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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 774

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, *IN AID OF LEGISLATION*, INTO THE ALARMING INCREASE OF ALIEN INVASIVE SPECIES, SUCH AS SNAPPING TURTLES AND KNIFE FISHES, IN LAGUNA DE BAY THAT ENDANGER THE DIVERSITY OF OUR LOCAL FISHES, CRUSTACEANS AND MOLLUSK SPECIES, AND THE LIVELIHOOD OF OUR FISHERFOLKS.

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate the invasion of carnivorous aquatic species of snapping turtles and knife fishes in Laguna de Bay and neighboring water basins that threaten to wipe out the biodiversity of the said lake;

WHEREAS, snapping turtles are aquatic scavengers and active hunters that prey on basically anything they can swallow such as fishes, frogs, snakes, smaller turtles and other invertebrates;

WHEREAS, knife fishes are breeds of African catfishes that were introduced in the Philippines by hobbyists and were let loose in our waterways just like the very invasive janitor fish which used to pester our major water basins;

WHEREAS, said alien species plague fish farms or small fish pens and cages and gorge on cultured bangus (milkfish), tilapia and carps, and other indigenous fishes;

WHEREAS, fishermen of the Laguna de Bay confirm through news reports that said invasive aquatic species are consuming our local fishes stressing that the knife fish is now a regular catch that comprise up to seventy per cent (70%) of a fisherman's harvest;

WHEREAS, there is a need to conduct a thorough study of the snapping turtle and knife fish to properly manage their proliferation and benefit from any alternative use of these invasive aquatic species;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved to direct the appropriate committees in the Senate to conduct an inquiry, in Aid of Legislation, into the alarming increase of alien invasive species, such as snapping turtles and knife fishes, in Laguna de Bay that endanger the diversity of our local fishes, crustaceans and mollusk species, and the livelihood of our fisherfolks.

Adopted,


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator