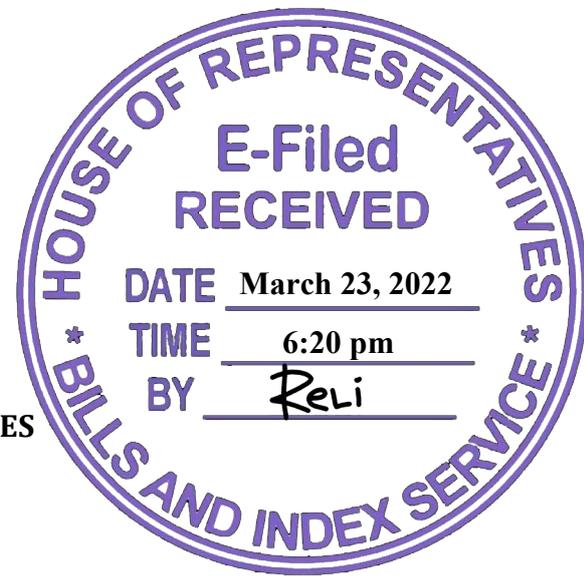




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2531



Introduced by Magsasaka Party-list Representative
ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES
RESOURCES AND THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE NATURAL AND MAN-MADE CAUSES OF FISH KILL INCIDENTS IN
LAGUNA DE BAY AMIDST THE PANDEMIC**

1 **WHEREAS**, Section 16 of Article II in the Constitution states that the right of the people to
2 a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature shall be
3 protected by the State;

4 **WHEREAS**, Laguna de Bay serves as one of the main sources of livelihood of about 22,000
5 small-scale fisherfolk with around 125,000 to 150,000 family members, whose way of life and
6 income are severely affected by the recurrent fish kill;

7 **WHEREAS**, in May 2020, the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) reported an
8 estimated loss of 275,000 kilograms of tilapia, bangus, and carp due to fish kill, while at least
9 Php 1.1 million lost income was incurred by seven fish pens, covering seven (7) hectares in Pililla,
10 Rizal;

11 **WHEREAS**, last September 2021, the algal blooms menaced the Laguna de Bay, resulting
12 in over 70 kilograms of dead fish and causing a community-wide foul scent that affected over 11
13 localities in Laguna. This perennial phenomenon occurs as fishes suffer asphyxia due to deficiency
14 in dissolved oxygen level concentration, where the presence of too many algae depletes the
15 oxygen that the fish also needs;

16 **WHEREAS**, these fish kill incidents further aggravated the difficult economic condition of
17 the people in the surrounding fishing communities trying to survive amid the COVID-19
18 pandemic. These incidents happened at the time when health restrictions were starting to ease
19 up, posing new challenges for the fishing industry around Laguna de Bay;

1 **WHEREAS**, according to the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), fish kill
2 normally occurs when the water quality becomes unfavorable or toxic to its marine life due to
3 low oxygen level, overpopulation, oversupply of nutrients such as nitrate, ammonia, and
4 phosphate, and environmental conditions such as higher water temperature during the summer,
5 harsh exposure to sunlight, and calm water condition;

6 **WHEREAS**, the BFAR states that, while 50 percent of all fish kills are due to natural causes,
7 some of its occurrences are also caused by human activities such as chemical runoff from
8 agricultural lands, domestic sewage, urban areas, and industrial wastes that contribute to
9 phosphates and ammonia in the water content of Laguna de Bay;

10 **WHEREAS**, the persistence of toxic chemical contents and oversupply of nutrients in the
11 water of Laguna de Bay, both from natural and man-made causes, should be addressed to
12 minimize the recurrence of fish kill incidents and prevent further losses of income of local
13 fisherfolk;

14 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Committee
15 on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources and the Committee on Ecology is directed to conduct an
16 inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the natural and man-made causes of fish kill incidents in Laguna
17 de Bay.

Adopted,



ARGEL JOSEPH T. CABATBAT