

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2926**



---

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

---

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

It has been a declared policy of the State "to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation of the fishery and aquatic resources in the Philippine waters". Under Section 16, Article I of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 8550, the municipal or city government shall have jurisdiction over municipal waters.

The Manila Bay has been the gateway to our political, economic and social center. It is bordered by coastal cities of the National Capital Region or NCR (Manila Pasay, Paranaque, Las Pinas, and Navotas), and the coastal provinces of Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan in Region 3, and Cavite in Region 4. These cities and municipalities are thus mandated to administer and conserve the waters within their jurisdiction. Consistent to this, it becomes inevitable that varying and inconsistent policies will be implemented. Fisherfolks are thus subjected to several rules and procedures to have access to the Manila Bay.

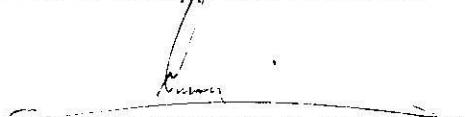
In *Metropolitan Manila Development Authority v. Concerned Citizens of the Philippines*, the Supreme Court issued a writ of continuing mandamus that is aimed to the protection and preservation of the Manila Bay. The desire to restore the Manila Bay to its beauty and cleanliness will only be feasible if all government agencies, cities and municipalities exercising governmental functions over Manila Bay will be governed by single rules, policies and procedures. This is to ensure consistency and efficiency in the adoption and implementation of programs.

In 2014, R.A. 8550 was amended by R.A. 10654. Despite the remarkable amendments in the law, the perceived problem on exercise of jurisdiction of several municipalities and cities over the Manila Bay was not addressed. Under Section 127, Chapter VII of R.A. 8550, the Congress of the Philippines shall undertake a mandatory review of the Code at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary, to ensure that fisheries policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

Following the above disquisitions, the amendment of the law is timely and more appropriate. To address the gaps and challenges in the current law, it is proposed that

the administration, supervision and conservation of the Manila Bay be entrusted to the Manila Bay Management Council (MBMC).

It is for these reasons that I seek the approval of this bill.



**TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2926**

---

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**

---

**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING CERTAIN SECTION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE**  
**KWOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998, AS AMENDED, AND**  
**CREATING THE MANILA BAY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL THEREOF**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 16 Article 1 on Municipal Fisheries of Republic Act No. 8550, as amended, is hereby further amended, to read as follows:

"SEC. 16. Jurisdiction of the Municipal/City Governments. – x x x"

"x x x"

"The management of contiguous fishery resources such as bays which straddled several municipalities, cities, and provinces, shall be done in an integrated manner and not based on political subdivisions of municipal waters in order to facilitate their management as single resource systems. The LGUs which share or border such resources may group themselves and coordinate with each other to achieve the objectives of integrated fishery resource management. The integrated Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Management Councils (FARMCs) established under Section 76 of this Code shall serve as the venues for close collaboration among LGUs in the management of contiguous resources[.]: *PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THIS PROVISION SHALL NOT APPLY TO THE PROVINCES, CITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES BORDERING THE COASTAL WATERS OF THE MANILA BAY AREA: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE MANILA BAY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MBMC) CREATED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL HAVE THE SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OVER THE MANILA BAY.*"

**SEC. 2. Creation of Manila Bay Management Council (MBMC).** – There is hereby established Manila Bay Management Council (MBMC) as the sole authority to manage, control and supervise the Manila Bay. It shall be composed of the following:

1. The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA) or his duly authorized representative;
2. The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or his duly authorized representative; and
3. The Chairperson of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) or his duly authorized representative.
4. The Governor of the Province of Bataan or his duly authorized representative
5. The Governor of the Province of Bulacan or his duly authorized representative
6. The Governor of the Province of Pampanga or his duly authorized representative
7. The Governor of the Province of Cavite or his duly authorized representative

The Office of the Director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall serve as the secretariat of the MBMC.

The MBMC shall have the following powers and functions:

1. Supervise, manage and control the Manila Bay with close coordination to the LGUs encompassing it;
2. Formulate a unified policy for the protection, preservation and progress of the Manila Bay, to support the goal of food sufficiency and food security;
3. Perform such other functions as may be necessary or proper to attain the objectives of this Act.

**SEC. 3. *Appropriation.*** – The MBMC shall be provided with an initial appropriation of Twenty million pesos (Php20,000,000.00) to be drawn from the national government.

**SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Manila Bay Management Council, in consultation and coordination with the DA, DENR, and MMDA shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act. Appropriations for the succeeding years shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

**SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the portions or provisions which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.