

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Eighteenth Congress
First Regular Session

4883

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Siocon is a municipality in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte with a population of 46, 907 people as of the 2015 census. It is an area with two great bodies of water, the Sulu Sea and the Siocon River. As such, fishing is one of the major livelihoods of its residents, second only to farming.

As a municipality that depends on its aquatic resources for its economy and the livelihood of its residents, it is crucial that a sustainable supply of fisheries is maintained in the bodies of water around it. Indeed, one of the measures undertaken by the local government of Siocon is to rigorously enforce the prohibition of commercial fishing within fifteen (15) kilometers of municipal waters under Republic Act 8550 or the Philippine Fisheries Code, as amended. Another is its strict implementation of closed fishing seasons, when fish and other marine animals are allowed to grow and multiply. Despite these measures however, there is still a need for a pro-active measure to maintain and increase the supply of marine resource in the area, using scientific and research-based methods.

Thus, this bill seeks to establish a multi-species marine hatchery in the Municipality of Siocon in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. A multi-species hatchery will address the problem of maintaining the supply of fish and other marine resources in Sulu Sea and Siocon River and contribute to the economic development of the municipality and its nearby areas. In turn, this will promote the policy of the State under the Constitution to provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ISAGANI S. AMATONG