



GOV. COMM. (HOUSE) 12-91

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Pedro P. Tenorio  
Governor

Jesus R. Sablan  
Lt. Governor

Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 664-2200  
Fax: (670) 664-2211

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twelfth Northern Marianas  
Commonwealth Legislature  
Saipan, MP 96950

AUG 25 2000

and

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona  
Senate President  
Twelfth 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. 12-16, HD1, SD1, cited as "The Fair Fishing Act of 2000," which was passed by the Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The rapid depletion of marine life around our islands is a serious concern to all of us, including our youth who I understand, have passed legislation similar to this bill. This legislation echoes their concerns.

Appropriately, H.B 12-16, HD1, SD1, gives the authority to enforce this measure to the Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources. I anticipate that the Secretary will promulgate regulations to implement the bill.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 12-14**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

PEDRO P. TENORIO

CC: Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources  
Director of Fish & Wildlife  
Special Assistant for Programs & Legislative Review

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Twelfth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

*PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-14*

**HOUSE BILL NO. 12-16, HD1, SD1**

---

---

## AN ACT

To prohibit non-traditional fishing methods in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

---

---

**Offered by Representative(s):** Jesus T. Attao,  
Norman S. Palacios, and Alejo M. Mendiola, Jr.

**Date:** February 14, 2000

---

---

## HOUSE ACTION

**Referred to:** Committee on Natural Resources

**Standing Committee Report:** 12-081

**First and Final Reading:** April 1, 2000

**Accepted Senate Amendments:** July 18, 2000

---

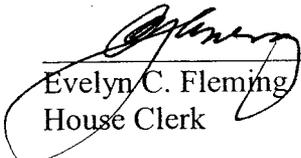
---

## SENATE ACTION

**Referred to:** Committee on Resources, Economic Development, and Programs

**Standing Committee Report:** None

**Second and Final Reading:** June 30, 2000

  
Evelyn C. Fleming  
House Clerk

Recd 7/21/00

TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2000

*PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-14*  
**H. B. NO. 12-16, HD1, SD1**

**AN ACT**

To prohibit non-traditional fishing methods in the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWELFTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

1           Section 1. Short Title. This act shall be cited as “The Fair Fishing Act of 2000.”

2           Section 2. Findings. The First CNMI Youth Congress introduced and passed a bill t  
3 prohibit non-traditional fishing methods in the CNMI. The First CNMI Youth Congress  
4 further finds that non-traditional fishing methods allow for a greater catch than traditional  
5 methods. Traditionally, the purpose of fishing was to provide food for the family, not for  
6 commercial gain. Non-traditional fishing methods, such as breathing assistance devices and  
7 the use of explosive devices are being used to harvest more fish which reduces the number of  
8 fish available for people who fish using traditional methods.

9           The Legislature supports the urgency of such legislative measure to preserve the very  
10 limited supply of edible fish in our waters.

11           Section 3. Non-traditional Fishing Methods Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any  
12 commercial and non-commercial fishermen to use explosives, poisons, electric shocking  
13 devices, scuba tank or hookah when fishing for reef fish and harvesting other marine life  
14 within the lagoon or reef and one thousand feet (1,000 ft.) outside the lagoon or reef on the  
15 coastal waters of the Commonwealth.

*PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-14*  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 12-16, HD1, SD1**

---

1           Section 4. Exceptions. The use of explosives, poisons, electric shocking devices,  
2 SCUBA or hookah is allowed when authorized by the director of Fish and Wildlife strictly for  
3 scientific collections and other purpose as determined by the Secretary of Lands and Natural  
4 Resources and the Director of Fish and Wildlife. Special permit shall be issued by the director  
5 of Fish and Wildlife for all exceptions.

6           Section 5. Enforcement. The enforcement of this Act shall be the responsibility of the  
7 Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Director  
8 of Fish and Wildlife and the resident director of the Department of Land and Natural  
9 Resources in each senatorial district. Such enforcement shall be pursuant to the provisions in 2  
10 CMC, Div. 5, Chap. 1, § 5 109.

11           Section 6. Penalty. Any person convicted of violating this Act shall be imprisoned for  
12 not more than 30 days or fined up to \$1,500, or both.

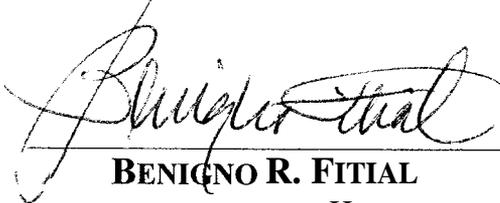
13           Section 7. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such  
14 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent  
15 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or  
16 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

17           Section 8. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be  
18 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes  
19 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained  
20 in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The  
21 enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any  
22 liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes  
23 effective.

PUBLIC LAW NO. 12-14  
HOUSE BILL NO. 12-16, HD1, SD1

1 Section 9. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor  
2 or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



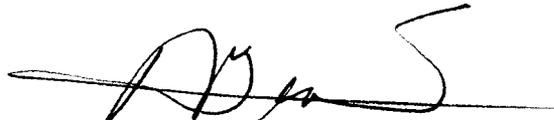
**BENIGNO R. FITIAL**  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:



**EVELYN C. FLEMING**  
HOUSE CLERK

*Approved* this *25<sup>th</sup>* day of *August*, 2000



**PEDRO P. TENORIO**  
GOVERNOR  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS