



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

TO : The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Policy and Planning Services
Legal Affairs Service

FROM : The Assistant Secretary
Field Operations- Mindanao and Legislative Affairs

SUBJECT : **INVITATION FROM THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE
AND FISHERIES RESOURCES**

DATE : 24 February 2021

This pertains to an undated letter from Representative **LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA**, Chairperson, Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources, inviting DENR to a TWG Meeting, via Video Conferencing on **04 March 2021 (Thursday) 9:00am**, with Meeting ID: **878 2532 2263 Passcode: 456008**, to deliberate on the following House Bill;

HBN 7853 – “AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998”, by Rep. Gacia, Pablo John.

Kindly inform this Office of your attendance before the scheduled date of the meeting and submit presentation, comments and/or position paper in hard and soft at the Legislative Liaison Office at telephone number 8920-1761 and e-mail address denrlegislative@yahoo.com, for our reference.

Should you have any questions, please coordinate with the Committee Secretary at telephone number 0917-793-7331 or email: committee.aquaculture@house.gov.ph.


JOANA A. LAGUNDA, D.M., D.P.A.

Encls: As stated.
/juo023

MEMO NO. 2021 - 163

Invitation/Meeting on 4 March 2021 at 9AM via Zoom re HBN 7853

From: legis lative (denrlegislative@yahoo.com)

To: director@bmb.gov.ph; adirector@bmb.gov.ph; t_tenazas@yahoo.com; las.denr@gmail.com; odpps@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 12:27 PM GMT+8

Dear Sir/Mam,

Good Day!

Please see the attached letter invitation from the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources for your perusal. Kindly acknowledge receipt of the email. Thank you.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources Legislative Liaison Office

Visayas Avenue, Diliman, 1100 Quezon City, Philippines
denr.gov.ph
Tel: 9201761



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Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

The Honorable ROY A. CIMATU
Secretary
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Dear Secretary Cimatú:

Greetings!

In a meeting held by the House Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources last February 9, a Technical Working Group (TWG) was created to study and refine the provisions of House Bill No. 7853, entitled: "AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998"" by Rep. Garcia, Pablo John F.

In this regard, we are inviting you or your representative to participate in the TWG in a video conference via Zoom to be held on **Thursday, March 4, 2021, 9:00 AM**. Zoom access details:

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87825322263?pwd=bE1BditLc08xREI3ZTk4YlBYRTlYdz09>

Meeting ID: 878 2532 2263

Passcode: 456008

Should you have any questions, please coordinate with the Committee Secretary at telephone number 0917-793-7331 or email: committee.aquaculture@house.gov.ph.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

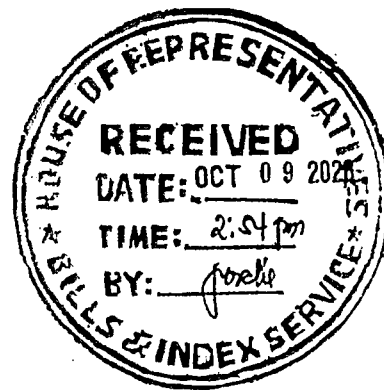
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo Rafael M. Cueva".

LEO RAFAEL M. CUEVA
Chairman
Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7858



Introduced by Representative PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to amend the Fisheries Code of 1998 to expand the possible area of operations of small and medium commercial fishing vessels, as defined by the law, within municipal waters.

These fishing vessels are only allowed to operate within "the ten point one (10.1) to fifteen (15) kilometer area from the shoreline in municipal waters" currently. As a consequence, this delimitation disenfranchises fishing operations in municipalities and cities that do not have municipal waters which extend far enough from their respective shorelines.

Amending the law to include an exception, as can be found hereunder, ensures that the various economic gains brought about by fishing may be experienced by more local government units, fishers, and families nationwide.

This pandemic has debilitated many industries and has left many workers destitute. All efforts must be exerted towards recovering from this crippling period of our nation's history.

The urgent passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Garcia", written in a cursive style.

Rep. PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA
3rd District, Province of Cebu

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7853

Introduced by Representative PABLO JOHN F. GARCIA

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 18 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "THE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998"**

Section 1. Section 18 of Republic Act No. 8550 otherwise known as the "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998," as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 18. Users of Municipal Waters. — All fishery related activities in municipal waters, as defined in this Code, shall be utilized by municipal fisherfolk and their cooperatives/organizations who are listed as such in the registry of municipal fisherfolk.

The municipal or city government, however, may, through its local chief executive and acting pursuant to an appropriate ordinance, authorize or permit small and medium commercial fishing vessels to operate within the ten point one (10.1) to fifteen (15) kilometer area from the shoreline in municipal waters as defined herein, provided, that all the following are met:

- a. no commercial fishing in municipal waters with depth less than seven (7) fathoms as certified by the appropriate agency;
- b. fishing activities utilizing methods and gears that are determined to be consistent with national policies set by the Department;
- c. prior consultation, through public hearing, with the M/CFARMC has been conducted; and
- d. the applicant vessel as well as the shipowner, employer, captain and crew have been certified by the appropriate agency as not having violated this Code, environmental laws and related laws.

PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT, IN CASES WHERE THE MUNICIPAL WATERS, AS DEFINED HEREIN, OF A MUNICIPALITY OR CITY DO NOT EXTEND TO AT LEAST TEN POINT ONE (10.1) KILOMETERS FROM THE SHORELINE, SMALL AND MEDIUM COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSELS MAY STILL BE GIVEN A PERMIT TO OPERATE WITHIN SUCH MUNICIPAL WATERS AS LONG AS THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

PROVIDED FINALLY, THAT, in no case shall the authorization or permit mentioned above be granted for fishing in bays as determined by the Department to be in an environmentally critical condition and during closed season as provided for in Section 9 of this Code.

Section 2. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

Section 3. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,