



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

164th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Oct. 19 to 23, 2015

Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium
(Fale Laumei), Utulei, American Samoa

LEGISLATIVE REPORT GUAM

Local Legislation

Bill 160-33-Guam Ocean And Fisheries Conservation Act of 2015

Senator Brant McCreadie introduced legislation that seeks to improve enforcement efforts of Guam's Marine Protected Areas with the introduction of Bill 160-33 (COR), the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation Act of 2015.

If passed into law the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation Act of 2015 will establish the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation and Development fund and the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Management Council.

The Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation and Development fund will be used to hire conservation officers and equipment to patrol the five Marine Protected Areas around the island. The Conservation and Development fund will also construct boat ramps in the Northern and Southern parts of Guam. If passed into law, the boat ramps will be strategically placed to allow access to the northern and eastern waters of Guam for first responders, emergency personnel, and the general public.

The establishment of the Guam Ocean and Fisheries Management Council is intended to oversee the expenditures and management of funds in the Conservation and Development Fund. The Council will assist the Department of Agriculture in promoting sustainable use of Guam's oceans, fisheries, marine and freshwater resources within various communities on Guam.

Senator McCreadie states, "The *Guam Ocean and Fisheries Conservation Act of 2015 *is a measure to ensure that Guam's marine resources are protected and will be available for generations to come. With the help of my colleagues, Bill 160-33 (COR) will provide essential resources to the Department of Agriculture to carry out this responsible vision."

For more information please contact the Office of Senator Brant McCreadie @ 472-3462 or email at senatorbrantmccreadie@gmail.com

Bill No. 171-33 (COR) - R. J. Respicio

An act to mandate that the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP) collect data on the amount and type of all produce imported to Guam, such information to be listed quarterly by type of produce on both the BSP and Department of Agriculture's websites.

Bill No. 171-33 (COR) introduced by Senator Rory J. Respicio. The legislation would require quarterly collection of data on the import of fresh produce and fish as well as on government procurement of local produce. Sablan stated, "This bill will provide a valuable resource that will help farmers and fishermen, as well as in developing effective policies to boost local agricultural production." Sablan went on to explain, "Any expansion of available marketing data will greatly benefit the agricultural industry and local producers. Our local farmers and fisherman will have access to better information about what products the private and public sectors are buying and this will help them in their own decisions about production.

Additionally, the Department of Agriculture will have a larger data base to utilize in carrying out our mission to expand the agricultural sector of economy and aid local farmers and fishermen."

Under the current law, the Department of Agriculture is empowered to promote procurement by government agencies for local agricultural produce whenever possible. "The new data reporting provision called for in the bill will give us a valuable tool to assess the effectiveness of our ongoing efforts," Sablan said.

Matthew L.G. Sablan, Director Guam Department of Agriculture 163 Dairy Road, Mangilao, Guam 96913 Tel:671-300-7970 Fax:671-734-6569/6570

An act to amend §1515(i)(2)(G) of Article 5, Chapter 1 of Title 5,

Guam Code Annotated, relative to extending the deadline from July 31, 2015 to December 31, 2015, for the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association to expend or encumber the proceeds of the grant for the construction, repair and improvements of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association Facility.

National Legislation

H.R.774 — 114th Congress (2015-2016)-Congress Women Madeleine Z. Bordallo

To strengthen enforcement mechanisms to stop illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, to amend the Tuna Conventions Act of 1950 to implement the Antigua Convention, and for other purposes.

The bill would authorize the United States Coast Guard and NOAA to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including strengthening NOAA's ability to penalize nations that do not comply with the Regional Fisheries Management Organization's recommendation, in which fishermen from the U.S. already comply with. The bill also implements port agreements to safeguard that illegally caught fish aren't brought into U.S. ports.