carles' waters, namely mackerel, barracuda, sardines, shad, pompano, grouper, squid, cuttlefish, shrimp, prawns, shells, seaweed and others. These catches from Carles' water territory are brought to Estancia's fish port.

This Bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Carles to ensure that it will continue its strategic importance in commercial fishing which is the main source of food and livelihood of its people. In addition, this initiative also presents a viable solution to the problem of poverty.

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


RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS

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