



NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'22 JUL -7 P2:52

SENATE

RECEIVED BY:

S. No. 122

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF TALACOGON, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fish has always been an integral part of the traditional diet for Filipinos as cited in a study by Dr. Rolando Platon, former chief of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and Aquaculture. The global declining trend of capture fisheries calls for intensified promotion of aquaculture activities and top potential areas for aquaculture fish production.

Aquaculture is growing much faster than capture fisheries. However, the global position of the Philippines in aquaculture production has fallen steadily from fourth place in 1985 to twelfth place today. The Philippines now contributes only a little over 1 percent of global farm fish production compared to 5 percent previously. In addition, there is a need to fill the gap in fish production as the estimated requirement for fish fry in the Philippines is about 3.5 billion annually, while local production is only at 2.5 billion a year.

Talacogon is a 2nd class municipality in the Province of Agusan Del Sur with a population of 39,678.¹ Though it is a landlock municipality, fishing is one of the main sources of living of its citizen. Most of the catch of the fisherfolks came from the Agusan Marsh, which is one of the most ecologically significant wetlands in the country, where rivers, creeks and tributaries converge and drain northward to Agusan River and in Butuan Bay.

¹ <https://www.philatlas.com/mindanao/ca-aga/agusan-del-sur/talacogon.html>

To strengthen the fishing industry and to provide additional income opportunities to the small fisherfolks of the municipality, this bill is being proposes to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Talacogon, Province of Agusan Del Sur.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of the bill is requested.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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Office of the Secretary

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

1 SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the
2 Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of
3 Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a freshwater fish hatchery in the Municipality of
4 Talacogon, Province of Agusan del Sur.

5 SEC. 2. The BFAR-DA shall transfer the management of the
6 freshwater fish hatchery to the local government of Talacogon within two
7 (2) years after its construction through a memorandum of agreement. It
8 shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government
9 personnel on the management and operation of the hatchery.

10 The BFAR-DA shall conduct continuing research and experimentation
11 on freshwater aquaculture, especially as they apply to local conditions, to
12 discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the freshwater
13 fisheries industry.

14 SEC. 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the
15 Department's programs the establishment of the freshwater fish hatchery
16 in the Municipality of Talacogon, Province of Agusan del Sur, the funding
17 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The
18 local government unit shall set aside funds from any available local
19 revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of
20 the hatchery.

21 Sec. 4. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
22 Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations on the

1 supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the
2 management of the freshwater fish hatchery to the local government of
3 Talacogon.

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

6 Approved,