

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

SENATE

S. No. **1641**

(In Substitution of Senate Bill No. 619)

18 JAN -9 A11 :40

Prepared jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation and Finance with Senators Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV and Loren B. Legarda as authors

AN ACT

REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF FISHERIES PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF FISHERIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*The Philippine Fisheries Profession Act of 2017*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to provide priority attention and support to professionalize the practice of the fisheries profession in the Philippines, which will be beneficial to sustain food security and economic development of the country, and to upgrade the standards of fisheries education. These policies are provided for in Republic Act 8550 (Fisheries Code of 1998) and Republic Act 8435 (Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of 1997).

Pursuant to this national policy, the government shall: (1) provide a program to set up an appropriate and healthy environment for the practice of the fisheries profession; and (2) establish quality standards for fisheries professionals that will guide fisheries schools / fisheries colleges, through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), for the development of curricular programs that will attain the high standards of the profession.

SEC. 3. *Objectives.* – The Act provides for and shall govern:

- a. the administration and conduct of licensure examination, and registration and licensing of fisheries professionals;

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- b. the supervision and regulation of the practice of the fisheries profession in the Philippines; and
- c. the upgrading of the fisheries profession and the professionalization of fisheries professionals.

SEC.4. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. Aquaculture – refers to fishery operations involving all forms of farming fish and other aquatic plants and animals in fresh, brackish, and marine waters;
- b. Aquatic Resources – shall include fish and other living resources of the aquatic environment that have/will have commercial value when utilized;
- c. Board – refers to the Professional Regulatory Board of Fisheries;
- d. Commission – refers to the Professional Regulation Commission;
- e. Fisheries – refers to all activities relating to the science and act or business of fishing, culturing, preserving, processing, marketing, developing, conserving and managing of aquatic resources and environment;
- f. Fisheries Sector – refers to the sector engaged in the production, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing, developing, conserving and managing of aquatic resources and environment;
- g. Fisheries Profession – the practice of the science and technical knowledge and skills of all areas of fisheries (catching, farming, processing, marketing, management, and conservation of aquatic resources and environment);
- h. Fisheries Professional – refers to a person who is technically qualified and competent to practice the fisheries profession and who has been issued a Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification card as fisheries professional by the Board and the Commission;
- i. Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) – refers to an integrated national organization, association, or society that is granted accreditation by the Board and the Commission as the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization of Fisheries Professionals; and
- j. Scope of Examination – refers to the range of topics or subjects provided by the Board in the syllabi of the four areas of scope of examination for fisheries professionals in Sections 9 (m) and 15 of this Act.

SEC. 5. Scope and Practice of the Fisheries Profession. – The scope and practice of the fisheries profession is the application of the fundamental and known principles of fisheries to the peculiar conditions and requirements of fisheries as an industry and as a field of science and shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- 1
2 a. Consultation, evaluation, investigation and management services in fisheries;
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4 b. Preparation of fisheries design on inland, coastal and offshore hatcheries and
5 production systems; its plans, specifications and project feasibility studies and
6 estimates. Provide supervision and management services to ensure the
7 incorporation of prescribed plans and specifications in creating the biological and
8 environmental requirements for normal growth of fish species and aquatic
9 organisms during construction, installation, operation and maintenance of farm,
10 outdoor and indoor facilities; on the operations and maintenance of post-harvest
11 facilities and equipment, including proper handling of fish catch in fishing vessel;
12 and other fisheries facilities, systems and technologies, in
13 collaboration/consultation with other disciplines.
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15 c. Conduct of research and development, training and extension work in fisheries,
16 aquatic resource, aquaculture and post-harvest technologies;
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18 d. Management of fisheries resources and manufacture of fishery products, and/or
19 marketing of fish and fishery products;
20
21 e. Teaching fisheries courses in higher institutions of learning in the Philippines
22 recognized by the government;
23
24 f. Study and treatment of fish diseases and parasites that affect fishing, post-harvest
25 and aquaculture activities and projects; and
26
27 g. Employment in the government and private sectors where the positions require
28 the knowledge and expertise of a fisheries professional except in small-scale
29 fisheries operations of municipal fisher folk such as fishing, aquaculture, fish
30 processing where licensed fisheries professionals are not required.
31

32 Scientists and professionals in closely related fields to fisheries and in support of
33 multidisciplinary fisheries activities such as economics, social science, engineering, marine
34 biology, oceanography/limnology and others who may immerse themselves in fisheries
35 activities that do not require technical knowledge in fisheries, are exempted from the
36 licensure requirements for fisheries professionals.
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39 **ARTICLE II**
40 **PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF FISHERIES**
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42 **SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Professional Regulatory Board of***
43 ***Fisheries.*** – There is hereby created a Professional Regulatory Board of Fisheries to be
44 composed of a Chairman and three (3) Members, each Member representing one of the four
45 (4) fields of specialization listed in Section 15, Article III, hereof, to be appointed by the
46 President of the Philippines from a list of three (3) recommendees of the Professional
47 Regulation Commission for each position chosen from a list of four nominees for each
48 position submitted by the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization of fisheries
49 professionals. *Provided*, that a member representing a field of specialization has at least a

1 bachelor's degree in that particular field of specialization. The new Board shall be
2 constituted within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act.
3

4 The Chairman and the three (3) Members of the Board must be registered
5 professionals and issued with certificates of registration and professional identification cards
6 at the time of their appointment.
7

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9 **SEC. 7. *Qualifications of Board Members.*** – The Chairman and Members of the
10 Board, at the time of their appointment, must possess the following qualifications:
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- 12 a. Must be a natural-born citizen and resident of the Philippines;
- 13
- 14 b. Must be at least forty years of age;
- 15
- 16 c. Must be of proven integrity and of high moral and ethical values in his/her
17 personal as well as professional conduct;
- 18
- 19 d. Must not have been convicted by a court in a final judgment in crime involving
20 moral turpitude;
- 21
- 22 e. Must be a holder of a Bachelor's degree in the field of fisheries, or a holder of a
23 Master or Doctorate degree in the field of fisheries from a school, college, or
24 university recognized by the Government or abroad, and has been engaged in the
25 practice of fisheries profession for at least ten (10) years before his/her
26 appointment;
- 27
- 28 f. Must not be connected with any school, college or university granting a degree
29 that qualifies graduates of such degree for admission to the licensure examination
30 for fisheries professionals; and
- 31
- 32 g. Must not be an incumbent officer or trustee of the accredited professional
33 organization for fisheries professionals.
34

35 **SEC. 8. *Term of Office.*** – The Chairman and Members of the Board shall hold office
36 for a term of three (3) years or until their successors shall have been qualified and appointed.
37 They may, however, be appointed for a second term. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled
38 for the unexpired portion of the term only. Each member shall take an oath of office prior to
39 the assumption of duties.
40

41 The incumbent Chairman and Members shall continue to serve until their
42 replacements shall have been appointed and qualified.
43

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45 **SEC.9. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** – The Board shall have the following
46 powers and functions:

- 47 a. Promulgate, adopt and issue rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of
48 this Act;
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- b. Give and supervise the licensure examination for admission to the practice of the fisheries profession;
 - c. Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration and practice of the fisheries profession;
 - d. Administer the oath of a professional to the successful examinees in the licensure examination for fisheries professionals in appropriate mass oath-taking ceremonies to be held for the purpose;
 - e. Register and issue certificates of registration to successful examinees in licensure examinations for fisheries professionals and to persons qualified to register as fisheries professionals without examination;
 - f. Suspend or revoke the certificate of registration and professional identification card of a fisheries professional for causes provided herein;
 - g. Adopt an official seal of the Board as well as the seal of fisheries professionals;
 - h. Adopt and promulgate a Code of Ethics for Fisheries Professionals and a Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of the Fisheries Profession;
 - i. Look into the conditions affecting the practice of the fisheries profession and whenever necessary, adopt measures as may be deemed appropriate for the enhancement or maintenance of high professional and ethical standards of the practice of the fisheries profession;
 - j. Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), that all educational institutions offering courses in fisheries education comply with the policies, standards and requirements of the course prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum, faculty, library and facilities as well as to conform itself with the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) necessary for education and training provisions in the conformance towards learning outcomes;
 - k. Hear/try and decide administrative cases involving violations of the provisions of this Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations including the Code of Ethics for Fisheries Professionals and Code of Professional Standards for the Practice of Fisheries Profession and, for this purpose, issue subpoena and subpoena *duces tecum* to secure the appearance of witnesses and the production of documents and to testify in connection herewith;
 - l. Enforce compliance with the Continuing Professional Development Act of 2016 otherwise known as Republic Act 10912. The CPD law shall be mandatory for all fisheries professionals in coordination with the accredited national association of fisheries professionals;
 - m. Prepare, adopt and issue, in consultation with the academe, the syllabi or tables of specification of the subjects for the licensure examinations and to amend the same; and

1 n. To discharge and perform such other duties and functions as may be necessary to
2 carry out the objectives and purposes of this Act.
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4 Except matters which are ministerial in nature, all policies and functions of the Board
5 embodied in resolutions as well as rules and regulations issued by the Board shall be subject
6 to the review and approval of the Commission.
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9 **SEC.10. Compensation and Allowance of the Chairman and Members of the**
10 **Board.** – The Chairman and Members of the Board shall receive compensation and
11 allowances comparable to the compensation and allowances received by the Chairmen and
12 Members of other Professional Regulatory Boards.
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15 **SEC. 11. Removal and Suspension of the Chairman and Members of the Board.** –
16 The President may, upon recommendation of the Commission, remove any Member of the
17 Board for any of the following causes:
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- 19 a. Negligence;
- 20
- 21 b. Incompetence;
- 22
- 23 c. Immoral, dishonorable or unprofessional conduct;
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- 25 d. Violation of, or abetting the violation of, the Professional Standards or Code
26 of Ethics for Fisheries Professionals; and/or
27
- 28 e. Conviction in a final judgment of a crime involving moral turpitude.
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30 The right of the respondent to due process and be assisted by counsel in an
31 investigation shall be respected and upheld. The President may, also upon recommendation of
32 the Commission, preventively suspend a Member under administrative investigation.
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35 **SEC. 12. Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its Records, Secretarial and**
36 **Support Services.** – The Board shall be under the general supervision and administrative
37 control of the Commission. All records of the Board including applications for examination,
38 examination papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative cases and other
39 investigations involving examinees and fisheries technologists shall be kept and subject to the
40 disposition of the Commission.
41

42 The Commission shall provide secretariat and support services to the Board for the
43 efficient and effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.
44
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46 **SEC. 13. Annual Report.** – The Board shall, at the close of each calendar year,
47 submit an annual report to the Commission, of its proceedings and accomplishments during
48 the year and make recommendations for the adoption of measures that will upgrade the
49 conditions affecting the practice of the fisheries profession in the Philippines.
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ARTICLE III
EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

SEC. 14. *Licensure Examination.* – All applicants for registration for the practice of the fisheries profession shall be required to undergo and pass a written examination as provided in this Act except those who qualify for registration under Section 26 of this Act. The licensure examination for fisheries professionals shall be given by the Board at least once a year in such places and dates the Commission may designate in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 8981.

SEC. 15. *Scope of Examination.* – The examination for fisheries professionals shall basically cover the following fields:

- a. Aquatic Resources and Ecology
- b. Aquaculture
- c. Capture Fisheries
- d. Post-Harvest Fisheries

The Board may also re-cluster, rearrange, modify add or exclude any of the foregoing subjects as the need arises and may recommend to CHED changes in said subjects to conform to modern and advanced technologies in the fisheries profession.

SEC. 16. *Qualifications of Applicants for Examination.* – Each applicant for examination shall establish to the satisfaction of the Board that:

- a. He/she is citizen of the Philippines subject to the provision on reciprocity as contained hereunder;
- b. He/she is of good moral character and must not have been convicted of any crime involving moral turpitude; and
- c. He/she is a graduate of at least a Bachelor's degree in the field of fisheries from a school, college or university established and recognized by the Government, or a recognized university abroad.

SEC. 17. *Fraudulent Application.* – The Board may suspend or revoke a certificate of registration and professional identification card already issued, if a registrant has been proved or found to have made misrepresentation/s in his application for examination.

1 **SEC. 18. Rating in the Board Examination.** – To pass the licensure examination for
2 fisheries professionals, a candidate must obtain a weighted general average rating of seventy-
3 five percent (75%) and with no grade lower than sixty percent (60%) in any given subjects.
4 However, if an examinee obtained a general weighted average rating of seventy-five percent
5 (75%) or higher but obtained a rating below sixty percent (60%) in any given subject/s,
6 he/she shall be allowed to take the examination in the subject/s where a grade below sixty
7 percent (60%) was obtained.
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10 **SEC.19. Report of Ratings.** – The Board shall submit to the Commission the rating
11 obtained by each examinee in the licensure examination within a period of ten (10) days after
12 the examination in the last subject unless extended by the Commission for just and valid
13 cause/s.
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16 **SEC. 20. Report on the Performance of Examinees in Licensure Examination.** –
17 The Board, through the Commission, may recommend to the Commission on Higher
18 Education (CHED) the following:
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- 20 a. The schools, colleges or universities whose successful examinees in three (3)
21 consecutive licensure examination for Fisheries Professionals is less than eight
22 percent (8%) of the total number of its candidates who took the licensure
23 examinations shall be recommended for close monitoring of their fisheries
24 program; and
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- 26 b. The names of schools, colleges, or universities whose successful examinees in
27 five (5) successive licensure examination for Fisheries Professionals is less than
28 eight percent (8%) of the total number of its examinees in each of the licensure
29 examination taken, and their fisheries course/ program shall be recommended for
30 closure.
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33 **SEC. 21. Issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification**
34 **Card.** – A certificate of registration shall be issued to examinees who passed the licensure
35 examination for Fisheries Professionals, as well as to a person that qualified to register as
36 fisheries professional without examination, subject to the payment of fees prescribed by the
37 Commission. The Certificate of Registration, which indicates that the person named therein is
38 entitled to practice as Fisheries Professional with all the benefits and privileges pertaining
39 thereto, shall bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission and the Chairman and
40 Members of the Board, and the seal of the Commission and the Board. *Provided*, That he/she
41 shall be allowed to practice the profession without the need of securing another license from
42 any government agency. The Certificate of Registration shall remain in full force and effect
43 until revoked or suspended in accordance with this Act. A Professional Identification Card
44 bearing the registration number, and date of issuance, shall be renewed every three (3) years
45 and upon satisfying the requirements of the Board and the Continuing Professional
46 Development Act of 2016 or RA 10912.
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49 **SEC.22. Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification**
50 **Card.** – The Board shall not register and issue a Certificate of Registration to any successful

1 examinee that has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense
2 involving moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or dishonorable conduct after
3 investigation by the Board, or has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for the
4 refusal shall be set forth in writing.
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7 **SEC. 23. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of Registration, Professional***
8 ***Identification Card or Cancellation of Special Temporary Permit.*** – The Board may, after
9 giving proper notice of hearing to the party concerned, revoke the Certificate of Registration
10 and Professional Identification Card of a Fisheries Professional or suspend him/her from the
11 practice of the profession or cancel the special temporary permit of a foreign national for
12 unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice, negligence, incompetence, or violation of
13 any of the provisions of this Act, its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), Code of
14 Ethics and Code of Professional Standards for Fisheries Professionals, and Code of Good
15 Governance.
16
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18 **SEC. 24. *Reinstatement, Re-issuance, or Replacement of Certificate of Registration,***
19 ***Professional Identification Card.***– The Board may, after two (2) years from the date of
20 revocation of Certificate of Registration, reinstate any revoked Certificate of Registration and
21 reissue a Professional Identification Card, *Provided*, that the cause of disqualification or
22 revocation has already ceased to exist.
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25 **SEC. 25. *Continuing Professional Development.*** – All fisheries professionals shall
26 abide by the requirements, rules, and regulation in the Continuing Professional Development
27 Act of 2016 or RA 10912 to be promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the
28 approval of the Commission, in coordination with the AIPO for fisheries profession and the
29 representative of duly accredited education institutions. For this purpose, the Board may
30 create a CPD Council to implement the CPD program subject to the guidelines as may be
31 issued by the Board.
32

33 **SEC. 26. *Registration of Fisheries Professionals without Examination.*** – Upon
34 approval of the application and payment of the prescribed fees, certificate of registration and
35 professional identification card shall be issued to the applicant for registration without
36 examination who can prove to the satisfaction of the Board that items a, b, or c below has
37 been met:
38

- 39 a. He/she has at least a bachelor's degree in any field of fisheries from a school,
40 college or university established or recognized by the Government; *Provided*,
41 That the applicant has passed any of the civil service examination in fisheries, or
42 has been granted equivalent to second level eligibility by the Civil Service
43 Commission by virtue of PD 907, or passed the Career Service (Professional)
44 examination given by the Civil Service Commission; *Provided further*, That the
45 applicant has served the fisheries industry in public or private capacity for five (5)
46 years before the effectivity of Republic Act 8550;
- 47 b. He/she has a graduate degree (master or doctorate) in fisheries or closely related
48 fields such as marine biology, oceanography/limnology, food
49 science/technology/engineering, fish taxonomy, biotechnology as applied in

1 fisheries, aquatic biology, fishing boat design/engineering, aquatic resource
2 management, fish health, fish nutrition, or fish chemistry from a school, college or
3 university, established or recognized by the Government: *Provided*, That the
4 applicant has served the fisheries industry in public or private capacity for at least
5 ten (10) years; *Provided further*, That the applicant has published five (5) research
6 and highly technical papers in reputable journals, books and proceedings within
7 the ten-year service in fisheries;
8

- 9 c. He/she is a graduate of at least a bachelor's degree in fisheries from a school,
10 college or university, established or recognized by the Government; *Provided*,
11 That the applicant has served the fisheries industry (private sector) for a total of
12 ten (10) years; *Provided further*, That he/she can show proof of achievements,
13 awards, commendations, or promotions of deserving performance and has
14 published at least two (2) technical papers in fisheries.
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16 The applicants are given one (1) year after the approval and publication of the
17 Implementing Rules and Regulations of this Act to register as Fisheries Professionals without
18 examination.
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21 **SEC. 27. Roster of Fisheries Professionals.** – The Board, in coordination with the
22 Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization, shall prepare, update and maintain a
23 Roster of Fisheries Professionals, their residence and office addresses, dates of registration or
24 issuance of certificate, and other data which the Board may deem relevant.
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26 The roster shall be open to the public, copies of which shall be made available to any
27 party subject to the guidelines which may be prescribed by the Commission.
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30 **SEC. 28. Issuance of Special Temporary Permit.** – Upon application and payment of
31 the required fee and subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board may issue special
32 temporary permits to fisheries professionals from foreign countries whose services are
33 urgently needed in the absence or inadequacy of local fisheries professionals for the purpose
34 of promoting or enhancing the practice of the fisheries profession in the Philippines.
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37 **SEC. 29. Foreign Reciprocity.** – No foreign fisheries professional shall be given a
38 certificate of registration/professional license and professional identification card or be
39 entitled to any of the privileges under this Act unless the country of which the foreign
40 fisheries professional is a subject or citizen specifically permits Filipino fisheries
41 professionals to practice within its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or
42 citizens of said country or state.
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45 **SEC. 30. Seal and Use of Seal.** – Every Fisheries Professional shall obtain a seal of
46 such design as the Board shall adopt and approve which shall be impressed upon all
47 documents, records, papers and/or instruments prepared by/or under the direct supervision of
48 or issued by a registered Fisheries Professional only during the period of the validity of his
49 professional identification card.
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1 shall be duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board,
2 subject to approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said organization as the one and
3 only Accredited and Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) of registered fisheries
4 professionals. All fisheries professionals whose names appear in the Registry Book of
5 Fisheries Profession shall ipso facto or automatically become members thereof and shall
6 receive all the benefits and privileges appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO
7 membership fees and dues.

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9 Membership in the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) shall not
10 be a bar to membership in other organizations of the fisheries profession.
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13 **SEC. 38. Code of Ethics and Professional Standards.** – The Board shall adopt and
14 promulgate the Code of Ethics and the Code of Professional Standards for Fisheries
15 Professionals which shall be issued by the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization
16 (AIPO) of Fisheries Professionals.
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19 **SEC. 39. Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of Fisheries Professionals.** – All
20 Fisheries Technologists who are registered and licensed under Resolution 01 (Series of 2002)
21 of the Board of Fisheries, PRC, entitled “Rules and Regulations Implementing PRC
22 Resolution No. 2000-664, As Amended” (Creation of the Board of Fisheries as mandated by
23 Section 115 of R.A. 8550, otherwise known as the Fisheries Code of 1998) at the time this
24 Act takes effect shall automatically be registered as Fisheries Professionals.
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27 **ARTICLE V**
28 **PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**
29

30 **SEC. 40. Penal Provisions.** – Any violation of this Act, including the violations of
31 the Implementing Rules and Regulations thereof, shall be meted the penalty of a fine of not
32 less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000.00) or more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos
33 (Php 500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, or both upon the
34 discretion of the court.
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37 **SEC. 41. Appropriation.** – There shall be an initial appropriation of Twenty Million
38 Pesos (Php 20,000,000.00) to be disbursed for the operation of the Board of Fisheries which
39 shall include personal services, maintenance and other operating expenses and capital outlay.
40 In succeeding years the Chairperson of the Professional Regulation Commission shall
41 immediately include in the Commission’s programs the implementation of this Act, the
42 funding of which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act and thereafter.
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45 **SEC. 42. Transitory Provision.** – The existing Professional Board of Fisheries shall
46 continue to function in the interim without another appointment until such time that the new
47 Board shall have been constituted pursuant to this Act.
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1 **SEC. 43. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Board shall, subject to the
2 approval of the Commission, adopt, promulgate and issue the Implementing Rules and
3 Regulations, in coordination with the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization and
4 other fisheries institutions, to implement or carry out the provisions of this Act.
5

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7 **SEC. 44. *Separability Clause.*** – If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act
8 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or
9 impair any other part of this Act.
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12 **SEC. 45. *Repealing Clause.*** – Section 115 of R.A. 8550 and Section 75 of R.A. 8435
13 and PRC Resolution No. 2000-664, Series of 2000 are hereby repealed. All other laws,
14 decrees, executive orders, and other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby modified, superseded or repealed
16 accordingly.
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19 **SEC. 46. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its full
20 and complete publication in the Official Gazette or in any major newspaper of general
21 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,