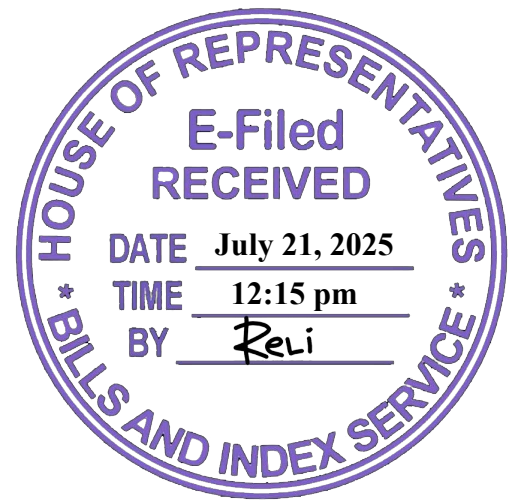




Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress  
1<sup>st</sup> Regular Session  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2123



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Introduced by Rep. Elisa T. Kho and Rep. Antonio T. Kho

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes the creation of a multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery in the Municipality of Mandaon, Masbate. Its primary goal is to produce crabs, shrimps, and milkfish, directly addressing the nutritional and economic needs of Mandaon's coastal communities. These residents heavily rely on fishing for both food and livelihood, making this initiative crucial for their well-being.

Officials from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Masbate have identified at least 2,000 hectares of currently unused coastal areas in the province. Establishing this breeding farm and hatchery would not only significantly enhance the economic competitiveness and quality of life for Mandaon residents, but also for the entire province of Masbate. It promises to create valuable employment opportunities for local fishermen, directly contributing to poverty alleviation.

Furthermore, this project will play a vital role in replenishing the local supply of crabs, shrimps, and milkfish. This increased production will enable the community to meet the growing demand for these marine products, both within the Philippines and globally.

Therefore, the urgent approval of this bill is earnestly sought to unlock the full potential of Mandaon's coastal resources and empower its fishing communities.

REP. ELISA T. KHO, M.D., FPCCP

REP. ANTONIO T. KHO



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**AN ACT**

**ESTABLISHING A MULTI-PURPOSE FISHERY BREEDING FARM AND HATCHERY FOR THE PRODUCTION AND MULTIPLICATION OF CRABS, SHRIMPS AND MILKFISH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of a Multi-Purpose Fishery Breeding Farm and Hatchery. There shall be established, under the direct supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (hereinafter referred to as BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture (hereinafter referred to as DA), a multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery for the production and multiplication of crabs, shrimps, and milkfish in the Municipality of Mandaon, Province of Masbate. This establishment aims to directly meet the nutritional and economic needs of the residents, particularly those in the coastal barangays of the said municipality.

SECTION 2. Research and Experimentation. The BFAR shall be mandated to conduct continuing research and experimentation on crab and shrimp culture, specifically as they apply to local conditions. The objective of such research and experimentation shall be to discover new methods and technologies that will rejuvenate and enhance the fishing industry in the area and beyond.

SECTION 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Agriculture (DA) and its related agencies, including the BFAR, shall jointly promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the initial establishment and subsequent operation of the multi-purpose fishery breeding farm and hatchery for the production and multiplication of crabs, shrimps, and milkfish

in the Municipality of Mandaon, Province of Masbate. The funding for this purpose shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules or regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 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,