

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

18<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS  
Third Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 10615**



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Introduced by **REP. EVELINA G. ESCUDERO**

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Fishing continues to be one of the primary sources of income and livelihood of Sorsoganons. In the first quarter of 2019, the overall fisheries production in the province of Sorsogon was recorded at 14,815 metric tons, including Aquaculture production at 390 metric tons, which was a 61% decrement compared in 2018.

During the period, the top species produced in Aquaculture environments were Mudcrab which accounted for 53% of the total Aquaculture production, followed by mussels with 26%, Seaweeds with 13%, and Tiger prawn with 4%, Milkfish with 3%, and lastly, Tilapia with 1%. <sup>1</sup>

In order to improve fisheries productivity and boost the local aquaculture sector in the province, this bill seeks to establish a marine hatchery in the province located in the municipality of Gubat, Sorsogon.

Gubat is a second-class municipality in Sorsogon, Philippines, with 42 barangays. Based on the 2020 Census, it has a population of 69,250<sup>2</sup>. The municipality is considered one of the fastest-growing tourist economies in the province.

The marine hatchery shall empower stakeholders, particularly the local fisherfolks. It shall also serve as a training facility that will showcase innovations developed through years of operation.

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



**EVELINA ESCUDERO**

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<sup>1</sup> [http://rso05.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/content/Fisheries%20Situationer%201st%20Qtr%202019\\_Sorsogon.pdf](http://rso05.psa.gov.ph/sites/default/files/content/Fisheries%20Situationer%201st%20Qtr%202019_Sorsogon.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.nnc.gov.ph/phocadownloadpap/userupload/nnc-ro5/Region\\_5%20Population%20Projections%20CY%20%20%20%202017-2021.pdf](https://www.nnc.gov.ph/phocadownloadpap/userupload/nnc-ro5/Region_5%20Population%20Projections%20CY%20%20%20%202017-2021.pdf)

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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 Gubat, Province of Sorsogon

Sec. 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Gubat, Province of Sorsogon, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

Sec. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the multi-species to the local government unit of the Municipality of Gubat, Sorsogon.

Sec. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*