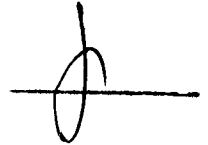


**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)**

23 NOV -7 P12:17

SENATE

RECEIVED BY



S. No. **2473**

Introduced by **Senator Cynthia A. Villar**

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A CENTRAL FRESHWATER MULTI-SPECIES MARINE
HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO, PROVINCE OF
ILOILO, 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.

Barotac Viejo is a coastal municipality in the province of Iloilo. The municipality has a land area of 185.78 square kilometers or 71.73 square miles which constitutes 3.72% of Iloilo's total area. Its population as determined by the 2020 Census was 48,614.¹

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 central freshwater multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo, Province of Iloilo.

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

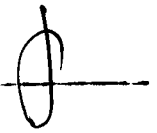

CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

¹ <https://www.philatlas.com/visayas/r06/iloilo/barotac-viejo.html>

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MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO,
PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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
2 supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of
3 the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), a central freshwater
4 multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo,
5 Province of Iloilo.

6 **SEC. 2.** Prior to the establishment of the central freshwater
7 multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR shall conduct a full-
8 scale feasibility study in support of its construction to comply with
9 the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

10 Within two (2) years after the construction of the central
11 freshwater multi-species marine hatchery, the DA-BFAR shall,
12 through a memorandum of agreement, transfer its management
13 to the local government of the Municipality of Barotac Viejo,
14 Province of Iloilo. It shall implement a training and phasing-in
15 program for local government personnel on the management and
16 operation of the hatchery.

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 central freshwater multi-
9 species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Barotac Viejo,
10 Province of Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the
11 General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned
12 shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an
13 amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the
14 hatchery.

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

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

24 Approved,