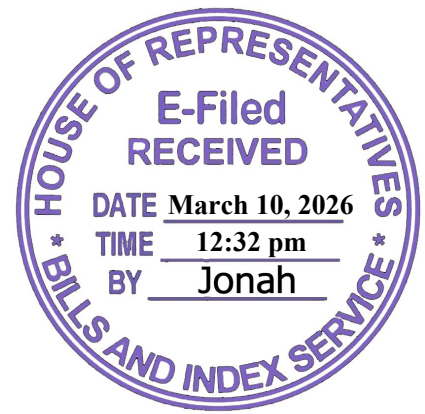


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8409



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sibuco is a coastal municipality in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte with a population of 36,049 as of the 2020 census. It faces the Sulu Sea and thus, fishing is one of the major livelihoods of its residents.

Fishing sardines is the focus of the Sibuco fishermen. However, there are other species of fish that are caught in the Sulu Sea such as tuna, red grouper, Salay-salay Ginto (scad), and cuttlefish, which are regarded as “high-valued species” because of its greater price in the market. To promote fishing of “high-valued species” and to help the marginal fishermen boost their income, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources together with the Southern Philippines Deep Sea Fishing Association, Inc. (SOPHIL) has already distributed free fishing gears for “high-valued species” to some fishermen in the area. Despite this commendable action, however, another more pro-active measure to promote “high-valued species fishing” is to add to the supply of high-valued species in the Sulu Sea by using scientific and research-based methods.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Sibuco in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. A multi-species hatchery will address the problem of low-income fishing of the residents and will increase the supply of “high-valued species” in the Sulu Sea, thereby contributing to the economic growth of Sibuco and nearby coastal areas and to the livelihood of the residents. As such, the policy of the State to provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services, under the Constitution, will be promoted.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adrian Michael A. Amatong".

ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8409

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF SIBUCO, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the 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 multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

SEC. 2. Prior to the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery, the BFAR-DA 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 BFAR-DA, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government of the Municipality of Sibuco. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the multi-species hatchery.

SEC. 3. The BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technologies that will enhance the fishing industry.

SEC. 4. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Sibuco, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, 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. 5. 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 Sibuco.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,