

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7764



Introduced by Honorable Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For an archipelagic nation, the Philippines' production output from its water bodies to meet the food needs of its people is dismally low in comparison to neighboring countries with similar features. While the country has vast and long coastlines, marine products are not efficiently and effectively produced and this is replicated by the outputs of its many lakes, bays, rivers and other inland water bodies. One glaring example is the Laguna Lake, which, if properly sustained and conscientious efforts are taken, could yield more for the sustenance of the people of Metropolitan Manila and its environs. Sadly, while there is an authority that focuses on its development, fish production is still below par. Fish cages which have long been traditionally used in the lake, remain ineffective in terms of production.

Unless aggressive efforts are undertaken to harness the vast potentials of the country's numerous inland water bodies, they will remain underused and ineffective. There is a need for the country's fisheries and marine sciences community to pool resources and talents to tap the vast potentials of these bodies of water. For instance, in the Province of Ilocos Sur, there are a big number of lakes, rivers, bays and ponds that remain untapped for its fish production potentials. If only there is synergy in the efforts of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, the Departments of Agriculture and Science and Technology, the private sector and the academe, these inland bodies could probably effectively complement the fish output of traditional fishermen.

It is for this reason that an Aquatic Research and Experimental Breeding Station for fish thriving in inland bodies of water is proposed to be established at the University of Northern Philippines. With a pooled funding coming from the food and fisheries production agencies, the state-run university can harness its research function in collaboration with other responsible government agencies, if there is an international rice research institute continually conducting research on increasing rice production, a similar scheme should also be applied in efforts to improve fish, including freshwater ones, production.

In view of the foregoing premises, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

Hon. Deogracias Victor "DV" B. Savellano
Representative, 1st District, Ilocos Sur

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AN ACT

ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL BREEDING STATION FOR LAKES, RIVERS, BAYS, PONDS, AND OTHER INLAND FISHES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN PHILIPPINES IN THE CITY OF VIGAN, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision and control of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), an aquatic research and experimental breeding station for lakes, rivers, bays, ponds, and other inland fishes at the University of Northern Philippines in the City of Vigan, Province of Ilocos Sur.

SECTION 2. Within two (2) years after the construction of the aquatic research and experimental breeding station, the BFAR through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the University of Northern Philippines (UNP). It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for personnel on the management and operation of the station.

SECTION 3. The Executive Director of BFAR shall include in the bureau's programs the establishment of aquatic research and experimental breeding station, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Executive Director of BFAR shall issue rules and regulations on the supervision, operation and monitoring and the transfer or withdrawal by the BFAR, of the aquatic research and experimental breeding station.

SECTION 5. All laws, rules, regulations, proclamations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. If any section or part of this Act is held unconstitutional, no other section or provision shall be affected.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,