



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE
QUICK NOTES
THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 19TH CONGRESS

Public Hearing of the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform joint with the Committee on Finance

Chairperson: Sen. Cynthia A. Villar

20 January 2025, Monday, 10:00 a.m., Sen. Sotto Room, Senate

Re:

- **H. No. 7500—Aquaculture Feed Mill Plant (Panay, Capiz)**
- **S. No. 2417—Establishing an Aquaculture Feed Mill Plant in Bahit, Capiz**

Background

- In 2020, 233,725 individuals, or 11% of the total registered fisherfolk in the country, relied on aquaculture for their livelihoods. Among the various fisheries sub-sectors, aquaculture accounted for the largest share, contributing 52.79% of the country's total fisheries production and 41.82% of its production value.¹
- The high production costs continue to be a significant challenge for fish farmers, primarily due to the rising prices of feed, which accounts for 50%-70% of aquaculture production costs. According to the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center-Aquaculture Division (SEAFDEC-AQD), commercial feed prices range from P33 to P35 per kilogram for milkfish and from P32 to P34 per kilogram for tilapia. Developing efficient and sustainable feed solutions could potentially reduce these prices by P6 to P10 per kilogram.²
- Capiz, often referred to as the "Seafood Capital of the Philippines," boasts a lengthy coastline and vast swampy areas that can be easily transformed into fishponds. It is home to some of the richest fishing grounds in the country and plays a significant role in the fisheries sector.³

Highlights of the Bills

- The measures seek to establish an aquaculture feed mill plant in Barangay Bahit, Municipality of Panay, Province of Capiz, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act;

¹ <http://www.bfar.da.gov.ph/wpcontent/uploads/2022/02/2020-Fisheries-Profile-Final.pdf>.

² <https://www.da.gov.ph/aquafeed-proiect-develops-cost-effective-feeds-for-milkfish-tilapia/>

³ Paraphrased from the Explanatory Note of S. No. 2417

- Upon the effectivity of the measure, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) shall prepare a project study or proposal detailing the mechanics for the establishment of an aquaculture feed mill;
- Within five years after the establishment of the aquaculture feed mill plant, the BFAR shall, through a Memorandum of Agreement with the local government of the Municipality of Panay, constitute and convene a Management Board which shall be the policymaking body of the aquaculture feed mill plant;
- The BFAR shall implement a training and phasing-in program for local government personnel and the members of the Management Board on the management and operation of the aquaculture feed mill plant; and
- The local government unit concerned shall set aside funds from any available local revenue in an amount deemed appropriate for the operationalization of the aquaculture feed mill plant.

Possible Points for Discussion

- Discuss the geographic and logistical advantages of establishing a feed mill plant in in Barangay Bahit, Municipality of Panay, Province of Capiz.
- Discuss how the plant could boost local aquaculture, improve productivity, and support livelihoods.
- Clarify the amount of funding needed for the project and the sources of financing.
- What role will local government units play in the establishment and management of the feed mill?
- What is the proposed timeline for construction and operationalization of the plant?
- Who will oversee the implementation and ensure the proper use of appropriated funds?
- Possible opposition from environmental groups or residents due to land use.