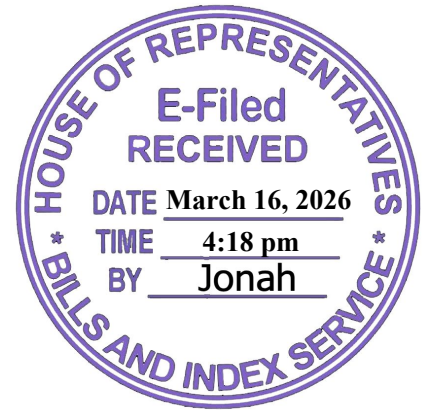


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 8554

Introduced by **REP. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISH PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAGALLANES,
PROVINCE OF SORSOGON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The enactment of the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998 embodies the State's policy of extending full support to the fishery sector, particularly to municipal fisherfolk, including women and youth, through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial and production assistance, the establishment of post-harvest facilities, marketing support, and other related services.

Consistent with this state policy, this bill seeks to establish a fish port in the Municipality of Magallanes, Province of Sorsogon. Magallanes is a coastal and agri-fishery town, with 21 of its 34 barangays located along the coast. Many of its residents rely on the sea as a primary source of food and livelihood. The municipality also envisions itself as a leading agri-fishery and historico-tourism municipality in Sorsogon, with development focused on agriculture, fisheries, livelihood, infrastructure, and environmental protection.¹

The establishment of a fish port in Magallanes is therefore both timely and necessary. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) has emphasized that fishing ports and post-harvest facilities are critical to the full development of the fisheries sector because fish are highly perishable and require strategically located landing points where catch may be immediately sold, stored, processed, or shipped to markets. PIDS further noted that municipal fishing ports in the country have historically been inadequate, and that many lacked basic post-harvest facilities such as warehouses and ice plants.²

¹ Magayagayang Magallanes. (2024, January 30). *Depiction of a fisherman's life*. Municipality of Magallanes, Sorsogon. <https://www.magallanessorsogon.gov.ph/depiction-of-a-fishermans-life/>

² Israel, D. C., & Roque, R. M. G. R. (2000, January). *Analysis of fishing ports in the Philippines* (Discussion Paper Series No. 2000-04). Philippine Institute for Development Studies. <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps0004.pdf>

Moreover, this measure can advance broader development goals for Sorsogon. It can support municipal fisherfolk, attract buyers and seafood traders, improve local value-adding activities, and stimulate complementary enterprises in logistics, retail, and tourism. It can also help institutionalize better fisheries management by concentrating fish landings in a facility where sanitation, traceability, post-harvest practices, and conservation-oriented regulation may be more effectively enforced. This is especially important for Magallanes, where the bay is not only a source of livelihood but a source of daily sustenance and hope for many families, making marine resources central to the community's survival and progress.

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



HON. BERNADETTE "DETTE" G. ESCUDERO
Representative
1st District, Sorsogon

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the "Magallanes Fish Port
2 Development Act".
3

4 **SEC. 2. Establishment of Fish Port.** There shall be established, under the
5 supervision of the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Fisheries
6 Development Authority (PFDA), a fish landing port in the Barangay of Tagas,
7 Municipality of Magallanes, Province of Sorsogon.
8

9 **SEC. 3. Transfer of Management to the Local Government Unit.** Within
10 two (2) years after the construction of the fish port, the PFDA, through a memorandum
11 of agreement, shall transfer its management to the local government unit concerned.
12 It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel
13 on the management and operation of the fish port.
14

15 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the
16 Department's programs the establishment of the fish port, the funding of which shall
17 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit
18 concerned shall set said funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed
19 appropriate for the operationalization of the fish port
20

21 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect immediately following the
22 completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general
23 circulation.

Approved,