

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**Eighteenth Congress**  
First Regular Session

**4939**  
**HOUSE BILL NO.** \_\_\_\_\_



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**INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

No less than the Constitution itself provides that "the State shall protect the rights of subsistence fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore." Furthermore, the State shall "provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production and marketing assistance, and other services."

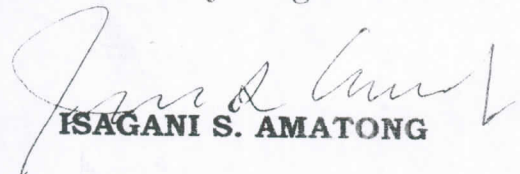
Despite this constitutional mandate, however, there is a glaring inadequacy in the number of our municipal fish ports. It is for this reason that the Philippine Institute for Development Studies suggests that the national government should prioritize the building of new ports in municipalities.

This bill seeks to establish a fish port in Barangay Macuyon, Municipality of Sirawai, in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte. Its construction in the said coastal barangay is feasible because of the rich marine resources in the area and that most of its residents are small-time fisher folks who mainly rely on fish and marine resources in and around the area for their livelihood and daily subsistence.

The proposed fish port is not only expected to provide a simplified and organized trading, but will facilitate easy handling of fishery products right from its sources to the middlemen and to the consumers as well. It will also be a place for the fishermen to refuel, resupply, and dry-dock their small fishing vessels.

Thus, this bill will promote the mandate of the Constitution and will provide new economic opportunities for the residents of Barangay Macuyon.

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

  
**ISAGANI S. AMATONG**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISHPORT IN BARANGAY MACUYON,  
MUNICIPALITY OF SIRAWAI, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**SECTION 1.** There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, through the Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA), a fish port in Barangay Macuyon, Municipality of Sirawai, in the Province of Zamboanga del Norte.

**SECTION 2.** Within two (2) years after the construction of the fish port, the PFDA, through a memorandum of agreement, shall transfer its management to local government unit concerned. It shall implement a training and phasing-in program for the local government personnel on the management and operation of the fish port.

**SECTION 3.** The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's programs the establishment of the fish port, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue the amounts necessary for the operation of the fish port.

**SECTION 4.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall issue the rules and regulation on the supervision, monitoring, and the transfer to the local government unit concerned by the PFDA of the said fish port.

**SECTION 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

