



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 1059

Introduced by **HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN** of the Lone District of Basilan

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The province of Basilan is the biggest and northernmost island of the Sulu Archipelago in Mindanao. Three (3) prominent bodies of water surround Basilan: Celebes Sea, the Moro Gulf and the Sulu Sea. With stretches of coastline, majority of the population depend on fishing for food and livelihood.

Over the years, the aquaculture industry has grown to complement and support traditional capture fisheries. Fish, squids, clams, crabs and lobsters are among the major marine species produced in the province.

Under the bill, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources shall construct the hatchery where high value marine species are spawned, then hatched and cared for. Within two (2) years, management shall be transferred to Basilan State University after implementation of a training and phasing-in program. The establishment of a multispecies marine hatchery aims to support the growing population of diverse and sustainable supply of aquatic food. It also presents livelihood opportunities to many of the local residents.

Establishing critical infrastructure and pursuing technological advances in fisheries are key to ensuring a vibrant, fish-based economy of Basilan that benefits every Basileño.

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



HON. MUJIV S. HATAMAN
Lone District of Basilan



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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY OF ISABELA,
ISLAND PROVINCE OF BASILAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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), multi-species marine hatchery in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan.

SEC. 2. Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR shall, through a memorandum of agreement, transfer its management to the Basilan State University (BASSU) through a memorandum of agreement. The BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for BASSU personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species marine hatchery.

The BFAR and the BASSU shall conduct continuing research and innovation on the breeding and production of the marine species with consideration to the local conditions and environmental sustainability, and pursue new methods and technology that shall benefit the local fishing and aquaculture industry.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the City of Isabela, Province of Basilan, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The BASSU shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the management and operation of the multispecies marine 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 transfer of the management of the multispecies marine hatchery to the BASSU.

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,