

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*  
HOUSE BILL NO. 3380



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

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE


Two decades had passed since the passage of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 and yet, there is little progress as to the establishment of settlement for the fisherfolks. As a result, fisherfolks continue to be a very vulnerable sector, continually displaced not only by natural calamities, but also by industrial, commercial and tourism-related development.

A consultation workshop with the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (UN-FAO) shows that the Filipino fisherfolk is among the poorest of the poor. The said workshop also revealed that the displacement of fishermen is one of the causes why fisherfolks belong to the poorest of the poor despite the country's rich marine resources.

This measure aims to strengthen the mandate and facilitate the establishment of settlement areas for fisherfolks by including the local government units of coastal areas, and the newly created Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development as co-implementing agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

It is hoped that with this measure, the intended protection for the rights and welfare of fisherfolks, who are mostly underprivileged, will finally be realized. The proposed bill was filed as House Bill No. 6876 during the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress and the same was passed on the third and final reading in the House of Representatives and was transmitted to the Senate for its consideration.

In light of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**TOBIAS "TOBY" M. TIANGCO**  
Representative  
Lone District, Navotas City

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERFOLK RESETTLEMENT AREAS**  
**BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN**  
**SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT**  
**UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 108 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550,**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998." AS**  
**AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654"**

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 108 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, is hereby amended as follows:

SEC. 108. Fisherfolk Settlement Areas. — [ The Department shall establish and create fisherfolk settlement areas in coordination with concerned agencies of the government, where certain areas of the public domain, specifically near the fishing ground, shall be reserved for the settlement of the municipal fisherfolk. Nothing in this section shall be construed to vest ownership of any resettlement area to a municipal fisherfolk for whom said areas may have been reserved for or had been actually granted to.]

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF CITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES HAVING JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL AREAS AND MUNICIPAL WATERS SHALL ESTABLISH AND CREATE SETTLEMENT AREAS FOR FISHERFOLK WITH ADEQUATE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: *PROVIDED*, THAT WHERE THERE EXIST PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENT AREAS WITH ADEQUATE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS, FISHERFOLK SHALL BE GRANTED PREFERENCE IN THE AWARD THEREOF: *PROVIDED, FURTHER*, THAT PREFERENCE SHALL BE GIVEN, OR SETTLEMENT AREAS SHALL BE ESPECIALLY ESTABLISHED, ONLY IN FAVOR OF FISHERFOLK

WHO ARE REGISTERED AS SUCH WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY AND WHO ARE WITHOUT REAL PROPERTY: *PROVIDED FINALLY* THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS HAVING JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL AREAS AND MUNICIPAL WATERS ARE HEREBY MANDATED TO INTEGRATE SETTLEMENT AREAS FOR FISHERFOLK IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS.”

**SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.*** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

**SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.*** -All other laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 4. *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.