

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2255



Introduced by **Honorable SAMANTHA LOUISE V. ALFONSO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As an archipelagic country, the Philippines is naturally gifted with aquatic resources. As such, fish has always been one of the country's most important products. In the Northwestern part of Cagayan along the West Philippine Sea, between the municipalities of Ballesteros and Pamplona, lies the municipality of Abulug. Historically, it has always been a flourishing fishing village long before Don Juan Salcedo sailed to the mouth of Abulug River in 1572.

Being a municipality that relies on their aquatic resources, it is crucial to their economy that their fisheries are properly maintained. However, the primitive practices of fishermen coupled with the lack of scientific knowledge in preservation and conservation resulted into damages to its natural resources. As a result, the livelihood of farmers and fishermen has greatly suffered.

Measures have to be put in place to prevent further destruction of fisheries and aquatic resources without sacrificing the plight of fishermen in the area. Article II, section 7 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution specifically provides this protection:

"Section 7. The State shall protect the rights of subsistence of fishermen, especially of local communities, to the preferential use of the communal marine and fishing resources, both inland and offshore. It shall provide support to such fishermen through appropriate technology and research, adequate financial, production, and marketing assistance, and other services. The State shall also protect, develop, and conserve such resources. The protection shall extend to offshore fishing grounds of subsistence fishermen against foreign intrusion. Fish workers shall receive a just share from their labor in the utilization of marine and fishing resources."

Therefore, there is a need to establish a fishery research center in the Municipality of Abulug. This bill seeks to establish a Fisheries Research Center in the Municipality of Abulug with the aim of improving the Fishery Industry in the Second District of Cagayan. It

shall be complete with technologically-advanced features and modern scientific equipment which will help in facilitating, implementing, and monitoring the various research needs and activities of the fisheries sector. It will be a repository of all fisheries researches and scientific information. Likewise, the center will provide a venue for intensive training and development of human resources in the field of fisheries. The fishermen in the neighboring shore-towns of Ballesteros, Pamplona, Sanchez Mira, Claveria, Sta. Praxedes, and the Babuyan Islands, and even Aparri in the First District of Cagayan, will all benefit from the presence of a fishery research center.

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



SAMANTHA LOUISE V. ALFONSO

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2255

Introduced by **Honorable SAMANTHA LOUISE V. ALFONSO**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A FISHERIES RESEARCH CENTER IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF ABULUG IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF
CAGAYAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

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, a fisheries research center in the Municipality of Abulug, in the Province of Cagayan.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the Department's program for the establishment of the said fisheries research center, 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 revenues in an amount deemed for its operationalization.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,