

**[ REPUBLIC ACT NO. 177, June 20, 1947 ]**

**AN ACT TO CREATE THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES**

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created under the Department of Agriculture and Commerce an office to be known as the Bureau of Fisheries.

SEC. 2. The Bureau of Fisheries shall have one chief who shall be known as the Director of Fisheries, to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Commission on Appointments of the Congress and shall receive a compensation of seven thousand two hundred pesos per annum. Subject to the general supervision and control of the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, the Director of Fisheries shall possess the powers generally conferred upon Bureau Chiefs.

There shall be in the said Bureau such experts and other officials and employees to be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce as may be required to carry out the purposes of this Act and of the Fisheries Act.

SEC. 3. The divisions, sections, field districts, experimental stations, and all activities and agencies of the Rational Government connected with fishery work are hereby transferred to the Bureau of Fisheries, and such Powers, functions, and duties relative to fisheries vested by law or executive orders in such divisions, sections, field districts, experimental stations, and other fishery agencies are hereby transferred to the Director of Fisheries.

The Director of Fisheries shall, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce, organize its personnel into such divisions or sections as will insure maximum efficiency.

SEC. 4. The Director of Fisheries shall have the following powers, duties, and functions:

- a. To supervise and control the demarcation, protection, management, development, reproduction, occupancy, and use of all public fishery reserves and national and municipal fisheries and fishery reservations.
- b. To issue, in accordance with law, licenses or permits for the removal or taking of aquatic products and to suspend or revoke the same for cause.
- c. To carry out the provisions of this Act and all other laws pertaining to the supervision, administration, and disposition of aquatic resources and all rules and regulations promulgated thereunder.