



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4933



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**
1st District, Zamboanga City

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, an archipelagic nation, boasts exceptionally diverse marine ecosystems vital to food security and economic growth. Its extensive coastline sustains millions, especially in rural areas, through fishing and aquaculture, which serve as primary livelihood.

Zamboanga City is a key fishing hub in Mindanao, with communities heavily reliant on marine resources. Despite the area's rich biodiversity, many fisherfolk face poverty due to overfishing, habitat loss, climate change, and limited access to technologies and training.

This Bill proposes establishing a Marine Hatchery in Zamboanga City to provide quality fish seed, foster sustainable aquaculture, and deliver training and community services, addressing the challenges faced by local fisherfolk.

The operations of the marine hatchery will directly benefit local fisherfolk, aquaculture practitioners, students, and other stakeholders by:

- Providing them affordable, high-quality fish seeds for improved survival and growth rates.
- Training fisherfolk in science-based, eco-friendly aquaculture to increase productivity in a sustainable manner.
- Strengthening community capacity for micro and small aquaculture businesses through value-adding and market support.
- Supporting fisheries and aquaculture research for the development of locally adapted, innovative, and sustainable technologies.
- Creating jobs in hatchery operations, fish farming, processing, and the fisheries value chain.

By integrating research and community engagement, the hatchery will enhance productivity and profitability for small-scale fishers, reduce poverty, ensure food self-sufficiency, and promote inclusive development. Capacity building will strengthen resilience to environmental and economic shocks.

Furthermore, the hatchery supports the implementation of Republic Act No. 8550, as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, also known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, which mandates the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to promote and support the development of sustainable fisheries and aquaculture in the country.

The Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST), a premier institution in fisheries and marine science education and research in Western Mindanao, will serve as the main operator and manager of the marine hatchery. With its strong academic and research programs, a broad extension network, and community involvement, ZSCMST will lead the project, supported by BFAR through technical guidance and funding.

Now is the time for decisive action. Protect marine resources, empower communities, and invest in a resilient Zamboanga. Through this bill, we will be able to secure the future of coastal communities and drive sustainable growth for our Country.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI



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AN ACT

**ESTABLISHING A MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA, TO BE
MANAGED AND OPERATED BY THE ZAMBOANGA STATE COLLEGE OF
MARINE SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY (ZSCMST), AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Zamboanga Marine
Hatchery Act.”

SECTION 2. *Establishment of a Marine Hatchery.* - There shall be established a
Marine Hatchery under the care, management, and operation of the Zamboanga State College
of Marine Sciences and Technology (ZSCMST) in the City of Zamboanga. The hatchery shall
serve as a key facility for marine aquaculture development, research, and livelihood
enhancement in the region.

SECTION 3. *Objectives.* - The Marine Hatchery shall have the following objectives:

- a. To produce sufficient fry and fingerlings of commercially important marine species for local distribution and aquaculture development;
- b. To serve as a research and training facility for students, fisherfolk, coastal communities, and other stakeholders;
- c. To promote sustainable aquaculture practices, responsible fishing, and marine resource conservation;
- d. To support the socio-economic development of fisherfolk and aquaculture communities in Zamboanga City and neighboring provinces through capacity-building, skills training, and technical assistance;
- e. To facilitate technology transfer and provide extension services for improved livelihood and resource management.

1 **SECTION 4. *Role of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).*** – The
2 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall provide the necessary funds, technical
3 assistance, equipment, and oversight for the establishment, construction, and initial operation
4 of the Marine Hatchery. BFAR shall also ensure alignment of the hatchery’s operations with
5 national fisheries policies and programs.

6 **SECTION 5. *Role of Zamboanga State College of Marine Science and Technology***
7 ***(ZSCMST).*** – The ZSCMST shall:

- 8 a. Manage, maintain, and operate the Marine Hatchery in close coordination with
- 9 BFAR;
- 10 b. Integrate the hatchery's operations into its academic, research, and extension
- 11 programs;
- 12 c. Provide regular training, workshops, and capacity-building programs for
- 13 fisherfolk, students, and local stakeholders;
- 14 d. Facilitate community-based aquaculture initiatives and enterprise development;
- 15 and
- 16 e. Collaborate with local government units (LGUs), civil society organizations
- 17 (CSOs), and relevant agencies for effective outreach and community engagement.

18 **SECTION 6. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
19 this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the Bureau of Fisheries
20 and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation,
21 staffing, maintenance, and expansion of the Marine Hatchery shall be included in the annual
22 General Appropriations Act (GAA).

23 **SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** - Within ninety (90) days
24 from the effectivity of this Act, BFAR, in coordination with ZSCMST, shall formulate and
25 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.
26 The IRR shall include, but not be limited to:

- 27 a. Guidelines for the production and distribution of fry and fingerlings;
- 28 b. Criteria for participation in training, extension services, and technical assistance
- 29 programs;
- 30 c. Standards for hatchery operation, monitoring, and evaluation; and
- 31 d. Collaboration frameworks with LGUs, academic institutions, and fisherfolk
- 32 organizations.

33 **SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is
34 held invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

35 **SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, issuances, rules and regulations
36 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

37 **SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
38 complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

39 *Approved,*