AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATAD, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Batad is a fifth class municipality in the province of Iloilo. According to the 2010 census, it had a population of 19,385 people. The town is composed of 24 barangays, 19 are inland while 5 are coastal area.

Batad is generally far (125 kilometers from the capital of the province, Iloilo City) and due to the remoteness, majority of the people still rely on farming and fisheries for subsistence.

Rice, Corn, and Sugarcane comprise the major agricultural products of Batad. Along its coastal barangays, prawns, crabs and all kinds of fishes are abundant during peak fishing months. Livestock and Poultry raising are secondary sources of income of some farmers.

One of the attractions in Batad is the biggest constructed dam in the province of Iloilo, the Alapasco Dam. The dam was constructed in 1993 and was finished in 1997 with a length measuring 264.90 meters and a height of 21 meters. The dam serves as a water storage reservoir in the low foothills of cornfields and it has a hatchery of golden tilapia.

This Bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the municipality of Batad to catalyze the development of aquaculture in the town which can provide both direct and indirect employment to its people.

The approval of this Bill will contribute to the growth and development of the fisheries sector and allied industries. It will also help increase the income of fisher folks who, together with farmers, remained among the poorest in the country. Latest study on the poverty statistics for basic sectors showed that fishermen posted the highest poverty incidence for nine basic sectors in the Philippines at 41.4 percent, and this had remained unchanged since 2006.

The bill was deliberated and approved on Third Reading by the House of Representatives during the 17th Congress.

In view thereof, approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

RAUL "BOBOY" C. TUPAS
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE 
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES 
First Regular Session 

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 
H. No. 1121 

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas 

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTISPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE 
MUNICIPALITY OF BATAD, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING 
FUNDS THEREFOR 

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established, under the supervision of the Bureau of 
Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture (BFAR-DA), a 
multispecies marine hatchery in the Municipality of Batad, Province of Iloilo. 

SECTION 2. The BFAR-DA shall, within three (3) years after the establishment of the 
multispecies marine hatchery, transfer the management of the same to the Northern 
Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC) through a memorandum of agreement. The 
BFAR-DA shall implement a training and phasing-in program for NIPSC personnel on 
the management and operation of the multispecies marine hatchery. 

The BFAR-DA and the NIPSC shall conduct continuing research and 
experimentation on the breeding and production of marine species, especially as they 
apply to local conditions, to discover new methods and technology that shall benefit the 
fisheries industry. 

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department’s programs 
the establishment of the multispecies marine hatchery in the Municipality of Batad, 
Province of Iloilo, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General 
 Appropriations Act. The NIPSC concerned shall set aside funds from any available 
revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the hatchery. 

SECTION 4. Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of 
Agriculture and the NIPSC shall issue the rules and regulations on the establishment, 
supervision, monitoring, and the eventual transfer of the management of the 
multispecies marine hatchery to the NIPSC. 

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official 
Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation. 

Approved,