



GOV. COM. 17-459  
(C 2)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



**Benigno R. Fitial**  
Governor

Honorable Eliceo D. Cabrera  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Seventeenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

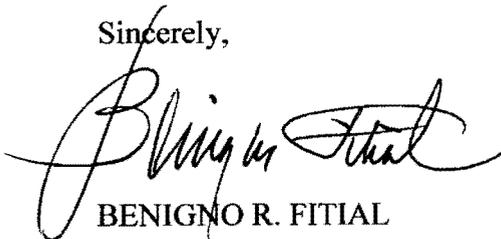
Honorable Paul A. Manglona  
Senate President, The Senate  
Seventeenth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 17-282 entitled, "To amend 2 CMC § 5104, to establish a mandatory catch recording and reporting system and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 17-89**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

  
BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Press Secretary; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review

HOUSE CLERK'S OFFICE  
RECEIVED BY [Signature]  
DATE 12/03/12 TIME 10:18am



*Seventeenth Legislature*  
*of the*  
*Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Fifth Regular Session**

**March 22, 2012**

Representative Ray N. Yumul, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joseph M. Palacios and Ramon A. Tebuteb) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

**H. B. 17-282**  
**AN ACT**  
**TO AMEND 2 CMC §5104, TO ESTABLISH A MANDATORY**  
**CATCH RECORDING AND REPORTING SYSTEM AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON**  
**FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 26, 2012;**  
*without amendments* and transmitted to the  
**THE SENATE.**

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs.  
**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 11, 2012;**  
*without amendments.*

**H. B. 17-282 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OCTOBER 15, 2012.**

**THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON APRIL 26, 2012.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Linda B. Muña", written over a horizontal line.

**Linda B. Muña, House Clerk**



*Seventeenth Legislature  
of the  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Second Day, Second Special Session

April 26, 2012

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**H. B. 17-282**

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 2 CMC § 5104, TO ESTABLISH A MANDATORY CATCH  
RECORDING AND REPORTING SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES.**

**Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth  
Legislature:**

1           Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that since the enactment of  
2 Public Law 2-51, the Division of Fish and Wildlife within the Department of Natural  
3 Resources assumed the responsibility for the protection of fish, game and endangered and  
4 threatened species exclusively within the CNMI.

5           Over the years, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has asked and received cooperation  
6 with various persons and business entities to provide data on all fish harvested for  
7 commercial and retail sale. Such information included types of fish harvested and their  
8 measurements such as weight and length.

HOUSE BILL 17-282

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1           The Legislature additionally finds that within just the last few years, the cooperation  
2 given the Division of Fish and Wildlife has decreased and the stakeholders have become  
3 reluctant to submit the voluntary information needed for the Division to adequately monitor  
4 and report annual catch so that the CNMI can benefit from the data being generated for future  
5 reference and to implement plans for a continued sustainment of this ocean resource.

6           The Legislature lastly finds that it is in the best interest of the CNMI to grant the Division  
7 of Fish and Wildlife the option to require catch recording by regulation.

8           **Section 2. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 5104 (b) 7 is hereby amended to include the  
9 following:

10                   “(g) Establish a catch recording and reporting system for any individual and/or  
11 business engaged in the commercial harvest of fish products within the  
12 Commonwealth waters;

13                   (h) Establish a recording and reporting system for any individual and/or  
14 business engaged in the commercial purchase and/or sale of locally harvested fish  
15 products.”

16           **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such  
17 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
18 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
19 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

20           **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
21 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes

**HOUSE BILL 17-282**

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1 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers  
2 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.  
3 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,  
4 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act  
5 becomes effective.

