



**189th Meeting of the
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council**

CNMI Island Report (Arongol Falu)

CNMI Council Member John Gourley, Vice Chair

A. COVID-19 Updates

The CNMI was doing very well with COVID-19 and went total of about 254 days without one community transmission. Of course, we were stopping infected passengers coming in form air travel, but community infections were held at zero for a little over 8 months.

And then we had Halloween...

Since 28 October 2021; 400 identified by contract tracing; 359 identified by community testing

We have 8 active hospitalizations; none on ventilator. 1 death

COVID has spread to Tinian

The CNMI is still at Community Vulnerability Level Green and has 87.3% of eligible population fully vaccinated.

B. FISHING NEWS:

As previously reported, fishing activities remain minimally impacted by existing COVID-19 related restrictions. The biggest impact to fishing activities is that fresh fish demand is down due to the non-existent tourist industry.

C. ECONOMY

The CNMI tourist industry has made some progress since my last report; the South Korea tourist industry is starting back up slowly under the CNMI's Tourism Bubble concept.

Federal disaster relief funds are now flowing into the CNMI and is supporting certain segments of the economy, such as the construction and engineering support businesses.

1 December 2021

Star Marianas Air is the only air line company that transports people to and from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Due to the combination of several unrelated factors, they have cancelled all flights tentatively until 1 January 2021.