

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3998



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.,
HON. MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE, HON. TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G.
HORIBATA AND HON. NICOLAS “NICK” C. ENCISO VIII**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

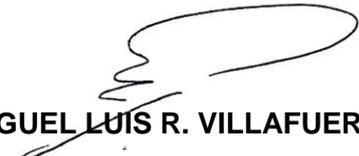
The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that more than one billion people worldwide depend on fish as their primary source of protein and livelihood. Unfortunately, according to World Bank data, of the world’s fish stocks, almost 90% are fully exploited.¹ Moreover, 70% of fishing grounds in the Philippines are already overfished, as cited by a news report.² Overfishing is a major concern globally, with experts issuing warnings that if sustainable fishing is not practiced and oceans are not given time to recover, they could become “empty” by 2048.³ Still, there is an ever-increasing demand for high-value marine species in both local and export markets. As fish stocks diminish, aquaculture is seen as a way to satisfy the world’s growing appetite for fish and at the same time allow wild fish species to multiply their numbers.

In the Philippines, aquaculture is a growing industry that provides livelihood to hundreds of thousands and their number is consistently on the rise. The potential of the sector in contributing significantly to the economic development of the country should be recognized and maximized, especially since many of our traditional fishing grounds are getting overfished.

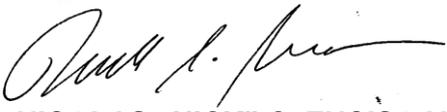
The waters of Camarines Sur show great potential for marine hatcheries because of the abundance of edible marine species of high commercial value there. The establishment of a marine hatchery in Libmanan likewise presents an opportunity for our fisherfolk to undergo training to improve productivity and be educated on the dangers of depletion due to unscientific and indiscriminate practices.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND “LRAY” F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.


MIGUEL LUIS R. VILLAFUERTE


TSUYOSHI ANTHONY G. HORIBATA


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¹ <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgatlas/archive/2017/SDG-14-life-below-water.html>

² <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1812928/ILOILO/Local-News/USAid-70-of-Philippine-fishing-grounds-overfished>

³ <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/seafood-biodiversity>

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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF LIBMANAN, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur.

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within two (2) years after the construction of the multi-species marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the local government unit concerned through a memorandum of agreement. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department’s programs the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Libmanan, Province of Camarines Sur, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the passage of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision and monitoring, and the transfer or withdrawal by the BFAR of the multi-species marine hatchery.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,