

Twenty-First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature**First Regular**

Session, 2019

S. B. 21-24

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend 2 CMC § 5631 to allow surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) in the Third Senatorial District during Bigeye Scad (Atulai) seasonal run.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE TWENTY-FIRST NORTHERN MARIANAS
COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:**

Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature acknowledges that drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) are authorized in the First and Second Senatorial Districts during Bigeye Scad (Atulai) and Juvenile Goat Fish (Tiao) seasonal run. However, such nets are not allowed in the Third Senatorial District.

The Legislature also acknowledges that due to the social and economic realities in the Commonwealth it is important to find ways to supplement the family subsistence living. The Legislature finds that people in the Commonwealth have traditionally relied on fishing as a source of food to support and sustain their families. However, fishing methods must be controlled to ensure a balance of the marine environment and the resources in our coastal waters.

Therefore, the purpose of this Act is only to allow surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) during the Atulai seasonal run in the Third Senatorial District.

Section 2. Amendment. 2 CMC § 5631 is amended to add a new subsection (f) to read:

“(f) The use of the surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) shall be legal in the waters surrounding the Third Senatorial District when used for noncommercial purposes to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during its seasonal run provided that the net mesh size is not less than one-half inch. The fee for the surround net authorized under this subsection (f) shall be \$25.00 for every 50 feet in length.”

1 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any
2 such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of
3 competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to
4 persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected
5 thereby.

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8 statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes.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

13 **Section 5. Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
14 Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

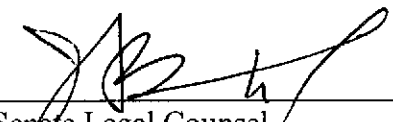
Prefiled:

Date: 3/6/19

Introduced By: 

Senator Vinnie F. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


Senate Legal Counsel