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the Information Section
of the Marine Resources Division
of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

in collaboration with



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of the Republic of Palau

PALAU

DOMESTIC
FISHING

L A W S

2007



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Foreword

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This information is presented to inform commercial and pleasure domestic fishermen about the national laws pertaining to fishing in domestic waters of the Republic of Palau. It does not include the state laws applying to fishing and the national laws applying to foreign fishing.

This document is not a legal text. References to the legal texts are given with each law cited. The full text of the laws and rules is available for review at the Bureau of Domestic Affairs (Phone: 767 2343). This information is current at the date of printing (April 2007) and subject to change. If questions arise concerning this document, please contact:

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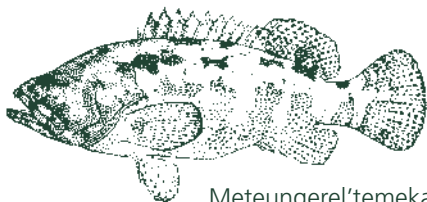
Regulated species

3



Groupers

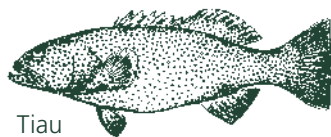
4



Meteungerel'temekai
(*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*)



Ksau'temekai
(*Epinephelus polyphemadion*)



Tiau
(*Plectropomus areolatus*)



Mokas
(*Plectropomus laevis*)



Katuu'tiau
(*Plectropomus laevis*)



Tiau
(*Plectropomus leopardus*)

From April 1 to July 31 inclusive, it is against the law to fish for, sell, receive, export, cause to be exported, possess or buy any of the following species, regardless of where such species may have originated:

- meteungerel'temekai
(*Epinephelus fuscoguttatus*),
- ksau'temekai
(*Epinephelus polyphekadion*),
- tiau (*Plectropomus areolatus*),
- mokas, katuu'tiau (*Plectropomus laevis*),
- tiau (*Plectropomus leopardus*).

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

Many coral reef fish, including groupers, aggregate in large numbers in specific locations, seasons and moon phases in order to spawn.

In several areas of the Pacific, groupers have been virtually eliminated because of intensive fishing of these spawning aggregations.

In Palau, spawning aggregations of groupers have been observed all year round. To protect them and make sure the groupers have a chance to reproduce in large numbers, it has been decided to completely close the fishery during the peak spawning aggregation period, from April 1 through July 31.

Groupers in Palau, as in many other places in the world, are considered to be amongst the most fascinating fish in the water. By respecting these regulations, we will give our grandchildren and the following generations the chance to know what groupers are like.

Rabbitfish

6



Meyas
(*Siganus fuscescens*)*

From February 1 to March 31 inclusive, it is against the law to fish for, sell, receive, export, cause to be exported, possess or buy rabbitfish (meyas, *Siganus canaliculatus**), regardless of where such species may have originated.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

* The scientific name of meyas has changed. It used to be *Siganus canaliculatus*; it is now *Siganus fuscescens*.

Rabbitfish (meyas) are herbivorous but they also occasionally feed on small invertebrates. They usually swim in schools in coral reef areas and shallow coastal waters.

The peak spawning season for rabbitfish in Palau waters is believed to last from the beginning of February to the end of March.

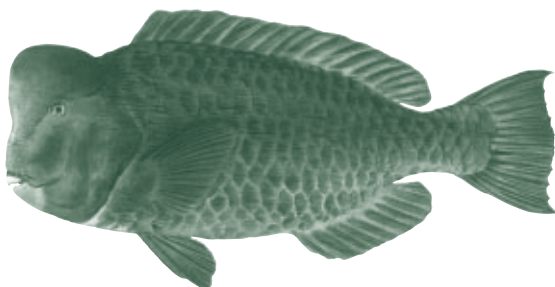
When a species is heavily exploited, the first and most efficient measure to take is to protect it while it reproduces.

In Palau, fishermen and scientists observed that the number of rabbitfish was declining. So it was decided to completely close the fishery, every year from February 1 to March 31 inclusive, when they spawn.



Humphead parrotfish

8



Kemedukl, berdebed,
fahorari hamaduhiri
(*Bolbometopon muricatum*)

It is against the law to fish for, sell, buy, receive, possess, export or cause to be exported any humphead parrotfish (kemedukl, berdebed; *Bolbometopon muricatum*), regardless of where such species may have originated.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

The humphead parrotfish (kemedukl, berdebed, fahorari hamaduhiri) lives in coral areas and feeds on corals and algae. It is the biggest of all parrotfish and some exceptional specimens have been reported to reach 55 inches and 165 pounds. It uses its hump to break the corals before crunching them with its teeth.

Humphead parrotfish grow slowly and take many years to become sexually mature (able to reproduce).

Several years ago, fishermen and divers could see them in very large schools. But, nowadays, they are only encountered occasionally and in small numbers, and scientists fear that their population might diminish to a critical point. This is the reason why it is now totally forbidden to fish for, possess or trade the humphead parrotfish, all year round.

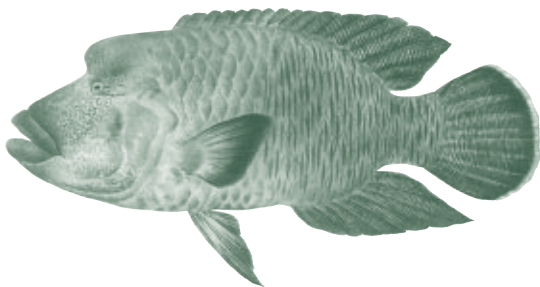


Napoleon wrasse

10



Ngimer
(*Cheilinus undulatus* - juvenile)



Maml
(*Cheilinus undulatus* - adult)

It is against the law to fish for, sell, buy, receive, possess, export or cause to be exported any Napoleon wrasse (ngimer, maml; *Cheilinus undulatus*), regardless of where such species may have originated.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

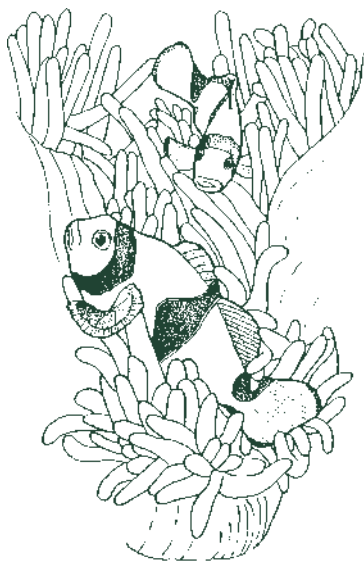
The Napoleon wrasse (ngimer, maml, fahorari mami) is a solitary fish that lives in the vicinity of coral reefs from shallow to deeper (20 fathoms) waters. It feeds mostly on shellfish such as urchins, crustaceans and molluscs. It can reach 80 inches and more than 280 pounds. It is the largest of all wrasses and one of the biggest of all coral reef fish in the world.

Like humphead parrotfish, Napoleon wrasses grow slowly and take many years to attain adult size, when they are able to reproduce.

Observations have shown that Palau's overall population of Napoleon wrasse has regularly declined in the past years, so it was decided to fully protect it. It is now totally forbidden to fish for, possess or trade the Napoleon wrasse, all year round.

A big Napoleon wrasse, alive in the wild, is a sight that divers from all over the world would like to see. As a diving attraction, a live Napoleon wrasse brings a lot of money to Palauan people. Let's hope that now that they are protected, their population will grow, allowing tourist divers and Palauan people to regularly encounter them.

Aquarium species



Aquarium species are defined in a list prepared by the Marine Resources Division and named in the Regulated Marine Species Register.

Any person who takes more than five (5) specimens or pieces of aquarium species in a single day must have an Aquarium Collecting Permit issued by the Minister or his designee.

Only Palauan citizens can apply for an Aquarium Collecting Permit.

No person may export aquarium species unless he has an Aquarium Collecting Permit or a Marine Research Permit issued by the Minister or his designee.

*Ref. 27 PNCA 1205, 1206
and Regulations on the Collection of
Marine Resources for Aquaria and Research*

Aquarium species include dozens of fish species but also anemones, jellyfish, sponges, crustaceans, and molluscs.

They are usually the first species encountered by snorkelers in shallow waters and as such, they are extremely important to the tourist industry of Palau.

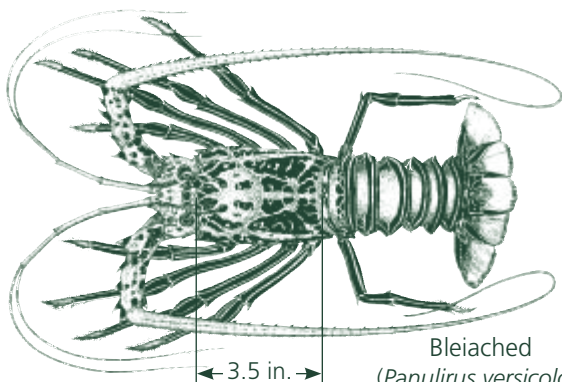
However, if carefully managed, a sustainable industry based on the collection of aquarium species can be developed. To control the number of people entering this fishery, a system of permits has been put in place. At present, a maximum of twenty (20) Aquarium Collecting Permits can be issued every year.

All permit owners must submit quarterly catch reports on their activities to the Bureau of Marine Resources, including total numbers of specimens or pieces taken, places where they have been taken, and number of fishermen involved. All this information is used by the Bureau of Marine Resources to manage the fishery. Analyzing these data will allow the Bureau to evaluate the state of the fishery and to decide whether the number of permits issued should be increased or decreased.

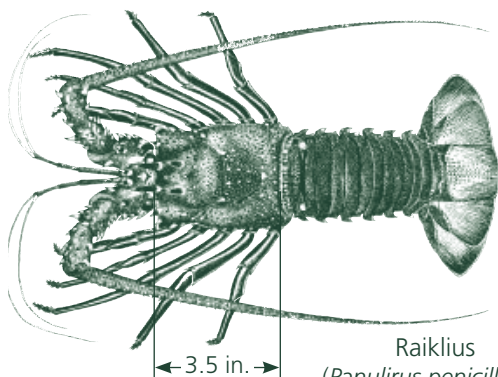


Rock lobsters

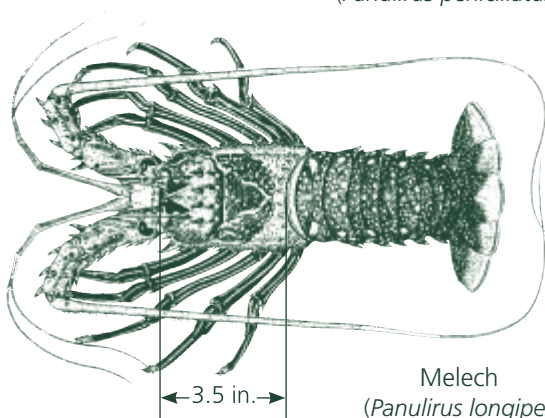
14



Bleiached
(*Panulirus versicolor*)



Raiklius
(*Panulirus penicillatus*)



Melech
(*Panulirus longipes
femoristriga*)

It is against the law to fish, sell or buy any egg-bearing female of rock lobster (cheraprukl) whatever the size and regardless of where such species may have originated.

It is against the law to fish for, sell, receive, possess, export, cause to be exported or buy the following species of rock lobsters (cheraprukl) if less than three and a half (3.5) inches in total length of the carapace (measured from the tip of the rostrum midway between the eyes to the end of the carapace), regardless of where such species may have originated:

- bleiached (*Panulirus versicolor*)
- raikliis (*Panulirus penicillatus*)
- melech (*Panulirus longipes femoristriga*)

It is against the law to export any rock lobster (cheraprukl) of any size whatsoever and regardless of where such species may have originated.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

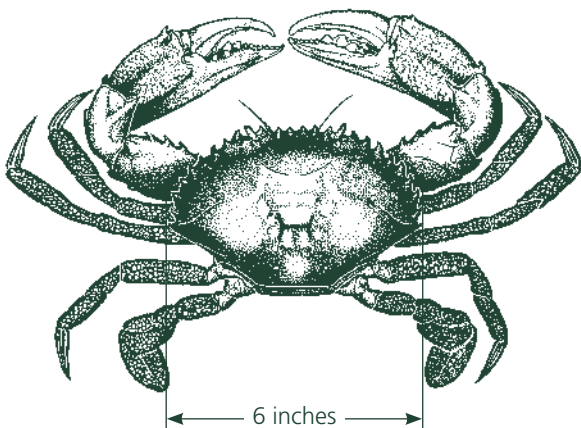
Rock lobsters live in narrow reef crevices. They feed, mostly during the night, on animal and plant debris, helping to keep the reef clean.

When released by the females, the rock lobsters' eggs drift in the open ocean while going through the different stages of development. Only a tiny number of the hundreds of thousands of eggs released survive and are carried back to a reef for shelter.

By setting a minimum size limit, we protect the young lobsters and give them a chance to reproduce several times before they can be captured.

Palau's population of rock lobsters is relatively small and fragile and there is a high demand on the local market for this delicacy. So, a ban on export is in place as a complementary protection measure.

Mangrove crab



Emang
(*Scylla serrata*)

It is against the law to fish for, sell, buy receive, possess, export or cause to be exported any egg-bearing female of mangrove crab (emang, *Scylla serrata*) of any size whatsoever and regardless of where such species may have originated.

It is against the law to fish for, sell, buy receive, possess, export or cause to be exported mangrove crab (emang) if less than six (6) inches across the shell (carapace), regardless of where such species may have originated

It is against the law to export any mangrove crab (emang) of any size whatsoever and regardless of where such species may have originated.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

Mangrove crabs (emang) commonly inhabit mud flats and mangrove forests, favoring soft muddy bottoms, often below tide levels, although females carrying eggs are present in deeper waters up to 30 miles offshore.

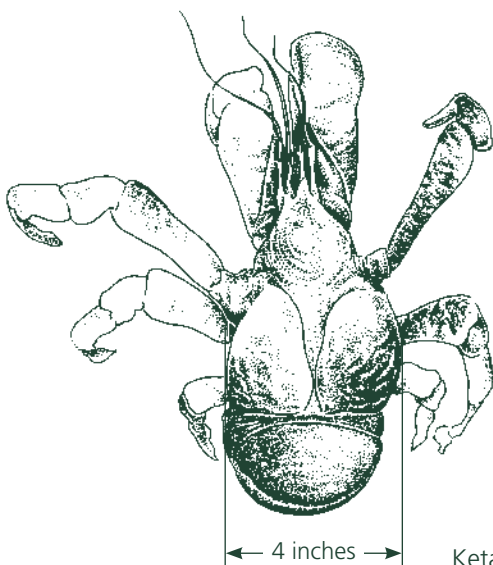
The eggs need very favorable conditions to go through the larval stages and, as for any other crustacean, only a tiny number of the millions of eggs carried by the female will become adult crabs. This is why it is essential to protect the egg-bearing females.

In tropical waters, mangrove crabs are mature when they are about 18 months old, which corresponds approximately to a carapace width of 5 inches. If we only catch mangrove crabs with a carapace width of more than 6 inches, we make sure that all the crabs caught have reproduced at least once.

Mangrove crabs are considered a delicacy in Palau both by local people and visiting tourists. As the resource is scarce, it has been decided to give preference to the local market and ban all export of this species.



Coconut crab



Ketat, yefi
(*Birgus latro*)

It is against the law to fish for, sell, buy receive, possess, export or cause to be exported any egg-bearing female of coconut crab (ketat, *Birgus latro*) of any size whatsoever and regardless of where such species may have originated.

It is against the law to fish for, sell, buy receive, possess, export or cause to be exported any coconut crab (ketat) if less than four (4) inches across the shell (carapace).

It is against the law to export any coconut crab (ketat) of any size whatsoever and regardless of where such species may have originated.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

Coconut crabs (ketat, yefi) are the largest of the land crabs; they can grow to a weight of 8 pounds. Adult coconut crabs live almost exclusively on land. However, like most species of crabs, the early stages of their life are aquatic.

Females carry approximately 100,000 eggs for three weeks, a time during which they need to leave their 'normal' habitat to go back towards the shore where they look for a suitable place (high humidity, access to fresh and salt water, abundance of holes and crevices, protection from sun and wind). The eggs are released into the sea where they drift for several weeks before a very small number of newly formed crabs crawl back to the shore.

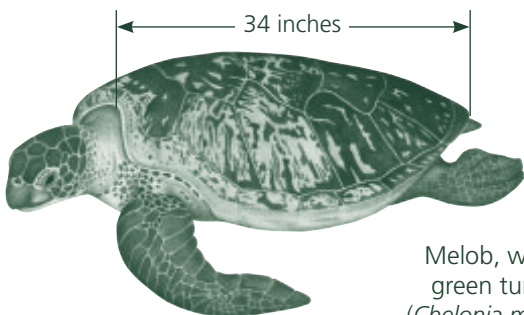
Coconut crabs grow very slowly and live much longer than most other crustaceans — up to 60 years. This is why they really need to be protected.

Individuals with a carapace narrower than 4 inches may be too young to have already reproduced. They must be fully protected.

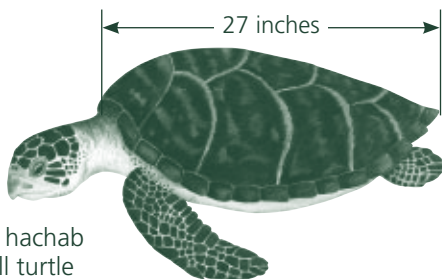
The demand for coconut crab on the local market already exceeds the supply. Allowing export would put more pressure on an already fragile resource. This is why it is forbidden.



Sea turtles



Melob, woru
green turtle
(*Chelonia mydas*)



Ngasech, hachab
hawksbill turtle
(*Eretmochelys imbricata*)

It is against the law to:

- take any female turtle while she is on land,
- take turtle eggs at any time,
- take any turtle during the months of June, July, August, December and January,
- take, during the open season, green turtles (melob; *Chelonia mydas*) with a carapace length of less than 34 inches,
- take, during the open season, hawksbill turtles (ngasech; *Eretmochelys imbricata*) with a carapace length of less than 27 inches.

Ref. 24 PNCA 1201

The green turtle (melob, woru) has long been a favorite Palauan food and the hawksbill (ngasech, hachab) has provided important shell products to our people. Because these traditional uses of turtles and their role in our cultural heritage are very important they should be maintained.

However, fishermen and research biologists in Palau and around the world have noticed a dramatic decrease in the numbers of sea turtles (uel), which are also considered in danger of extinction worldwide. We are currently at a point in the history of Palau where we are in danger of losing the turtles that we value so much. It is therefore essential that the regulations are known to all and respected by all.

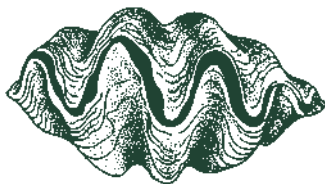
Sea turtles come back to the place where they were born to lay their eggs. So turtles born in Palau will come back to Palau even after very long journeys to far distant waters. If we keep catching the females when they are on land and taking the eggs from the nests in the sand we put the future generations of Palauan turtles in great danger of extinction.

We must also respect the minimum size limits put in place to protect turtles too young to reproduce and the closed seasons set to protect all turtles during peaks of the mating and nesting seasons (June to August, and December to January).

Also, if we avoid the capture of adult females at all times, they can continue to contribute the thousands of young needed to replenish our diminishing turtle population year after year. So, if you encounter an adult female (females have a shorter tail than male adults) in the water or on the beach, please let her go in peace. She will return to Palau year after year and continue to supply us with turtles for generations to come.

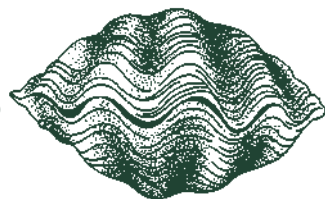
Giant clams

Otkang
(*Tridacna gigas*)



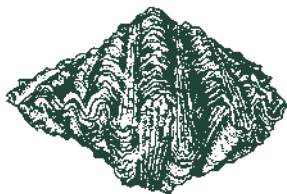
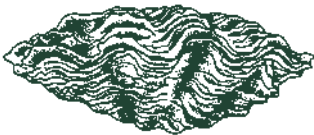
Ribkungel
(*Tridacna squamosa*)

Kism
(*Tridacna derasa*)



Melibes
(*Tridacna maxima*)

Oruer
(*Tridacna crocea*)



Duadeb
(*Hippopus hippopus*)

Duadeb
(*Hippopus porcellanus*)



It is against the law to export any of the following species of clams (kim), or part thereof, regardless of where such species may have originated, except cultured ones:

- otkang (*Tridacna gigas*),
- ribkungel (*Tridacna squamosa*),
- kism (*Tridacna derasa*),
- melibes (*Tridacna maxima*),
- oruer (*Tridacna crocea*),
- duadeb (*Hippopus hippopus*), and
- duadeb (*Hippopus porcellanus*).

Ref. 24 PNCA 1204

Giant clams are bivalves that feed by filtering seawater and cultivating microscopic algae within their tissues. To grow well they need clean seawater and plenty of sunlight.

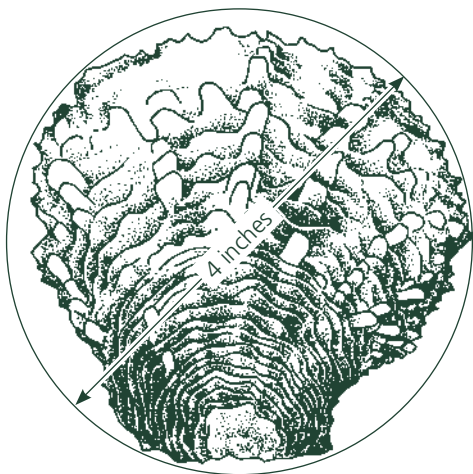
Giant clams represent a traditional food source for the people of Palau. They have also been exploited occasionally by foreign boats coming from Asia. These two factors have contributed to the decline of giant clams in Palauan waters.

To protect them, a ban on all export of wild-caught specimens has been put in place.

In addition, culture techniques have been successfully developed at the former Micronesian Mariculture and Demonstration Center (MMDC), which is now part of the BMR Aquaculture and Mariculture Branch. These techniques have been taught to local people and an export market for farmed giant clams has been established.

Blacklip pearl oyster

24



Chesiuch
(*Pinctada margaritifera*)

No blacklip pearl oyster (chesiuch, *Pinctada margaritifera*) with a shell diameter of less than four (4) inches can be harvested at any time.

No blacklip pearl oyster of any size can be harvested from August 1 to December 31 inclusive.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1221

Blacklip pearl oysters (chesiuch) can be found down to 25 fathoms, but are naturally most abundant just below low-tide level. To feed they filter the seawater. Their growth is related to the quality of the seawater in which they live.

Blacklip pearl oysters are generally mature when they reach two years of age (or a shell diameter of approximately 4 inches). Spawning can happen several times a year depending on the water temperature, but mainly occurs during the second part of the year (from August 1 to December 31 inclusive).

In ancient times, blacklip pearl oysters were fished for their shells, which were used in jewellery and for fishing lures. The occasional pearl found by fishermen was the 'cherry on the cake'.

Nowadays, blacklip pearl oysters are cultured for black pearls in several places in the Pacific with great success. To be able to start the same kind of industry in Palau, we need a natural stock in good shape to provide seed oysters.

Like any other marine organism, the presence of pearl oysters in our waters is essential. Pearl oysters of low value today could become treasures when a Palauan pearl-farming industry starts.

If we respect the minimum size and the closed season, we give pearl oysters the opportunity to reproduce in good conditions.



Trochus

26



Semum
(*Trochus niloticus*)

Except during open seasons that are designated from year to year by the Olbiil Era Kelulau and subject to further restrictions by each of the State Governments, the harvesting of trochus (semum, *Trochus niloticus*) is prohibited.

During open seasons, only trochus (semum) of more than three (3) inches in diameter at the base can be harvested.

Even during open seasons, certain areas can be declared closed by either the National or the State Governments.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1243

Trochus (semum) is mainly harvested for its valuable shell, which is used to make buttons for top-quality shirts by the fashion industry in Europe and Asia. It is also appreciated in Palau as a food source.

Because trochus live in shallow waters and move very slowly, they can be easily collected, and hence over-fished. This is why, in Palauan waters, this important commercial species has been protected by different regulations for more than 80 years.

Nowadays, the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) can decide, from year to year, to open the fishery for a limited period of time. To make its decision, OEK uses the results of scientific surveys of the trochus resource. Even during these open seasons, OEK and the State Governments can designate certain areas as closed. For more information on the next open season, check with the nearest BMR office.

Even during open seasons, juveniles (trochus too young to reproduce) must be protected. It is estimated that it is only when they reach a size of three inches (measured across the base of the shell) that all trochus are mature (able to reproduce). They are then approximately three years old.

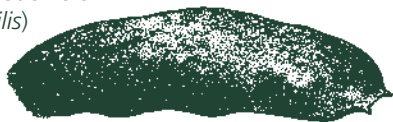
Because trochus shells can be stored for an extended period of time, they provide one of the few cash-income opportunities for fishing communities living in places where transport is scarce.

If we respect the closed seasons and leave the young trochus in peace, we will give this fragile resource a chance to last for future generations, continuing to provide a source of cash income for remote fishing communities.

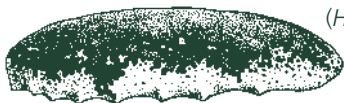


Sea cucumbers

Bakelungal-chedelkelek
(*Holothuria nobilis*)



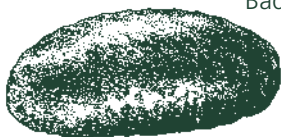
Bakelungal-cherou
(*Holothuria fuscogilva*)



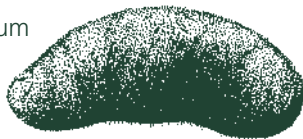
Molech
(*Holothuria scabra*)



Badelchelid
(*Actinopyga mauritiana*)



Eremrum
(*Actinopyga miliaris*)



Temetamel
(*Thelenota ananas*)



It is against the law to export any of the following species of sea cucumbers, regardless of where such species may have originated:

- bakelungal-chedelkelek (*Holothuria nobilis*),
- bakelungal-cherou (*Holothuria fuscogilva*),
- molech (*Holothuria scabra*),
- badelchelid (*Actinopyga mauritiana*),
- eremrum (*Actinopyga miliaris*), and
- temetamel (*Thelenota ananas*).

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

In Palau, sea cucumbers are mostly found on sandy or muddy bottoms. Like all sea cucumbers, they have separate sexes and reproduction occurs when males and females release their gametes simultaneously in surrounding seawater, so many sea cucumbers have to gather in the same place for reproduction to be successful.

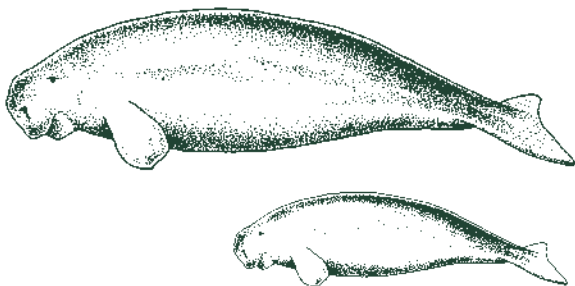
Sea cucumbers are important to the lagoon environment because they scavenge on the reef and turn over the sand on the lagoon floor, preventing the build-up of decaying organic matter and releasing nutrients that would otherwise be locked up under layers of sediment.

Sea cucumbers are a very easy target for fishermen and their overexploitation could have severe consequences for the whole reef.

As they are a traditional food source for the people of Palau, it has been decided to limit their exploitation by putting a ban on all exports.

Dugong

30



Mesekiu
(*Dugong dugon*)

It is against the law to kill, or possess dugongs
(mesekiu, *Dugong dugon*).

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

Dugongs (mesekiu) breathe air, feed their young milk and eat only sea grass. An adult dugong can reach a length of 11 feet and weigh over 1,500 pounds. They can live to be over 70 years old.

Palau's population of dugongs is the most isolated in the world. This means that dugongs from other parts of the world cannot come and help increase Palau's shrinking population (scientists estimate that only 50 to 200 dugongs are left in Palauan waters, compared with the 2,000 that used to live here).

A female dugong does not mate until she is at least 10 years old. On average she has a baby, called a calf, only once every 5 years. This very slow reproductive rate is the reason it will take the Palau population a long time to recover from being over-hunted.

However, in a few years, if this protection measure is successful, dugongs could become a big source of income for Palauans interested in taking tourists out for an evening Rock Island cruise and the opportunity to see dugongs alive in the wild.

A live dugong could one day be worth very much more than a dead dugong . . .



Sponges, hard corals and marine rock



No sponges (any species of the phylum Porifera) may be exported.

No hard corals from the orders Scleractinia (stony corals), Hydrocorallina (fire corals), Coenothecalia (blue corals) and Stolonifera (organ pipe corals) may be exported.

No marine rock (any carbonate based rock) may be exported.

*Ref. 27 PNCA 1205, 1206 and Regulations
on the Collection of Marine Resources
for Aquaria and Research*

Sponges contribute in important ways to the ecology of the reef. This living animal has a thin skin with thousands of invisible tiny holes. As water passes through these holes, the sponge filters out and consumes microscopic particles that might otherwise cloud the reef. Sponges also provide the perfect home for tiny fish, crabs and flatworms.

Hard corals are formed by tiny sea animals called polyps. Coral polyps extend their tentacles into surrounding waters and feed on microscopic plants and animals. Producing hard outer limestone skeletons over years and years, some of the hard corals form the very foundation of the reef. Coral reefs are essential to Palau for many reasons:

- They protect coastlines and coastal villages from large ocean waves made by storms and cyclones.
- They create a place where crabs, lobsters, clams and reef fish can live and provide food for nearby villages and towns.
- Coral skeletons, over time, will break down to rubble and sand, which helps build up shorelines and beaches.
- Undamaged coral reefs attract tourists, thus providing a growing source of income to many local people.

Marine rock, or 'live' rock, is coral debris on which new life (soft corals, algae, anemones, etc.) settles. It often provides a home for very small forms of marine life (crabs, worms, fish, etc.).

For all these reasons, sponges, hard corals and marine rock need protection. This is why a ban on export has been put in place.





Other restrictions

35

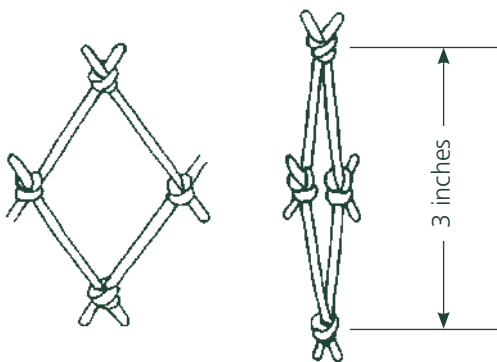


Gear restrictions

36

It is against the law to fish with, possess or abandon a gillnet, surround net or kesokes net with a mesh size of less than three (3) inches measured diagonally.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204



If we use small-mesh nets, we will kill many young fish before they have time to reproduce. Also, because young fish are small, they have little value on the market.

It is against the law to use any explosives, poisons or chemicals to catch marine life.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1302

When using explosives, poisons or chemicals to catch fish, all the surrounding marine life — including smaller fish, reef invertebrates and, most important, the corals themselves — is destroyed. It may take many years for this marine life to recover and create the right conditions for the big fish to come back. Furthermore, dead corals and the lack of big fish will make the area unsuitable for the development of a tourist diving industry.

Except as authorized by regulation or permit issued by the Minister, it is against the law to fish while using any form of underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel.

Ref. 27 PNCA 1204

By putting a ban on scuba, hookah or any other underwater breathing equipment except a snorkel, we create a natural reserve area in deeper waters where marine life — especially the larger reef fish that can produce more eggs — is protected.

Exporting marine resources

38

Prior to any export of marine resources out of the Republic of Palau, the person exporting shall complete and sign four copies of a Marine Export Declaration.

*Ref. 27 PNCA 1206, 1207
and Regulations on the Reporting and
Labelling of Exports of Marine Resources*

For each export out of the country, the person exporting shall provide all applicable information requested on the Marine Export Declaration form, including, but not limited to, the following:

For each species:

- names (scientific, Palauan and/or English common names),
- net weight (without ice or packing), and
- country of origin.

For the export as a whole:

- destination,
- total gross weight, and
- number of containers.

Exports may be inspected by authorized personnel of the Bureau of Revenue, Customs and Taxation or of the Ministry of Resources and Development.

Any person who exports any fish or other marine resources for commercial purposes shall submit to BMR a report on the catch of those marine resources, as well as of any other marine resources taken during the course of fishing for the marine resources being exported. This report shall include all information concerning the catch (including total numbers of specimens or pieces taken, places where they were taken, number of fishermen involved, gear used, etc.).

Marine research

All persons engaging in any marine-resource-related research, including scientific, maricultural or medical research, must have a valid Marine Research Permit issued by the Minister or his designee.

*Ref. 27 PNCA 1205, 1206
and Regulations on the Collection of
Marine Resources for Aquaria and Research*

Following the same principle applied to aquarium species, in order to monitor and encourage appropriate marine-related research, a Marine Research Permit system has been put in place. Anyone wanting to engage in any marine-resource-related research, such as scientific, maricultural or medical research, must apply for a Marine Research Permit and comply with any other applicable national or state law or regulation.

All permit owners must submit quarterly catch reports on their activities to BMR, including total numbers of specimens or pieces of each species taken, places where they were taken, number of fishermen involved, etc.

Permit holders wishing to export specimens must comply with the 'Regulations on the Reporting and Labeling of Exports of Marine Resources'.








Summary of Palau national domestic fishing laws

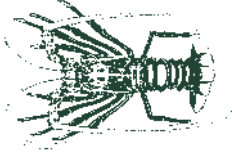
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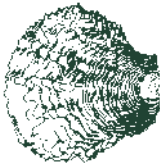

Summary of Palau national domestic fishing laws



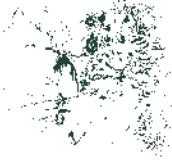
SPECIES		MINIMUM SIZE	HARVESTING SEASON	OTHER RESTRICTIONS	CRIMINAL PENALTIES
	Groupers	No	Closed: April–July		1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Tiau; katuu'tiau; mokas; ksau'temekai; meteungerel'temekai				
	Rabbitfish	No	Closed: February–March		1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Meyas				

	Humphead parrotfish Kemeduki; berdebed; fahorari hamaduhiri	Closed permanently	Closed permanently	No possession No export	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Napoleon wrasse Ngimer; mami; fahorari mami	Closed permanently	Closed permanently	No possession No export	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Aquarium species	No	Open	Fishing and export restricted to people in possession of an Aquarium Permit	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail

SPECIES		MINIMUM SIZE	HARVESTING SEASON	OTHER RESTRICTIONS	CRIMINAL PENALTIES
	Rock lobsters	3.5 inches total length of carapace	Open	No export; no taking of egg-bearing females whatever the length; no possession of undersized specimens	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Mangrove crab Emang	6 inches greatest distance across width of carapace	Open	No export; no taking of egg-bearing females whatever the length; no possession of undersized specimens	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail

	Coconut crab Ketat; yefi	4 inches greatest distance across width of carapace	Open	No export; no taking of egg- bearing females whatever the length; no possession of un- dersized specimens	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Green turtle Melob; woru	34 inches carapace length	Closed June–August and December–January	No taking of eggs; no taking of female while she is on shore	Up to 6 months in jail, or Up to \$100, or Both of the above
	Hawksbill turtle Ngasech; hachab; hasab	27 inches carapace length	Closed June–August and December–January	No taking of eggs; no taking of female while she is on shore	Up to 6 months in jail, or Up to \$100, or Both of the above

SPECIES		MINIMUM SIZE	HARVESTING SEASON	OTHER RESTRICTIONS	CRIMINAL PENALTIES
	Giant clams Otkang; ribkungel; kism; melibes; oruer; duadeb/duadue	No	Open	No export (except cultured specimens)	No less than \$300 for each violation, or Up to 2 years in jail for each violation, or Both of the above
	Blacklip pearl oyster Chesiuch	4 inches diameter across the shell	Closed August–December		Up to 6 months in jail, or Up to \$100, or Both of the above
	Trochus Semum; ekoek	3 inches basal diameter	Designated from year to year by Olbiil Era Kelulau	State Governments can designate closed areas during open seasons	\$100 for each undersized trochus taken or pur- chased

	Sea cucumbers Bakelungal-chedelkelek; bakelungal-cherou; temetamel; badelchelid; melech; eremrum; periperi	No	Open	No export	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
	Dugong Mesekiu		Closed permanently		1 st conviction: No less than \$5000, or 3 months – 1 year in jail 2 nd conviction: No less than \$10,000, or 6 months – 3 years in jail
	Sponges, hard corals and marine rock Rurout; merand; bad l'chei	No	Open	No export	Up to 6 months in jail, or Up to \$100, or Both of the above

OTHER PROHIBITED ACTIONS	CRIMINAL PENALTIES
Fishing while using any form of underwater breathing apparatus other than a snorkel.	\$500 fine, or Up to 1 year in jail, or Both of the above for each violation
Making any entry or statement in writing completed or submitted in connection with the export of fish which is false or misleading.	Fine of not less than \$400, or 6 months to 2 years in jail, or Both of the above for each violation
1. Fishing with gill or surround net with a mesh size of less than 3 inches measured diagonally. 2. Retaining, possessing or abandoning kesokes net with a mesh size of less than 3 inches measured diagonally.	1 st conviction: up to \$250 2 nd conviction: up to \$500 and 30 days in jail 3 rd conviction: \$1000 and 6 months in jail Thereafter: \$5000 and 1 year in jail
1. Fishing with poison or explosives 2. Putting poison or explosives in the water for any reason, even by mistake	Felony: \$100–2000 fine and 6 months to 2 years in jail \$100 fine and Up to 6 months in jail



Palau