



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **415**

Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations elucidated that aquaculture in the Philippines has a long history and involves many species and farming practices in diverse ecosystems. Most of the production comes from the farming of seaweed, milkfish, tilapia, shrimp, carp, oysters, and mussels. Aquaculture contributes significantly to the country's food security, employment, and foreign exchange earnings. Aquaculture is growing much faster than capture fisheries. However, the global position of the Philippines in aquaculture production has fallen steadily from 4th place in 1985 to 12th place today. The Philippines now contributes only a little over one percent of global farmed fish production compared to five percent previously.

The future growth of Philippine aquaculture may not be sustained unless new markets are developed, market competitiveness is strengthened, and farming risks are reduced. In this age of international trade and competition, the Philippine aquaculture industry needs to plan and implement a development and management program with a global perspective.

With this, we need an additional aquaculture center in Baybay City to fill the demand for fish (and seashells) to fill the gap in fish production.

This bill was previously filed in the 18th Congress by the undersigned and was approved by the House on 2020-11-25. It was transmitted and received by the Senate on 2020-11-26 and was deliberated upon by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform together with the Senate Committee on Finance on 2021-06-16.

Respectfully submitted.

CARL NICOLAS C. CARI
Representative
5th District, Leyte



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EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **415**

Introduced by: **HON. CARL NICOLAS C. CARI**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN BAYBAY CITY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, 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 of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), multi-specie marine breeding farm/stations and hatcheries for the production and multiplication of fish and shellfish in Baybay, Leyte.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department of Agriculture's programs the immediate establishment of the multipurpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery herein mandated. Henceforth, funds for their operation and upkeep of needed facilities shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside from any available local revenue such amounts as may be appropriate to support the operation of the multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the BFAR-DA shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations on the supervision and monitoring, and the transfer or withdrawal by the BFAR to implement this Act.

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

APPROVED,