



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City



NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 760

Introduced by Representatives **ALFEL M. BASCUG** and **EDDIEBONG G. PLAZA**

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRESHWATER FISH HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TALACOGON, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL
SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Explanatory Note

The 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that, “*The State shall promote a just and dynamic order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that will promote full employment, opportunities and improved quality of life for all.*” This measure is a major step towards the fulfillment of this mandate.

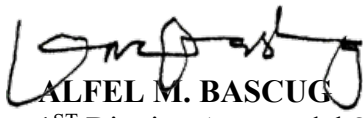
A freshwater aquaculture is intended to be established in the municipality of Talacogon in Agusan del Sur. The municipalities of Bunawan, Loreto, and Talacogon in Agusan del Sur are blessed with bodies of water teeming with freshwater produce. With this, the provincial government has capitalized in developing aquaculture industry in various municipalities of the province to intensify and develop an approach towards innovative propagation of its freshwater resources. In fact, under the Provincial Agriculture Office’s flagship program of Intensified and Sustainable Development of Aquaculture (ISDA), the provincial government aims to increase fresh water fish production by promoting fish cage and fish pond technology. With the program, fish farmers benefit from technical assistance and supply of quality fingerlings.

The Municipality of Talacogon is seen as the appropriate location site of the proposed freshwater aquaculture center in the province. Being hailed as the cradle of early civilization of the province, Talacogon is one of the largest municipalities in the province channeling the flow of the Agusan River creating lakes around the surrounding areas.

This initiative aims to improve the economic competitiveness of the province by maximizing its potential stakeholders in the grassroots—the fish farmers. Under the existing program of the agriculture sector in the province, the establishment of new strategic municipal hatcheries has helped meet farmers' needs. Hence, it is critically important to advance our agricultural ideals for research and breeding activities to further develop what has been started. The establishment of this Freshwater Aquaculture Center in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur is truly a necessity and a step to right direction.

Notably, this measure has been previously filed in the 18th Congress. The House of Representatives approved it on 3rd Reading and the bill had been duly transmitted to the Senate.

The immediate passage of this bill is hereby earnestly sought.


ALFEL M. BASCUG
1ST District, Agusan del Sur


EDDIEBONG G. PLAZA
2nd District, Agusan del Sur



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

SECTION 1. There shall be established a freshwater fish hatchery in the Municipality of Talacogon, Province of Agusan del Sur under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA).

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the freshwater fish hatchery to the local government of Talacogon within two (2) years after its construction 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.

The BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on freshwater aquaculture, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the freshwater fisheries industry.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the freshwater fish hatchery in the Municipality of Talacogon, Province of Agusan del Sur, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the freshwater fish hatchery to the local government of Talacogon.

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,