

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

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SENATE

S. No. 2327

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CATALINA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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. 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.

Santa Catalina is a coastal municipality in the province of Ilocos Sur. The municipality has a land area of 9.68 square kilometers or 3.74 square miles which constitutes 0.37% of Ilocos Sur's total area. Its population as determined by the 2020 Census was 14,493.¹

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

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


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

¹ <https://www.philatlas.com/luzon/r01/ilocos-sur/santa-catalina.html>

1 **SEC. 3.** The DA-BFAR shall conduct continuing research and
2 experimentation on the breeding and production of marine
3 species, especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover
4 new methods and technologies that will enhance the fishing
5 industry.

6 **Sec. 4.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the
7 Department's programs the conduct of the feasibility study and
8 the consequent establishment of the multi-species marine
9 hatchery in the Municipality of Sta. Catalina, Province of Ilocos
10 Sur, the funding of which shall be included in the General
11 Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set
12 aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed
13 appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery.

14 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act,
15 the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulations
16 on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual
17 transfer of the management of the multi-species marine hatchery
18 to the local government of the Municipality of Sta. Catalina,
19 Province of Ilocos Sur.

20 **Sec. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
21 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
22 circulation.

23 Approved,