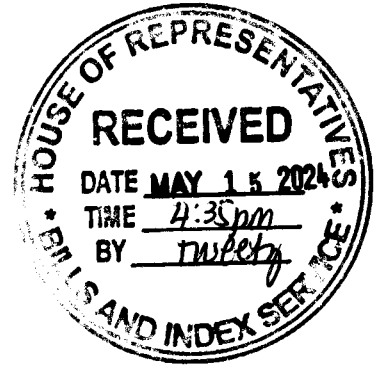


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10419

Introduced by Representative Claude P. Bautista

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, Section 2 provide that:

“SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State:

- a. It is the policy of the State to achieve food security as the overriding consideration in the utilization, management, development, conservation, and protection of fishery resources in order to provide the food needs of the population xxxxx”

In a recent report (PSA 2022), the Philippines Statistics Authority stated in 2022 that aquaculture industry contributed 2.246 million metric tons (MT) out of 4.248 million MT total fishery production or 54.15 percent. Additionally, for the first quarter of 2023, the contribution of aquaculture further increased to 55 percent or 545,640 MT out of the 991,140 MT total fishery production.

Milkfish or bangus (*Chanos chanos*) is one of the major species that contributes to the Philippines aquaculture industry. The production value of milkfish in the Philippines was the highest among all aquaculture species which amounts to Php 42, 879.6 million (BAS, 2020). Other than that, the market of milkfish products in the Philippines has contributed significantly to the economy as milkfish and various processed milkfish items (*i.e daing, smoked milkfish, boneless milkfish, etc*) are available for domestic and export production.

In the Municipality of Sta. Maria, the main livelihood in Brgy. Basiawan is producing milkfish through the traditional method of fishcaging. The lack of facilities and technology, coupled with fluctuating prices of bangus, had contributed to a decrease in the Municipality’s production of the same which adversely affected the Barangay’s fisherfolks.

As such, an establishment of a milk fish (Bangus) hatchery in Brgy. Basiawan will have a great impact towards economic contribution and community participation of its residents and would alleviate them from poverty.

Through establishing a milkfish hatchery in the Barangay, it would strengthen the community's opportunity to learn the process of hatchery from cultivation, production, harvesting and marketing. They would also be able to establish innovation strategies and sustainable aquaculture to achieve responsible management of the milkfish industry in the area.

Through this bill, the beneficiaries and the stakeholders of the milkfish industry can produce quality and marketable milkfish (Bangus) not only within the region but also the entire country while eyeing the exportation of the same to other countries. This would address not only the country's issues on food security but also would contribute to the growth of the Philippine's economy.

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


CLAUDE P. BAUTISTA

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10419

Introduced by Representative Claude P. Bautista

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MILKFISH HATCHERY IN SITIO KUMASI, BRGY. BASIAWAN,
MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Establishment of a Milkfish Hatchery in Sitio Kumasi, Brgy. Basiawan, Sta. Maria* .- There shall be established a milkfish hatchery in Sitio Kumasi, Brgy. Basiawan, Municipality of Sta. Maria, Province of Davao Occidental under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA).

SECTION 2. *Management of the Milkfish Hatchery*.-The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the milkfish hatchery to the local government of Sta. Maria within two (2) years after its construction through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

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

SECTION 3. Appropriations.- The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the milkfish hatchery in Sitio Kumasi, Brgy. Basiawan Municipality of Sta. Maria, Davao Occidental, 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 the amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations.- 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 milkfish hatchery to the local government of Sta. Maria, Davao Occidental.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause.- If any portion or provision of this Act shall be unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 6. Effectivity.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,