

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3986



Introduced by **HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY “HORI” G. HORIBATA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The World Health Organization reports that more than one billion people worldwide rely on fish as their primary source of protein and livelihood. Unfortunately, global fish stocks are under immense pressure—nearly 90% are either fully exploited or overfished^[1]. In the Philippines, marine ecosystems face similar challenges, with several traditional fishing grounds experiencing critical depletion^[2]. Experts have warned that if unsustainable fishing practices continue, oceans may be irreversibly damaged within decades.

Aquaculture offers a sustainable solution to address the increasing demand for high-value marine products while reducing pressure on wild fish populations. In the Philippines, the aquaculture sector accounted for 55.3% of total fisheries production in the first quarter of 2024^[3], underscoring its growing importance in supporting food security and livelihood generation.

The coastal waters of Ragay, Camarines Sur, are abundant in marine species of high commercial value, making them ideal for the establishment of a marine hatchery. Such a facility would provide fisherfolk with technical training to improve productivity and instill practices that promote sustainability and marine conservation—key responses to overfishing and habitat degradation.

Given the pressure on traditional fishing grounds, it is both timely and necessary to maximize the potential of aquaculture in areas like Ragay. Supporting the development of a marine hatchery in this

^[1] FAO, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2024*, p. 8.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/a2090042-8cda-4f35-9881-16f6302ce757/content>

^[2] The Guardian, “If we can’t fish any more, we’re going to die”: volunteer sea patrols protecting Philippine waters, March 5, 2024.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/mar/05/if-we-cant-fish-any-more-were-going-to-die-the-volunteer-sea-patrols-protecting-precious-philippine-waters>

^[3] Philippine Statistics Authority, *Fisheries Situation Report – First Quarter 2024*.

<https://psa.gov.ph/statistics/fisheries-situationer>

municipality can contribute significantly to local economic development and ensure long-term resilience in the fisheries sector.

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



TSUYOSHI ANTHONY "HORI" G. HORIBATA
First District, Camarines Sur

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3986

Introduced by **HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY “HORI” G. HORIBATA**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAGAY,
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 (DA-BFAR), a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Ragay, Province of Camarines Sur.

SEC. 2. Prior to the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR shall conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of its construction to comply with the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

Within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Ragay, Province of Camarines Sur. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department’s programs the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Ragay, Province of Camarines Sur, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SEC. 4. 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 multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of the Municipality of Ragay.

SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,