

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



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 873

INTRODUCED BY REP. JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Over twenty years since it was mandated by Congress under the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998, there has been very little progress, if any, towards the establishment of settlement areas for fisherfolks. As a result, fisherfolks continue to be a very vulnerable sector, continually displaced not only by natural calamities, but also by industrial and tourism-related development.

This measure aims to strengthen the mandate, and facilitate the establishment of settlement areas for fisherfolks by including the local government units of coastal areas, and the newly created Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development as co-implementing agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

It is hoped that with this measure, the intended protection for the rights and welfare of fisherfolks, who are mostly underprivileged, will finally be realized.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


JOHN REYNALD M. TIANGCO

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERFOLK
RESETTLEMENT AREAS BY THE DEPARTEMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 108 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550,
OTHERWISE KNOW AS THE "PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998,"
AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654**

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

Section 1. Amendatory Provision – Section 108 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known, as the "Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," as renumbered by Republic Act No. 10654, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 108. Fisherfolk Settlement Area – The Department of Agriculture, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, and the local government units of cities or municipalities having jurisdiction over coastal areas and municipal waters shall establish and create settlement areas for fisherfolks with adequate access to fishing grounds as may be determined by the Department of Agriculture; *provided*, that where there exists previously identified or established settlement areas with adequate access to fishing grounds, fisherfolks shall be granted preference in the award thereof; *provided, further*, that preference shall be given, or settlement areas shall be especially established only in favor of fisherfolks who are registered as such with the city or municipality having jurisdiction over coastal areas and municipal waters, and who are without real property; *provided finally*, that local government units having jurisdiction over coastal areas and municipal waters are hereby mandated to integrate settlement areas for fisherfolks in their respective comprehensive land use plans.

Section 2. Repealing Clause. – All other laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and parts thereof which are inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 4. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15) after its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,