



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 7532

BY REPRESENTATIVE RODRIGUEZ (E.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 417

AN ACT

ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES FISH HATCHERY AND RESEARCH CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES, 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 supervision of the Bureau of Fisheries
2 and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), a multi-species fish hatchery
3 and research center to be known as the Bato Aquaculture Center in the Municipality of Bato,
4 Province of Catanduanes.

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6 SEC. 2. Prior to the establishment of the Bato Aquaculture Center, the DA-BFAR shall
7 prepare a project study and/or proposal detailing the mechanics of a research center and shall
8 conduct a full-scale feasibility study in support of the construction of the hatchery to comply with
9 the requirements of the Department of Budget and Management.

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11 SEC. 3. The DA-BFAR, through a memorandum of agreement with the local government of
12 the Municipality of Bato, shall constitute and convene a Local Advisory Council which shall be the
13 policy making body of the Center and shall facilitate the exchange of information among the
14 stakeholders. The Council shall be composed of five (5) members consisting of the following:

- 15 a. Regional DA-BFAR Director for Region 5 as Chairperson;
16 b. Member of the House of Representatives for the Province of Catanduanes as Co-
17 Chairperson;
18 c. President of the Municipal Mayors League of Cantanduanes;
19 d. Mayor of the Municipality of Bato; and
20 e. Three (3) representatives from the local fisheries sectors.

21 The three (3) representatives from the local fisheries sectors shall be appointed by the
22 Member of the House of Representatives for the Province of Catanduanes.

23 SEC. 4. The Bato Aquaculture Center and the DA-BFAR shall conduct continuing research
24 and experimentation on the breeding and production of both freshwater and saltwater fish,
25 especially as they apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technologies that shall
26 benefit the freshwater and saltwater aquaculture industries.

1 Further, the Center shall disperse fish fry and fingerlings in public bodies of water in such
2 intervals as may be recommended by the Local Advisory Council. It may also sell such fry and
3 fingerlings to individual or organized fish farmers at prevailing market prices.

4 SEC. 5. Within two (2) years after its establishment, the DA-BFAR shall transfer the Bato
5 Aquaculture Center to the local government of the Municipality of Bato through a memorandum of
6 agreement.

7 The DA-BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government
8 personnel and the members of the Local Advisory Council on the management and operation of the
9 multi-species fish hatchery and research center.

10 SEC. 6. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the
11 conduct of the feasibility study and the consequent establishment of the Bato Aquaculture Center in
12 the Municipality of Bato, Province of Catanduanes, the funding of which shall be included in the
13 General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any
14 available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the Bato
15 Aquaculture Center.

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17 SEC. 7. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture
18 shall issue the rules and regulations on the supervision, operation, monitoring, and the eventual
19 transfer of the management of the Bato Aquaculture Center to the local government of the
20 Municipality of Bato.

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22 SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
23 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,