



SENATE

S. No. 1641

PREPARED AND SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY THE COMMITTEES ON
CIVIL SERVICE, GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION; AND FINANCE WITH
SENATORS TRILLANES IV, LEGARDA AND VILLAR 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 House of Representatives of the
Philippines in Congress assembled:*

1

ARTICLE I

2

TITLE, DECLARATION OF POLICY, OBJECTIVES

3

AND DEFINITION OF TERMS

4

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as

5

the “The Philippine Fisheries Profession Act of 2018”.

1 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared
2 the policy of the State to provide priority attention and
3 support to professionalize the practice of the fisheries
4 profession in the Philippines, which will be beneficial to
5 sustain food security and economic development of the
6 country, and to upgrade the standards of fisheries
7 education. These policies are provided for in Republic Act
8 No. 8550 (Fisheries Code of 1998) and Republic Act No.
9 8435 (Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act of
10 1997).

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

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

1 (a) The administration and conduct of licensure
2 examination, and registration and licensing of fisheries
3 professionals;

4 (b) The supervision and regulation of the practice of
5 the fisheries profession in the Philippines; and

6 (c) The upgrading of the fisheries profession and the
7 professionalization of fisheries professionals.

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

10 (a) *Aquaculture* – refers to fishery operations
11 involving all forms of farming fish and other aquatic plants
12 and animals in fresh, brackish, and marine waters;

13 (b) *Aquatic Resources* – shall include fish and other
14 living resources of the aquatic environment that have/will
15 have commercial value when utilized;

16 (c) *Board* – refers to the Professional Regulatory
17 Board of Fisheries;

18 (d) *Commission* – refers to the Professional
19 Regulation Commission;

1 (e) *Fisheries* – refers to all activities relating to the
2 science and art or business of fishing, culturing,
3 preserving, processing, marketing, developing, conserving
4 and managing of aquatic resources and environment;

5 (f) *Fisheries Sector* – refers to the sector engaged in
6 the production, growing, harvesting, processing, marketing,
7 developing, conserving and managing of aquatic resources
8 and environment;

9 (g) *Fisheries Profession* – the practice of the science
10 and technical knowledge and skills of all areas of fisheries
11 (catching, farming, processing, marketing, management,
12 and conservation of aquatic resources and environment);

13 (h) *Fisheries Professional* – refers to a person who is
14 technically qualified and competent to practice the
15 fisheries profession and who has been issued a Certificate
16 of Registration and Professional Identification Card as
17 fisheries professional by the Board and the Commission;

18 (i) *Accredited and Integrated Professional*
19 *Organization (AIPO)* – refers to an integrated national
20 organization, association, or society that is granted

1 accreditation by the Board and the Commission as the
2 Accredited Integrated Professional Organization of
3 Fisheries Professionals; and

4 (j) *Scope of Examination* – refers to the range of
5 topics or subjects provided by the Board in the syllabi of
6 the four (4) areas of scope of examination for fisheries
7 professionals in Sections 9(m) and 15 of this Act.

8 SEC. 5. *Scope and Practice of the Fisheries Profession.*

9 – The scope and practice of the fisheries profession is the
10 application of the fundamental and known principles of
11 fisheries to the peculiar conditions and requirements of
12 fisheries as an industry and as a field of science and shall
13 include, but not be limited to, the following:

14 (a) Consultation, evaluation, investigation and management
15 services in fisheries;

16 (b) Preparation of fisheries design on inland, coastal
17 and offshore hatcheries and production systems; its plans,
18 specifications and project feasibility studies and estimates.
19 Provide supervision and management services to ensure
20 the incorporation of prescribed plans and specifications in

1 creating the biological and environmental requirements for
2 normal growth of fish species and aquatic organisms during
3 construction, installation, operation and maintenance of farm,
4 outdoor and indoor facilities; on the operations and
5 maintenance of post-harvest facilities and equipment,
6 including proper handling of fish catch in fishing vessel;
7 and other fisheries facilities, systems and technologies, in
8 collaboration/consultation with other disciplines;

9 (c) Conduct of research and development, training
10 and extension work in fisheries, aquatic resource,
11 aquaculture and post-harvest technologies;

12 (d) Management of fisheries resources and
13 manufacture of fishery products, and/or marketing of fish
14 and fishery products;

15 (e) Teaching fisheries courses in higher institutions
16 of learning in the Philippines recognized by the
17 government;

18 (f) Study and treatment of fish diseases and
19 parasites that affect fishing, post-harvest and aquaculture
20 activities and projects; and

1 (g) Employment in the government and private
2 sectors where the positions require the knowledge and
3 expertise of a fisheries professional except in small-scale
4 fisheries operations of municipal fisherfolk such as fishing,
5 aquaculture, fish processing where licensed fisheries
6 professionals are not required.

7 Scientists and professionals in closely related fields to
8 fisheries and in support of multidisciplinary fisheries
9 activities such as economics, social science, engineering,
10 marine biology, oceanography/limnology and others who
11 may immerse themselves in fisheries activities that do not
12 require technical knowledge in fisheries, are exempted
13 from the licensure requirements for fisheries professionals.

14 ARTICLE II

15 PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD OF FISHERIES

16 SEC. 6. *Creation and Composition of the Professional*
17 *Regulatory Board of Fisheries.* – There is hereby created a
18 Professional Regulatory Board of Fisheries to be composed
19 of a Chairman and three (3) Members, each Member
20 representing one of the four (4) fields of specialization

1 listed in Section 15, Article III hereof, to be appointed by
2 the President of the Philippines from a list of three (3)
3 recommendees of the Commission for each position chosen
4 from a list of four (4) nominees for each position submitted
5 by the AIPO of Fisheries Professionals: *Provided*, That a
6 member representing a field of specialization has at least a
7 bachelor's degree in that particular field of specialization.
8 The new Board shall be constituted within three (3)
9 months from the effectivity of this Act.

10 The Chairman and the three (3) Members of the
11 Board must be registered professionals and issued with
12 certificates of registration and professional identification
13 cards at the time of their appointment.

14 SEC. 7. *Qualifications of Board Members.* – The
15 Chairman and Members of the Board, at the time of their
16 appointment, must possess the following qualifications:

17 (a) Must be a natural-born citizen and resident of the
18 Philippines;

19 (b) Must be at least forty (40) years of age;

1 (c) Must be of proven integrity and of high moral and
2 ethical values in his/her personal as well as professional
3 conduct;

4 (d) Must not have been convicted by a court in a final
5 judgment in crime involving moral turpitude;

6 (e) Must be a holder of a Bachelor's degree in the
7 field of fisheries, or a holder of a Master or Doctorate
8 degree in the field of fisheries from a school, college, or
9 university recognized by the Government or abroad, and
10 has been engaged in the practice of fisheries profession for
11 at least ten (10) years before his/her appointment;

12 (f) Must not be connected with any school, college or
13 university granting a degree that qualifies graduates of
14 such degree for admission to the licensure examination for
15 fisheries professionals; and

16 (g) Must not be an incumbent officer or trustee of the
17 accredited professional organization for fisheries
18 professionals.

19 SEC. 8. *Term of Office.* – The Chairman and Members
20 of the Board shall hold office for a term of three (3) years or

1 until their successors shall have been qualified and
2 appointed. They may, however, be appointed for a second
3 term. Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled for the
4 unexpired portion of the term only. Each member shall
5 take an oath of office prior to the assumption of duties.

6 The incumbent Chairman and Members shall
7 continue to serve until their replacements shall have been
8 appointed and qualified.

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

11 (a) Promulgate, adopt and issue rules and regulations
12 to carry out the provisions of this Act;

13 (b) Give and supervise the licensure examination for
14 admission to the practice of the fisheries profession;

15 (c) Supervise and regulate the licensure, registration and
16 practice of the fisheries profession;

17 (d) Administer the oath of a professional to the
18 successful examinees in the licensure examination for
19 fisheries professionals in appropriate mass oath-taking
20 ceremonies to be held for the purpose;

1 (e) Register and issue certificates of registration to
2 successful examinees in licensure examinations for
3 fisheries professionals and to persons qualified to register
4 as fisheries professionals without examination;

5 (f) Suspend or revoke the certificate of registration
6 and professional identification card of a fisheries
7 professional for causes provided herein;

8 (g) Adopt an official seal of the Board as well as the
9 seal of fisheries professionals;

10 (h) Adopt and promulgate a Code of Ethics for
11 Fisheries Professionals and a Code of Professional
12 Standards for the Practice of the Fisheries Profession;

13 (i) Look into the conditions affecting the practice of
14 the fisheries profession and whenever necessary, adopt
15 measures as may be deemed appropriate for the
16 enhancement or maintenance of high professional and
17 ethical standards of the practice of the fisheries profession;

18 (j) Ensure, in coordination with the Commission on
19 Higher Education (CHED), that all educational
20 institutions offering courses in fisheries education comply

1 with the policies, standards and requirements of the course
2 prescribed by the CHED in the areas of curriculum,
3 faculty, library and facilities as well as to conform itself
4 with the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF)
5 necessary for education and training provisions in the
6 conformance towards learning outcomes;

7 (k) Hear/try and decide administrative cases
8 involving violations of the provisions of this Act and its
9 implementing rules and regulations (IRR) including the
10 Code of Ethics for Fisheries Professionals and Code of
11 Professional Standards for the Practice of Fisheries
12 Profession and, for this purpose, issue *subpoena* and
13 *subpoena duces tecum* to secure the appearance of
14 witnesses and the production of documents and to testify in
15 connection herewith;

16 (l) Enforce compliance with the Continuing
17 Professional Development Act of 2016 otherwise known
18 as Republic Act No. 10912. The CPD law shall be
19 mandatory for all fisheries professionals in coordination

1 with the accredited national association of fisheries
2 professionals;

3 (m) Prepare, adopt and issue, in consultation with the
4 academe, the syllabi or tables of specification of the
5 subjects for the licensure examinations and to amend the
6 same; and

7 (n) To discharge and perform such other duties and
8 functions as may be necessary to carry out the objectives
9 and purposes of this Act.

10 Except matters which are ministerial in nature, all
11 policies and functions of the Board embodied in resolutions
12 as well as rules and regulations issued by the Board shall
13 be subject to the review and approval of the Commission.

14 SEC. 10. *Compensation and Allowance of the*
15 *Chairman and Members of the Board.* – The Chairman and
16 Members of the Board shall receive compensation and
17 allowances comparable to the compensation and
18 allowances received by the Chairmen and Members of
19 other Professional Regulatory Boards.

1 SEC. 11. *Removal and Suspension of the Chairman*
2 *and Members of the Board.* – The President may, upon
3 recommendation of the Commission, remove any Member
4 of the Board for any of the following causes:

5 (a) Negligence;

6 (b) Incompetence;

7 (c) Immoral, dishonorable or unprofessional conduct;

8 (d) Violation of, or abetting the violation of, the
9 Professional Standards or Code of Ethics for Fisheries
10 Professionals; and/or

11 (e) Conviction in a final judgment of a crime
12 involving moral turpitude.

13 The right of the respondent to due process and be
14 assisted by counsel in an investigation shall be respected and
15 upheld. The President may, also upon recommendation of
16 the Commission, preventively suspend a Member under
17 administrative investigation.

18 SEC. 12. *Supervision of the Board, Custodian of its*
19 *Records, Secretarial and Support Services.* – The Board
20 shall be under the general supervision and administrative

1 control of the Commission. All records of the Board
2 including applications for examination, examination
3 papers and results, minutes of deliberation, administrative
4 cases and other investigations involving examinees and
5 fisheries technologists shall be kept and subject to the
6 disposition of the Commission.

7 The Commission shall provide secretariat and
8 support services to the Board for the efficient and effective
9 implementation of the provisions of this Act.

10 SEC. 13. *Annual Report.* – The Board shall, at the
11 close of each calendar year, submit an annual report to the
12 Commission, of its proceedings and accomplishments
13 during the year and make recommendations for the
14 adoption of measures that will upgrade the conditions
15 affecting the practice of the fisheries profession in the
16 Philippines.

17 ARTICLE III

18 EXAMINATION AND REGISTRATION

19 SEC. 14. *Licensure Examination.* – All applicants for
20 registration for the practice of the fisheries profession shall

1 be required to undergo and pass a written examination as
2 provided in this Act except those who qualify for
3 registration under Section 26 of this Act. The licensure
4 examination for fisheries professionals shall be given by
5 the Board at least once a year in such places and dates the
6 Commission may designate in accordance with the
7 provisions of Republic Act No. 8981.

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

- 11 (a) Aquatic Resources and Ecology;
- 12 (b) Aquaculture;
- 13 (c) Capture Fisheries; and
- 14 (d) Post-Harvest Fisheries.

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

1 SEC. 16. *Qualifications of Applicants for Examination.*

2 – Each applicant for examination shall establish to the
3 satisfaction of the Board that:

4 (a) He/she is citizen of the Philippines subject to the
5 provision on reciprocity as contained hereunder;

6 (b) He/she is of good moral character and must not
7 have been convicted of any crime involving moral
8 turpitude; and

9 (c) He/she is a graduate of at least a Bachelor's
10 degree in the field of fisheries from a school, college or
11 university established and recognized by the Government,
12 or a recognized university abroad.

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

18 SEC. 18. *Rating in the Board Examination.* – To pass
19 the licensure examination for fisheries professionals, a
20 candidate must obtain a weighted general average rating

1 of seventy-five percent (75%) and with no grade lower than
2 sixty percent (60%) in any given subjects. However, if an
3 examinee obtained a general weighted average rating of
4 seventy-five percent (75%) or higher but obtained a rating
5 below sixty percent (60%) in any given subject/s, he/she
6 shall be allowed to take the examination in the subject/s
7 where a grade below sixty percent (60%) was obtained.

8 SEC. 19. *Report of Ratings.* – The Board shall submit
9 to the Commission the rating obtained by each examinee in
10 the licensure examination within a period of ten (10) days
11 after the examination in the last subject unless extended
12 by the Commission for just and valid cause/s.

13 SEC. 20. *Report on the Performance of Examinees in*
14 *Licensure Examination.* – The Board, through the
15 Commission, may recommend to the CHED the following:

16 (a) The schools, colleges or universities whose
17 successful examinees in three (3) consecutive licensure
18 examination for fisheries professionals is less than eight
19 percent (8%) of the total number of its candidates who took

1 the licensure examinations shall be recommended for close
2 monitoring of their fisheries program; and

3 (b) The names of schools, colleges, or universities
4 whose successful examinees in five (5) successive licensure
5 examination for fisheries professionals is less than eight
6 percent (8%) of the total number of its examinees in each of
7 the licensure examination taken, and their fisheries
8 course/program shall be recommended for closure.

9 SEC. 21. *Issuance of Certificate of Registration and*
10 *Professional Identification Card.* – A Certificate of
11 Registration shall be issued to examinees who passed the
12 licensure examination for fisheries professionals, as well as
13 to a person that qualified to register as fisheries
14 professional without examination, subject to the payment
15 of fees prescribed by the Commission. The Certificate of
16 Registration, which indicates that the person named
17 therein is entitled to practice as fisheries professional with
18 all the benefits and privileges pertaining thereto, shall
19 bear the signature of the Chairperson of the Commission
20 and the Chairman and Members of the Board, and the seal

1 of the Commission and the Board: *Provided*, That he/she
2 shall be allowed to practice the profession without the need
3 of securing another license from any government agency.
4 The Certificate of Registration shall remain in full force
5 and effect until revoked or suspended in accordance with
6 this Act. A Professional Identification Card bearing the
7 registration number, and date of issuance, shall be
8 renewed every three (3) years and upon satisfying the
9 requirements of the Board and the Continuing Professional
10 Development Act of 2016 or Republic Act No. 10912.

11 SEC. 22. *Non-issuance of Certificate of Registration*
12 *and Professional Identification Card.* – The Board shall not
13 register and issue a Certificate of Registration to any
14 successful examinee that has been convicted by a court of
15 competent jurisdiction of any criminal offense involving
16 moral turpitude, or has been found guilty of immoral or
17 dishonorable conduct after investigation by the Board, or
18 has been declared to be of unsound mind. The reason for
19 the refusal shall be set forth in writing.

1 SEC. 23. *Revocation or Suspension of the Certificate of*
2 *Registration, Professional Identification Card or*
3 *Cancellation of Special Temporary Permit.* – The Board
4 may, after giving proper notice of hearing to the party
5 concerned, revoke the Certificate of Registration and
6 Professional Identification Card of a fisheries professional
7 or suspend him/her from the practice of the profession or
8 cancel the special temporary permit of a foreign national
9 for unprofessional or unethical conduct, malpractice,
10 negligence, incompetence, or violation of any of the
11 provisions of this Act, its IRR, Code of Ethics and Code of
12 Professional Standards for Fisheries Professionals, and
13 Code of Good Governance.

14 SEC. 24. *Reinstatement, Re-issuance, or Replacement*
15 *of Certificate of Registration, Professional Identification*
16 *Card.* – The Board may, after two (2) years from the date of
17 revocation of Certificate of Registration, reinstate any
18 revoked Certificate of Registration and reissue a
19 Professional Identification Card: *Provided*, That the cause
20 of disqualification or revocation has already ceased to exist.

1 SEC. 25. *Continuing Professional Development.* – All
2 fisheries professionals shall abide by the requirements,
3 rules, and regulation in the Continuing Professional
4 Development Act of 2016 or Republic Act No. 10192 to be
5 promulgated by the PRC Regulatory Board, subject to the
6 approval of the Commission, in coordination with the AIPO
7 for fisheries profession and the representative of duly
8 accredited education institutions. For this purpose, the
9 Board may create a CPD Council to implement the CPD
10 program subject to the guidelines as may be issued by the
11 Board.

12 SEC. 26. *Registration of Fisheries Professionals*
13 *without Examination.* – Upon approval of the application
14 and payment of the prescribed fees, certificate of
15 registration and professional identification card shall be
16 issued to the applicant for registration without
17 examination who can prove to the satisfaction of the Board
18 that items a, b, or c below has been met:

19 (a) He/she has at least a bachelor's degree in any
20 field of fisheries from a school, college or university

1 established or recognized by the Government: *Provided*,
2 That the applicant has passed any of the civil service
3 examination in fisheries, or has been granted equivalent
4 to second level eligibility by the Civil Service Commission
5 by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 907, or passed the
6 Career Service (Professional) examination given by the
7 Civil Service Commission: *Provided, further*, That the
8 applicant has served the fisheries industry in public or
9 private capacity for five (5) years before the effectivity of
10 Republic Act No. 8550;

11 (b) He/she has a graduate degree (master or
12 doctorate) in fisheries or closely related fields such as
13 marine biology, oceanography/limnology, food science/
14 technology/engineering, fish taxonomy, biotechnology as
15 applied in fisheries, aquatic biology, fishing boat
16 design/engineering, aquatic resource management, fish
17 health, fish nutrition, or fish chemistry from a school,
18 college or university, established or recognized by the
19 Government: *Provided*, That the applicant has served the
20 fisheries industry in public or private capacity for at least

1 ten (10) years: *Provided, further,* That the applicant has
2 published five (5) research and highly technical papers in
3 reputable journals, books and proceedings within the ten-
4 year service in fisheries;

5 (c) He/she is a graduate of at least a bachelor's degree
6 in fisheries from a school, college or university, established
7 or recognized by the Government: *Provided,* That the
8 applicant has served the fisheries industry (private sector)
9 for a total of ten (10) years: *Provided, further,* That he/she
10 can show proof of achievements, awards, commendations,
11 or promotions of deserving performance and has published
12 at least two (2) technical papers in fisheries.

13 The applicants are given two (2) years after the
14 approval and publication of the IRR of this Act to register
15 as fisheries professionals without examination.

16 SEC. 27. *Roster of Fisheries Professionals.* – The
17 Board, in coordination with the AIPO, shall prepare,
18 update and maintain a Roster of Fisheries Professionals,
19 their residence and office addresses, dates of registration

1 or issuance of certificate, and other data which the Board
2 may deem relevant.

3 The roster shall be open to the public copies of which
4 shall be made available to any party subject to the
5 guidelines which may be prescribed by the Commission.

6 SEC. 28. *Issuance of Special Temporary Permit.* –
7 Upon application and payment of the required fee and
8 subject to the approval of the Commission, the Board may
9 issue special temporary permits to fisheries professionals
10 from foreign countries whose services are urgently needed
11 in the absence or inadequacy of local fisheries professionals
12 for the purpose of promoting or enhancing the practice of
13 the fisheries profession in the Philippines.

14 SEC. 29. *Foreign Reciprocity.* – No foreign fisheries
15 professional shall be given a certificate of
16 registration/professional license and professional
17 identification card or be entitled to any of the privileges
18 under this Act unless the country of which the foreign
19 fisheries professional is a subject or citizen specifically
20 permits Filipino fisheries professionals to practice within

1 its territorial limits on the same basis as the subjects or
2 citizens of said country or state.

3 SEC. 30. *Seal and Use of Seal.* – Every fisheries
4 professional shall obtain a seal of such design as the Board
5 shall adopt and approve which shall be impressed upon all
6 documents, records, papers and/or instruments prepared
7 by/or under the direct supervision of or issued by a
8 registered fisheries professional only during the period of
9 the validity of his professional identification card.

10 SEC. 31. *Indication of Number, Certificate of*
11 *Registration, Professional Tax Receipt, and APO*
12 *Membership Official Receipt.* – Every registered fisheries
13 professional shall be required to indicate the number of
14 his/her certificate of registration, professional
15 identification card, the date of issuance and expiration of
16 said card including the number of his/her professional tax
17 receipt, its date and place of issue, and AIPO Membership
18 Official Receipt Number on any and all documents that
19 he/she signs, uses or issues in connection with the practice
20 of the fisheries profession.

ARTICLE IV

PRACTICE OF THE FISHERIES PROFESSION

1
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3 SEC. 32. *Oath.* – All successful examinees and those
4 qualified for registration without examination shall be
5 required to take an oath of profession before any member
6 of the Board or any officer of the Commission authorized
7 by it, or any person authorized by law to administer oaths
8 prior to entering into the practice of the fisheries
9 profession.

10 SEC. 33. *Acts Constituting the Practice of the Fisheries*
11 *Profession.* – Any single act or transaction embraced within
12 the provision of Section 5 hereof shall constitute an act of
13 engaging in the practice of the fisheries profession.

14 SEC. 34. *Prohibition Against the Unauthorized*
15 *Practice of the Fisheries Profession.* – No person shall
16 practice the fisheries profession in the Philippines or offer
17 himself/herself as fisheries professional, or use the title,
18 word, letter, figure or any sign tending to convey the
19 impression that one is a fisheries professional, or advertise
20 or indicate in any manner whatsoever that one is qualified

1 to practice the profession, unless he/she has satisfactorily
2 passed the Board licensure examination for fisheries
3 professionals, or registered as a fisheries professional
4 without examination, except as otherwise provided in this
5 Act, and is a holder of a valid Certificate of Registration
6 and a Professional Identification Card or a valid special
7 temporary permit duly issued to him/her by the Board and
8 the Commission.

9 SEC. 35. *Prohibition Against Corporate Practice.* –

10 The practice of fisheries professionals is a professional
11 service, admission to which shall be determined upon basis
12 of individual and personal qualification. No firm, company,
13 or association may be registered or licensed as such for the
14 practice of the fisheries profession.

15 SEC. 36. *Prohibition Against Hiring Unlicensed*
16 *Fisheries Professionals.* – Government agencies,
17 educational institutions, private corporations/companies,
18 and entrepreneurs in fisheries are prohibited from hiring
19 unlicensed fisheries professionals whose work is defined in
20 Section 5 of this Act.

1 SEC. 37. *Integration of Fisheries Profession.* – The
2 fisheries profession shall be integrated into one (1)
3 national professional organization of fisheries professionals
4 which shall be duly registered with the Securities and
5 Exchange Commission (SEC). The Board, subject to
6 approval by the Commission, shall accredit the said
7 organization as the one and only AIPO of registered
8 fisheries professionals. All fisheries professionals whose
9 names appear in the Registry Book of Fisheries Profession
10 shall *ipso facto* or automatically become members thereof
11 and shall receive all the benefits and privileges
12 appurtenant thereto upon payment of AIPO membership
13 fees and dues.

14 Membership in the AIPO shall not be a bar to
15 membership in other organizations of the fisheries
16 profession.

17 SEC. 38. *Code of Ethics and Professional Standards.* –
18 The Board shall adopt and promulgate the Code of Ethics
19 and the Code of Professional Standards for Fisheries

1 Professionals which shall be issued by AIPO of fisheries
2 professionals.

3 SEC. 39. *Vested Rights: Automatic Registration of*
4 *Fisheries Professionals.* – All Fisheries Technologists who
5 are registered and licensed under Resolution 01 (Series of
6 2002) of the Board of Fisheries, PRC, entitled “Rules and
7 Regulations Implementing PRC Resolution No. 2000-664,
8 As Amended” (Creation of the Board of Fisheries as
9 mandated by Section 115 of Republic Act No. 8550,
10 otherwise known as the Fisheries Code of 1998) at the time
11 this Act takes effect shall automatically be registered as
12 fisheries professionals.

13 ARTICLE V

14 PENAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

15 SEC. 40. *Penal Provisions.* – Any violation of this Act,
16 including the violations of the IRR thereof, shall be meted
17 the penalty of a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos
18 (P50,000.00) or more than Five hundred thousand pesos
19 (P500,000.00), or imprisonment of not less than six (6)
20 months, or both upon the discretion of the court.

1 SEC. 41. *Appropriation.* – There shall be an initial
2 appropriation of Twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) to
3 be disbursed for the operation of the Board of Fisheries
4 which shall include personal services, maintenance and
5 other operating expenses and capital outlay. In succeeding
6 years the Chairperson of the Commission shall
7 immediately include in the Commission's programs the
8 implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
9 included in the annual General Appropriations Act and
10 thereafter.

11 SEC. 42. *Transitory Provision.* – The existing
12 Professional Board of Fisheries shall continue to function
13 in the interim without another appointment until such
14 time that the new Board shall have been constituted
15 pursuant to this Act.

16 SEC. 43. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The
17 Board shall, subject to the approval of the Commission,
18 adopt, promulgate and issue the IRR, in coordination with
19 the AIPO and other fisheries institutions, to implement or
20 carry out the provisions of this Act.

1 SEC. 44. *Separability Clause.* – If any clause,
2 sentence, paragraph, or part of this Act shall be declared
3 unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect,
4 invalidate or impair any other part of this Act.

5 SEC. 45. *Repealing Clause.* – Section 115 of Republic
6 Act No. 8550 and Section 75 of Republic Act No. 8435 and
7 PRC Resolution No. 2000-664, Series of 2000 are hereby
8 repealed. All other laws, decrees, executive orders, and
9 other administrative issuances and parts thereof which are
10 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
11 modified, superseded or repealed accordingly.

12 SEC. 46. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen
13 (15) days following its full and complete publication in the
14 *Official Gazette* or in any major newspaper of general
15 circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,