

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **6392**



Introduced by Honorable Gil P. Acosta

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABORLAN, PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

What happens when fishermen run out of fish to catch? This was the dilemma of many of our marginal fisherfolks in most of the coastal areas of the country. Due to overfishing activities and unsustainable fishing methods, many coral reefs and spawning areas of marine resources near the coastal villages were depleted of its fish population.

The main livelihood of people in coastal communities is to catch fish and other marine creatures like shrimp, shells, seaweeds and squids. As the fish were in real short supply, coastal residents had to go far off the coast to find fish and it was really expensive.

Aside from spending more resources on gas just to get enough catch, the fishermen also had to deal with harsh weather environments at the sea where, when the waves are high, they couldn't go far.

In the province of Palawan and City of Puerto Princesa, the opportunities looked promising in areas where natural resources can be found everywhere including places where marine resources are a good source of livelihood. But admittedly, these resources may not be sustainably available since the resource competition is intense.

To lighten the impact of resource depletion, the available technologies that improves stocks of high value marine commodities could be propagated by establishing a multi-species marine hatchery in areas where it is most likely to succeed, and where resource end users could best benefit from these facilities.

The municipality of Aborlan in Palawan hosts the Western Philippines University (WPU) where, as an educational institution, champions the honing of skills of our youth in agriculture, fisheries, sustainable development and extensions services. While the DA-BFAR's mandate includes popularization of aquaculture and similar endeavors, the task to manage and sustain a multi-species marine hatchery in Aborlan area could best be handled by the WPU where their human resources are readily available.

In view of the foregoing, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



GIL P. ACOSTA

Representative

3rd District of Palawan

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

SECTION 1. 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 Aborlan, Province of Palawan.

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within five (5) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the Western Philippines University through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for university personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

SECTION 3. An extension program that caters the marginal fisherfolks shall be developed by the BFAR-DA and/or by the Western Philippines University for the propagation of marine species of high economic value.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the

Municipality of Aborlan, Province of Palawan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The Western Philippines University shall set aside funds from any available source in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, transfer, or withdrawal by the BFAR of the multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.