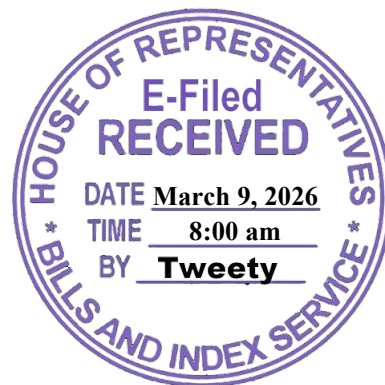


TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

HOUSE BILL NO. 8345

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Inland fisheries development remains a key strategy for strengthening food security and rural livelihoods in the upland barangays of Iligan City. In geographically isolated areas such as Sitio Mahunughunog, Barangay Rogongon, government support for localized production facilities is essential to unlock agricultural potential and expand income opportunities for small-scale growers.

Following a pre-feasibility site assessment conducted on 28 November 2025 by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region X, Sitio Mahunughunog was identified as a technically viable location for the establishment of a multi-species freshwater fish hatchery. The site is characterized by a vast and reliable freshwater source suitable for sustained hatchery operations and favorable natural conditions for aquaculture development.

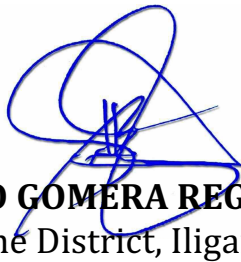
Despite its strong production potential, the area faces infrastructure constraints, including limited accessibility and the absence of power and telecommunications facilities. These challenges underscore the need for targeted public investment to enable the establishment and long-term operation of a hatchery that can serve upland producers.

Local fish growers currently rely on distant sources of spawners and fingerlings, increasing production costs and limiting expansion. Establishing a hatchery in Sitio Mahunughunog will improve access to quality inputs,

support livelihood generation, and contribute to sustainable agricultural productivity in Iligan's hinterland communities.

The local community has expressed support for the project and recognizes its expected socio-economic benefits. With appropriate infrastructure support and institutional coordination, the proposed hatchery can serve as a strategic and lasting investment in rural development.

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



CELSO GOMERA REGENCIA
Lone District, Iligan City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8345

Introduced by Honorable Celso G. Regencia

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FRESHWATER FISH HATCHERY
IN SITIO MAHUNUGHUNOG, BARANGAY ROGONGON, ILIGAN CITY,
TO STRENGTHEN INLAND AQUACULTURE AND RURAL LIVELIHOOD,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1.*Establishment of a Multi-Species Freshwater Fish Hatchery.*
— There shall be established, under the supervision and control of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), a multi-species freshwater fish hatchery in Sitio Mahunughunog, Barangay Rogongon, Iligan City, to support inland aquaculture development and enhance local fish production.

SECTION 2.*Establishment and Operationalization.* — The BFAR shall be responsible for the planning, construction, establishment, and initial operation of the hatchery.

BFAR shall ensure that the facility is equipped with the necessary infrastructure, equipment, and technical support for the production and distribution of quality freshwater fish fingerlings to local growers and beneficiaries.

In the implementation of this Act, BFAR may coordinate with the local government of Iligan City and other concerned agencies for technical and logistical support.

SECTION 3.*Feasibility Study and Management Transfer.* — Consistent with the site assessment conducted by the BFAR, the agency shall undertake a full feasibility study and prepare the necessary technical and financial requirements for the establishment of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery, in accordance with applicable rules of BFAR, the Department of Budget and Management, and other relevant agencies.

Within two (2) years from the completion of construction, BFAR may, through a Memorandum of Agreement, transfer the management and operation of the hatchery to the local government of Iligan City. Prior to such transfer, BFAR shall implement a capacity-building and phased transition program to ensure that local personnel are adequately trained in hatchery management and operations.

SECTION 4.*Research and Technical Support.* — BFAR shall undertake continuing technical support, performance monitoring, and, where necessary, adaptive research to enhance breeding practices, improve survival rates, and ensure the sustainable production of freshwater fish fingerlings suited to local conditions.

SECTION 5.*Funding Support.* — The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the funding requirements for the establishment and initial operation of the multi-species freshwater fish hatchery in Sitio Mahunughunog, Barangay Rogongon, Iligan City, subject to the usual budgeting, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

The local government of Iligan City may allocate funds from any available local revenue to support the operationalization and sustainability of the hatchery.

SECTION 6.*Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall, in coordination with the BFAR and the local government of Iligan City, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7.*Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,