

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3633



Introduced by **Representative RAYMOND ADRIAN SALCEDA**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MARINE MULTISPECIES HATCHERY IN BARANGAY
CAGUSCOS, MUNICIPALITY OF LIBON, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

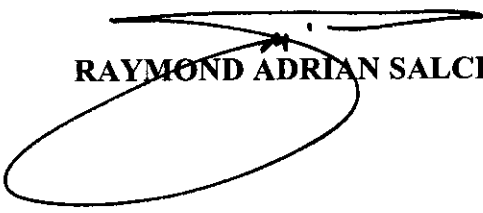
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a Marine Multispecies Hatchery in Barangay Caguscas, Libon, Province of Albay.

The proposed hatchery will be under the supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA) and will focus on the breeding, propagation, and distribution of fry and fingerlings of high-value marine species suited to the coastal conditions of the locality. Libon is being positioned by the Department of Agriculture as a central logistics hub for agriculture in Albay, with strategic proximity to the planned multi-grain facilities in Polangui.

The establishment of the hatchery will integrate fisheries with the broader agri-logistics network, enhancing food security and livelihood opportunities.

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


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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-DA), a marine multispecies hatchery in Barangay Caguscus, Libon, Province of Albay.

SEC. 2. The Hatchery and the BFAR-DA shall focus on the breeding, propagation, and distribution of fry and fingerlings of high-value marine species suited to the local coastal conditions, to improve local fisheries production.

SEC. 3. There shall be established a Local Advisory Council that shall provide policy direction for the Hatchery and facilitate the exchange of information among the Hatchery and stakeholders. The Council shall be composed of the BFAR Regional Director as Chairperson, the Provincial Governor as Co-chairperson, the Mayor of the Municipality of Libon, and three (3) representatives from the local fisheries sector to be appointed by the Governor.

SEC. 4. The Hatchery shall disperse fry and fingerlings in public waters in such intervals as may be recommended by the Local Advisory Council. It may also sell such fry and fingerlings to fish farmers at prevailing market prices.

SEC. 5. The BFAR-DA may transfer the management of the Hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Libon, subject to mutual agreement between BFAR-DA and the local government. If such transfer is agreed upon, BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the Hatchery, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for its operationalization.

SEC. 7. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations for the supervision, monitoring, and operation of the Hatchery, and for its possible transfer to the local government.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,