

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6461



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE RONALD V. SINGSON

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the Philippines, the aquaculture industry has grown to become an industry of major importance. The industry is essential to addressing poverty and food insecurity, while providing employment to over one million Filipinos. However, environmental problems caused by climate change and irresponsible fishing practices contribute to the decline of the country's fish production.

It is on this score that the potential of the industry should be recognized and maximized in order to guarantee aquaculture sustainability so that fish demand from a rapidly growing population is constantly met and that the socioeconomic well-being of our fisherfolk communities is secured.

The waters of Ilocos Sur show great potential for marine hatcheries because of the abundance of marine species of high commercial value. The establishment of a marine hatchery in Sta. Catalina, which is a coastal municipality in the province of Ilocos Sur, likewise presents an opportunity that will not only promote the aquaculture industry, but will also make fishing more profitable for our fisherfolk. Likewise, a stable and sufficient supply of fish and other marine products in the municipality and nearby areas can be guaranteed.

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


RONALD V. SINGSON

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
6461
House Bill No. _____

Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE RONALD V. SINGSON

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
STA. CATALINA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS 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 Sta. Catalina, Province of Ilocos Sur.

SEC. 2. The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the multi-species marine hatchery to the local government of Sta. Catalina within two (2) years after its construction 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 multi-species marine hatchery.

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program the establishment of the multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Sta. Catalina, Province of Ilocos 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 in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

SEC. 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.

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

Approved,