### SIDTH PALAU LEGISLATURE

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Seventh Regular Session, October, 1978

(P111 NO. 282) PUBLIC LAW 10. 6-7-14

### AN ACT

An Act to provide for fisheries zone regulations and agreements, for Palsa Maritime Authority, to appropriate funds and for other purposes.

EL IT ENVITED BY THE PALAU LEXISTATURE:

Section 1. <u>Purposes</u>. By the enarment of this legislation, Polau enacts its own fishery zone legislation to manage, conserve, and regulate the harvesting of fish throughout their habitat, both within the real areas of islands and atolls, and in other areas within the jurisdictional curpotence of Palau.

Section 2. <u>Definitions</u>. As used in this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:

- "Atoll" means a circular or oval coral rect forming a goographic and coologic unity crowned by at least one island.
- (2) f "Authority" means the Palau Maritime Authority established by Section 10 of this Act.
  - (3) "Legislature" means the Palma Legislature.
  - (4) "Director" mozns the Director of the Palau Maritime Authority.
  - (5) "District" means Palau District.
  - (6) "Fish" means any living resource.
- 16 (7) "Fishery" means:
  - (a) \*One or more stocks of fish which can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and which are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, recreational, and ecuncular characteristics; and
    - (b) Any fishing for such stocks.
  - (8) ["Foreign Fishing Agreement" means an agreement approved by the District and one or more foreign commercial fishing interests to permit foreign vessels to harvest fish within the exclusive or extended fishery zones

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Authority.									

- (9) "Toraign fishing" means fishing by vessels not wholly owned or chartered by citizens of Palau.
- (10) "Island" means a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide.
- (11) "Living resource" means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine birds.
- (12) "Palau" or "Government of Palau" refers only to the District cf Palmu.
- (13) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other entity, the Government of Palau or any of its subdivision or any entity thereof, and any foreign government, subdivision of such government or entity thereof.
- (14) "Reef fish" means any species of living resource which predominately inhabits reef areas or internal waters.
- (15) "Stock of fish" means a species, subspecies, geographical grouping, or other category of fish capable of management as a unit.
- (16) "Submerged reef" means a coral reef forming a geographic and ecologic unity which is wholly submarged at high tide.
- Section 3. Baseline system defined. A baseline is a continuous line which encircles an islands or stoll. The baseline from which the zones designated in this Act are to be measured is as follows:
- (1) The baseline of an island or portion of an island lacking a barior reef, fringing reef, or other reef system is the low water line of

# (B111 NO.982) TUMAC LIW NO. 6-7-14

the island as marked on large scale charts officially recognized by the Government of Palau District.

(2) The baseline of an stoll or inland or portion of an island having a barrier reef, fringing reef, or other reef system is a line following the contour of the seaward edge of the reef system, which line connects those outcomest elevations of the reef which are above water at low tide, and which line exists as marked on large scale charts officially recognized by the Government of the Palau District.

## Section 4. Territorial Sea.

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- (1) There is hymely established a Territorial Sea of three miles breadth. The inner boundary of the Territorial Sea of each island or atoll is the baseline as defined in Section 3 of this Act. The outer boundary is a line, every point of which is three nautical miles seaward of the nearest point on the baseline.
- (2) Waters landward of the baseline, including the lagoons of atolle or islands, are internal waters.

## Section 5. Exclusive Fishery Zone.

- (1) There is hereby established an Exclusive Fishery Zone contiguous to the Territorial Sea. The inner boundary of the Territorial Sea, and the outer boundary is a line, every point of which is thelve nautical miles seaward of the nearest point on the baseline as defined in Section 3 of this Act.
- (2) The Government of Palau possesses and may exercise the same sovereign rights to living recources in the Exclusive Fishery Zone as it does in the Territorial Sea.

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Section 6.7 Extended Fishery Zone. There is hereby established an Extended Fishery Zone contiguous to the Exclusive Fishery Zone. The inner boundary of the Extended Fishery Zone of each island or atoll is the seaward boundary of the Exclusive Fishery Zone, and the outer boundary is a line, every point of which is two hundred nautical miles seaward of the nearest point on the baseline as defined in Section 3 of this Act. The Government of Palau shall have exclusive management, conservation, and regulatory authority over all living resources within the Extended Fishery Zone to the full extent recognized by international law.

Section 7. Merced Zone. Where the zone of one island overlaps a like zone of another island, they merge and become one, the outer boundary of which is the secward most boundary of the merged zone.

Section 8. <u>Subsequed reals</u>. Traditionally recognized fishing rights in subserved real areas wherever located within the fishery zone of Palau shall be preserved and respected in accordance with the regulations of the district Authority established pursuant to Section 102 of this Act.

## Section 9. Delimitation.

- (1) The Palau Maritime Authority and the United States Government and the Government of the Trust Territory shall cooperate in the delimitation of the Palau Extended Fishery Zone when it overlaps a zone of national jurisdiction established by another nation.
- (2) In the event the fishery zone of Palau District overlaps with that of another district of the Trust Territory, the Authority may by agreement with appropriate agency of that district resolve their respective fishery zones.

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## Section 10 Palau Maritime Authority.

(1) There is hereby established a Palau Maritime Authority composed of four (4) mambers appointed by the High Commissioner, four (4) members appointed by the Speaker of the Palau Legislature, and one (1) member appointed jointly by the High Cormissioner and the Speaker. The term of office of each member shall commonom effective the date of the first meeting of the Authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the same narrar as the original appointment for the remainder of the term of office of the vacancy. The Authority shall be consituted not less than thirty (30) days after the effective date of this Act. The High Commissioner shall designate one (1) appointee as a temporary chairman. The temporary chairman shall call the first meeting of the Authority and preside over its deliberations until a permanent chairman is chosen by majority vote of the numbers of the Authority. The Authority shall ment at such times and places as may be designated by the Chairman or by the Authority. {The Authority shall adopt its own rules of procedure and regulations by majority vote. Regulations adopted by the Authority shall have the full force and effect of law. The process of the adoption of regulations by the Authority is expressly exempt from the requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act set forth in Title 17 of the Trust Territory Code, but the Authority nevertheless shall insure wide dissemination of the proposed regulations and afford the public a reasonable opportunity to present its views prior to the adoption of any regulations.

- (2) The Authority shall have the following duties, functions and authority:
  - (a) To adopt regulations for the conscriztion, management,

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and amplituation of all living resources in the Extended and Exclusive fishery zones of Palau pursuant to Section 5, and 6 of this Act;

- (b) To participate in the delimitation of the Extended Fishery Zone in accordance with Section 9 of this Act;
- (c) To negotiate and conclude foreign fishing agreements in accordance with Section 12 of this Act;
- (C) To issue foreign fishing permits in accordance with regu-Lations promulgated pursuant to Subsection 1 and Paragraph 2 (a) of this \* mection;
- (e) The Authority shall submit its budget and a report regarding the expenditure of its funds to the Palau Legislature each regular tension for approval; and
- (f) To perform such other duties and functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.
- (3) The Authority shall employ a full-time Director qualified in fishery management and experienced in international negotiation. The Authority may employ such other staff as it may down necessary.
- (4) Mombers of the Authority shall be compensated at the rate of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per day when actually on the business of the Authority. If any mamber of the Authority is currently employed by the Trust Torritory Government he shall receive his regular salary while on the business of the Authority, or twenty dollars (\$20,00) per day, whichever is greater. All members of the Authority shall receive per diem and travel expenses at octablished Trust Territory Government rates while on the business of the Authority.

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(5) The Chairman of the Authority shall report on its activities to the Presiding Officers of the Palau Legislature on a quarterly basis, and to the High Commissioner on an annual basis. The annual report shall contain a detailed accounting of the expenditure of funds by the Authority.

Section 11. Poreign fishing. No vessel other than a vessel owned solely by the citizens of Palau may fish in the torritorial sea of Palau. Foreign fishing may be permitted in the Exclusive and Extended Fishery Zone, under Section 14 of this Act.

Section 12. Foreign fishing agreements.

- (I) Each foreign fishing agreement shall acknowledge the exclusive fishery management authority of the Government of Palau as set forth in this Act.
- (2) In negotiating foreign fishing agreements, the Authority shall seek substantial agreement by the foreign parties to the following terms and conditions:
- (a) The foreign party and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such agreement will abide by all regulations issued under authority of Section 10 of this Act.
- (b) The foreign party and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such foreign fishing agreements will abide by the agreement that:
- (i) Any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act shall be permitted to board and search or inspect any vessel at any time and make arrests and seizures provided for in Section 21 of this Act whenever such officer has reasonable cause to believe, as a result of such a

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search or inspection, that any such vessel or any person has committed an act prohibited by this Act;

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permits;

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(ii) Such officer shall also be permitted to examine and

- make notations on the permit issued pursuant to Section 14 of this Act; (iii) The permit issued for any such vessel pursuant to
- Section 14 of this Act shall be prominently displayed in the wheelhouse of mich vessel;
- (iv) Appropriate position-fixing and identification equipment shall be installed and maintained in working order on each such vessel;
- (v) Duly authorized Micronesian observers shall be permitted on board any such vessel and that the Government of Palau shall be reinbursed for the cost of such observers; and
- (vi) Agents shall be appointed and maintained within Palau who are authorized to receive and respond to any legal process issued in Palau with respect to such owner or operator.
- (c) The foreign party and the owners or operators of all of the fishing vessels of such party shall not, in any year, exceed such party's allocation of the total allowence level of foreign fishing.
  - (d) Foreign parties will:
  - (i) Apply, pursuant to Section 14, for any required
- (ii) Deliver promptly to the owner or operator of the appropriate fishing vessel any permit which is issued under that Section for such vessel; and

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24 25 (iii) Abide by the requirement that no foreign fishing Will be permitted in the Exclusive and Extended Fishery Zones of Palsu District after January 1, 1979, without a valid and applicable permit, and that all conditions and restrictions of the permit are complied with.

- (e) The foreign party and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such agreement will abide by all other terms and conditions of the experient.
- (3) The total allowable level of foreign fishing, if any, with respect to any fishery subject to the provisions of this Act, shall be that portion of the optimum yield of such fishery which will not be harvested by vessels of Palau District.
- (4) After reviewing recommendations by the Palau Maritime Authority, the Palau Legislature by legislation shall determine the allocation among foreign nations of the total allowable level of foreign fishing which is permitted with respect to any fishery subject to the provisions of this Act. In determining the allocation among nations, the Palau Legislature shall take into consideration:
- (a) The extent to which vessels of such nations have traditionally fished the particular regulated species;
- (b) Whether such nations have cooperated with the Government of Palau in, and made substantial contributions to, fishery research and the indentification of fishery resources;
  - (c) Such other matters as it may deem appropriate.
- Section 13. <u>International fishery agreements</u>. An international fishery agreement is an international agreement primarily affecting living resources

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24 25 within the fishery zones of Palau. Duch agreements shall be negotiated and complished in cooperation between the Administering Authority and the Authority. Prior to the conclusion of such an agreement, the United States shall obtain the concurrence of the Palau legislature by resolution to its terms and provisions to the extent such terms and provisions affect living resources within the finhery zones of Palau District.

Section 14 Fishing parmits.

- (1) After Jenuary 1, 1979, a foreign fishing vessel may engage in fishing in the Exclusive or Extended Fishery Zone of Palau only if such vessel has on board a valid point issued under this Section for such vessel.
- (2) Fishing permits will only be issued in accordance with a foreign fishing agreement approved by resolution of the Bouse of Elected Members of the Palsu Legislature; PROVIDED that permits issued for nonconnectial fishing in accordance with Subsection 10 of this Section need not be pursuant to a foreign fishing agreement.
- (2) Each foreign perty entitled to permits in accordance with its foreign fishing agreement shall make application on forms prescribed by the Palau Maritime Authority specifying inter alia:
- (a) The rank and official number or other indentification of each fishing vessel for which a permit is sought, together with the name and address of the owner thermof;
- (b) The towie, capacity, upond, processing equipment, type and quantity of fishing goar, and such other pertinent information with respect to characteristics of each such vessel as the Authority may require;
  - (c) Each fishery in which such vessel wishes to fish;

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- (e) The ocean area in which, and the season or period during which, such fishing will be conducted.
- (4) Upon receipt of an application, the Director shall transmit copies to each number of the Authority and to the Chairman of the Palau Legislature Committee on Resources and Development.
- (5) The Authority shall review the application, solicit views from appropriate persons in Palau District, hold public hearings where necessary and may approve the application on such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as the Authority deems appropriate.
- (6) If the Authority does not approve the application schritted by the foregin party, the Chairman shall notify such foregin party of the disapproval and the reasons therefor. After taking into consideration the reason for disapproval, the foreign party may submit a revised application.
- (7) Fees and other forms of compensation for the right to exploit living resources within the territorial sea or fishery zones of Palau District shall be established in the agreement.
- (8) Upon notification by the foreign party of acceptance of the terms, conditions, and restrictions on the application and permit, the Chairmen shall issue the permit.
- (9) If any foreign fishing vessel for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this Section has been used in the commission of any act prohibited by this Act or if any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed by this Act has not been paid and is overdue, the Authority shall:

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- (b) Suspend such permit for the period of time desmed appropriate; or
- (c) Impose editional conditions and restrictions on the approved application of the foreign purty involved and on any permit issued under such application.
- (10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Art, the Authority may by regulation provide for the insurance of partits, on reasonable conditions, to foregin vasuals or parties for research, recreational, or other non-conversial fishing within the fishing senses of Palsu District.

## Section 15. Prohibited acts.

- (1) It is unlewful for any person:
- (a) To violate any provision of this Act or of any regulation or permit issued purposentio this Act;
- (b) To use any fishing vessel to enjoye in fishing after revocation, or during the period of surjection, of an applicable permit issued personnt to this Act;
- (c) To violate any provision of, or regulations under, an applicable formion fishing expressent entered into pursuant to Sections 11 and 12 of this Act;
- (d) To refuse to penult any efficer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act to board of fishing vessel subject to such person's control for purposes of conducting may search or inspection in connection with

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23 24 25 the enforcement of this Act or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Section;

- (e) To forcibly asamit, resist, oppose, impode, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search or inspection described in Paragraph (d);
- (f) To resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this Section;
- (g) To knowingly ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of any fish taken or retained in violation of this Act or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in Paragraph (a) and (c) of this Section; or
- (h) To interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that such person has committed any act prohibited by this Section.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any vessel other than a vessel owned solely by citizens of Palau to engage in fishing in the territorial sea of Palau.

Section 16. Criminal penalties.

- (1) A person is guilty of an offense if he coumits any act prohibited by Section 15 of this Act.
- (2) Any offense described as a prohibited act by Section 15 (1)(a), (b), (c), or (g), is punished by a fine of not more than \$50,000.00.
- (3) Any offense described as a prohibited act by Section 15 (1)
   (d), (e), (f), or (h), is punishable by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00
   or imprisonment for not more than two years, or both; except that if in the

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commission of any much offense the parson uses a dangerous weapon, engages in conduct that causes bodily injury to any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this Act, or places any such officer in fear of invirent bodily injury, the offense is panishable by a fire of not more than \$250,000.00, or imprisonment for not fore than ten years, or both.

(4) Any offense described as a prohibited act by Section 15 (2), is punishable by a fine of not more than \$200,000.00. Each day of continuing violation shall be considered a separate offense.

Section 17. Forfeinmes.

- (1) Any fishing vessel including its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, and cargo used, and any fish taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of the cormission of any act prohibited by Section 15 of this Act shall be subject to forfeiture to the Covernment of Palau. All or part of such vescel shall, and all such fish shall, be forfeited to the Covernment of Palau pursuant to a civil proceeding under this Section.
- (2) The Righ Court of the Trust Territory of the Facific Islands shall have jurisdiction, upon application by the Falau District Atternay or the Director on bound of the Government of Palau, to order any forfeiture authorized under Subsection (1) of this Section.
- (3) If a judgment is entered for the Covernment of Palau in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this Section, the Palau District Attorney shall seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the Covernment of Palau, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this lot.
  - (4) The forfeited vessel, gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores,

 cargo, and fish may be sold and the proceeds deposited with the Authority for use in accordance with Section 18 of this Act, or may be retained for use by, or at the direction of, the Government of Palmu.

- (5) Pending completion of the civil forfaiture proceeding, the socized vessel, gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo, and fish, or any part thereof, may be discharged at the discretion of the court upon deposit with the court of a satisfactory boad or other security at least equal to the fair market value of the seized property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the momentary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.
- (6) Any fish seized pursuant to this Act may be sold, subject to the approval and direction of the court. The proceeds of any such sale shall be deposited with such court pending the disposition of the civil forfeiture proceeding.
- (7) For purposes of this Act, it shall be rebuttable presumption that all fish found on board a fishing vessel which is seized in connection with an act prohibited by Section 15 of this Act were taken or retained in violation of this Act.
- Section 18. Revenues. All revenues, including fees collected by the Authority pursuant to Section 14 (7) and all fines and proceeds of sale of all forfeitures shall be transmitted immediately upon collection to the Listrict

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24 25 Section 19. Junisdiction of courts. The High Court of the Trust

Treasurer for inclusion in the General Fund of the Legislature.

Turritory of the Pacific Islands shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case of controversy arising under this Act. The Court may at any time enter restraining orders or prohibitions; issue warrants, process in rem, or other processes; prescribe and accept satisfactor; bonds or other security; and take much other actions as are in the interests of justice.

Section 20. Enforcement.

- (1) Primary responsibility for the enforcement of this Act shall be assumed by the Office of the Palsu District Attorney through the Division of Public Safety. The High Commissioner and the Palzu District Atomey may, from time to time, suck enforcement assistance from the United States Government.
- (2) Any officer who is authorized by the Palau District Attorney to enforce the provisions of this Act, may:
  - (a) With or without a warrant or other process:
- (i) Arrest any person, if he has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed an act prohibited by Section 15 of this PET;
- (ii) Eseri, and search or inspect any fishing vessel which is subject to the provisions of this Act;
- (iii) Seize any fishing vessel used or employed in, or when it reasonably appoars that such vessel was used or employed in, violation of any provision of this Act;
  - (iv) Scize any fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances,

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stores, cargoes, and fish in the possession of a fishing vessel solved pursuant to authority granted by subparagraph (NII) of this paragraph; and

- (v) Saize any other evidence related to any violation of any provision of this Act.
- (b) Execute any warrant or other process issued by any court of competent jurisdiction; and
  - (c) Decreise any other lawful authority.
- (3) Any individual who provides information to the District Attorney concerning any violation of this Act which results in the imposition of any penalty under Section 16 of this Act shall be paid fifty percent (50%) of any such penalty imposed and collected.
- (4) For purposes of this Act the terms "provisions of this Act" and "violation of any provisions of this Act" includes the provisions of any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this Act.

Section 21. Appropriation.

(1) There is hereby appropriated from the Genzal Fund of the Palau Legislature an initial sum of \$25,000.00 to defray the administrative and operational expenses of the Authority.

Section 22. Severability. If any provision of this Act or assertments or additions thereto, or the application thereof to any person, thing or circumstances is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect the provisions or application of this Act or the assertments or additions that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act and the assertments or additions thereo are severable.

Section 23. Effective date. This Act shall take effect upon its

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approval by the High Commissioner, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

FISCED: October 22, 1978

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1978.

Tarker P. Whilel Righ Commissioner Trust Territory of the Panific Islands