

# **176<sup>th</sup>. Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

## **2. CNMI - Legislative Report**

CNMI Council Staff working with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife, CNMI's Legislature and the Attorney General's Office have been working closely to monitor proposed legislation as well as pending fisher related regulations.

- 2 (a) Size Restriction** - a new proposed House Bill (H.B. 21-17) introduced by Representative Roman Benavente "To prohibit the taking and selling of certain sizes of fish species by adding a new section 5645 to Articles 4, Chapter 6, Division 5 of Title 2 of the Commonwealth Code; and for other purposes."

Currently the bill was not placed on the House Calendar or committee yet. Council staff and members and DFW is monitoring this bill closely.

- 2 (b) Department of Lands & Natural Resource (DLNR) and Division of Fish & Wildlife Mandatory Data Reporting Regulation.**

Pl 17 -89 Became law on November 28, 2012 under Governor under Governor under Governor Benigno R. Fitial.

The proposed regulations will enable the Division of Fish and Wildlife to collect reliable data in commercial harvest, purchase and/or sale of products caught in CNMI waters.

With the help of the CNMI's Attorney General and his staff as well as the Secretary of the Department of Lands & Natural Resources the said regulations are now out for public comment. 03/1/2019

### **2 (c) SB 21-24 Bill for an Act**

March 6, 2019 Senator Vinnie F. Sablan introduced a bill to amend 2 CMC § 5631 to allow surround nets (Chenchulun Umesugon) in the Third Senatorial Bigeye Scad (Atulai) seasonal run. No action has been taken as of today.

Need: Supplement the family subsistence living

