

P.L. 11-63



GOV. COMM.
(HOUSE)

11-392

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Pedro P. Tenorio
Governor

Jesus R. Sablan
Lt. Governor

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The Honorable Diego T. Benavente
Speaker, House of Representatives
Eleventh Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

FEB. 18 1999

and

FEB 18 1999

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona
President of the Senate
Eleventh 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. 11-144, HD1 entitled, "To establish a moratorium on the harvesting of seaweed, sea grass, and sea cucumber in the Commonwealth waters; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Eleventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife believes that unregulated harvesting of certain sea foods has put their population in danger. Therefore, this moratorium is needed to allow these populations to recover.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 11-63**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,


PEDRO P. TENORIO

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION, 1998

PUBLIC LAW NO. 11-63
HOUSE BILL NO. 11-144. HD1

AN ACT

To establish a moratorium on the harvesting of seaweed, sea grass, and sea cucumber in the Commonwealth waters; and for other purposes.

Offered by Representatives:

Manuel A. Tenorio

Ana S. Teregeyo, Karl T. Reyes, Melvin L. O. Faisao, David M. Apatang and Rosiky F. Camacho

Date: March 11, 1998

HOUSE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Natural Resources

Standing Committee Report: 11-16

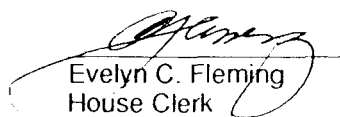
First and Final Reading: July 6, 1998

SENATE ACTION

Referred to: Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs

Standing Committee Report: None

Second and Final Reading: December 17, 1998


Evelyn C. Fleming
House Clerk

RECVD 1/11/99

ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC LAW NO. 11-63

H. B. SO. 11-144, HD1

FIRST REGULAR SESSION. 1998

AN ACT

To establish a moratorium on the harvesting of seaweed, sea grass, and sea cucumber in the Commonwealth waters; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACIED BY THE ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH
LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Findings. The Legislature finds that in recent years due to over harvesting
2 or the deleterious effects of beach front development, heavy recreational use of the
3 Commonwealth's lagoons by motorcraft, the water side presence of the Puerto Rico dump and
4 its petrochemical, fluorocarbon, and heavy metal contaminants, the population of edible
5 seaweed, sea grass, and sea cucumbers and other edible echinoderms has greatly declined.
6 Since many other elements of marine life dependent on the lagoons and reefs are already
7 threatened it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth's reef ecosystem to put a moratorium
8 on the harvest of those elements most in danger of disappearing.

9 Section 2. Moratorium. There is hereby established for a period of at least ten years a
10 moratorium on the harvest of all non-commercially grown seaweed, sea grass, or sea
11 cucumbers or other edible echinoderms. Such moratorium may be extended in whole or in
12 part by the Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources after ten years should it be determined
13 the population of seaweed, sea grass, sea cucumbers and other edible echinoderms have not
14 sufficiently recovered and permitting harvest is still inadvisable.

15 Section 3. Penalty. Any person who violates Section 2 of this Act shall be guilty of a
16 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined \$500 per violation, and imprisoned
17 for not more than thirty (30) days.

18 Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such
19 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
20 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
21 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

1 Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
2 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
3 repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained
4 in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The
5 enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any
6 liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes
7 effective.

8 Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor
9 or upon **its** becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED BY:




ANA S. TEREGEYO
Acting Speaker
House of Representatives



EVELYN C. FLEMING
House Clerk

Approved this *18th* day of *February*, 1999



PEDRO P. TENORIO
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands