



WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL

**191st Meeting of the
Western Pacific Regional Fishery
Management Council
Guam Island Report**

Monique Amani

1. Guam Fishing Events

Shut Up & Fish Guam hosted the First Annual Famalao'an (Females only) Shore Fishing Derby on Saturday, May 7, 2022 along West Agaña Bay. The event was held to coincide with the Sirena Festival on the same day. Ladies of all ages joined with an assortment of catches brought in and data collected by DAWR staff.



All ages welcomed!

2. Fishing at the Port

Sharing one outcome of the Port Authority of Guam's opening of the seawall to fishing and lifting fishing permit requirements.



3. EEJ and Guam's compounded restrictions to fishing already in place, including marine preserves, monuments, firing ranges, and critical coral reef habitat.

Although these restrictions were set locally, many restrictions on fishing were not. Guam's marine preserves were established in 1997 and take up approximately 10% of the coastline. There are five preserves:

- Tumon Bay (Northwest)
- Piti bomb holes (Central, west)
- Achang Bay (South)
- Pati point (North which is an actual natural preserve because it is rough there about 90% of the year)
- Sasa Bay (West within inner Apra Harbor)

Along with Sasa Bay, Gab Beach, located in the harbor and inside the big navy base also has fishing restrictions.

An existing shooting range on top of Orote Peninsula on the Navy base prohibits activities below, including fishing, diving, or any water sports activities. The range is in some of Guam's best dive and fishing spots. The Ritidian Marine firing range is being built at Ritidian Point, a natural wildlife reserve and a historical burial site. It is in proximity to Guam's northern aquifer, Guam's primary source of fresh drinking water, and there is fear contaminants could pollute the water source as well as prohibit fishing in one of the best fishing spots on the island and where one of the most beautiful beaches as well in Guam is located.

Guam also has restrictions for fishing in the monuments. And now fishing will also be restricted if not closed in critical coral habitat areas.

Guam is a U.S. territory and even though we are U.S. citizens, we are not treated the same. We cannot vote for the very people that put many of these restrictions on us.

4. Guam's COVID-19 Emergence

Guam's COVID-19 pandemic burden is finally being listed, including the removal of mandatory mask wearing, social gathering to 250 people indoor and open outdoors. As of May 13, 2022, Guam saw 49,465 cases and 362 deaths related to COVID-19. Travel to and from Guam is open. Quarantine is no longer mandatory and public health no longer screens passengers. As of December 6, 2021, Guam is considered domestic travel and no longer falls under the U.S. CDC COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination.



Manny Dueñas

1. Cost of fishing in Guam continues to rise
Cost of gasoline and diesel continues to rise, making it prohibitive for Guam's artisanal fisheries to catch fish and feed their families.



These are now appearing during peak rough water season so only the larger boats are able to fish.

2. The Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Co-op)
The Coop is projected to fully open its doors to the new facility in December 2023.



Guam Fishermen's Coop Temporary Facilities

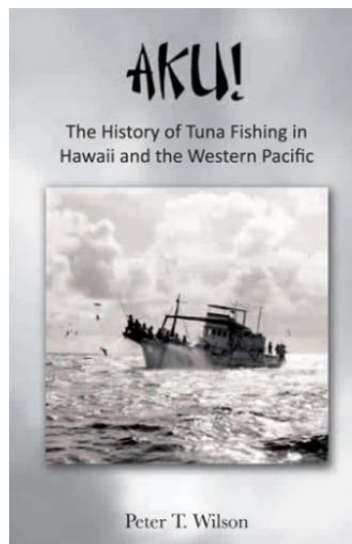
3. Ritidian Firing Range – an addendum to Monique Amani's report
A local advocacy group Prutehi Litekyan (Save Litekyan) continues to speak loudly to stop the construction of the Marine's firing range which has a footprint over the northeast corner of Guam, essentially impacting transit routes to key fishing grounds. In January 2022, they filed a federal lawsuit against the U.S. Air Force, the Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall, the U.S. DOD, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, represented by Earthjustice. The suit alleges the Air Force violated federal law by failing to evaluate the cultural and environmental impacts from open burning and open detonation of hazardous waste munitions on Tarague Beach or consider alternative environmentally preferred technologies of weapons disposal. The lawsuit also alleges the U.S. Air Force failed to comply with NEPA.
4. Guam lost another fishing pioneer and supporter.
Paul Shimizu passed away in April 2022. He was a major supporter of the Coop and Guam's fishing for decades and one of the biggest supporters of the Guam International Fishing Derbies since its inception.



Paul Shimizu

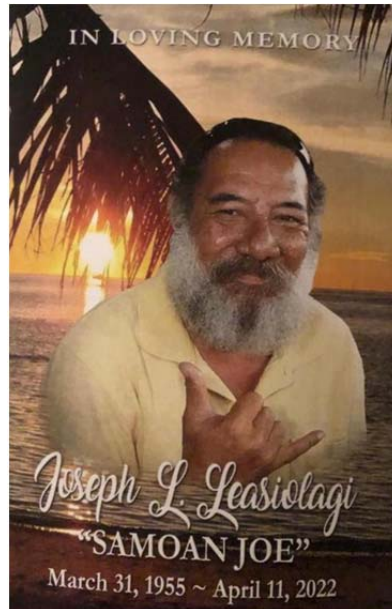
5. Guam Fishing Pioneer Passes Away In December 2021.

Peter Wilson, the one individual responsible for the development of the Agaña Marina, the channel to enter and exit the marina and the water circulation of Tumon Bay by opening a channel at the ends, essentially allowing natural flow of currents that resulted in the clearing of stagnant water.



6. Samoan Joe

A transplanted American Samoan, Joseph Leasiolagi recently passed. Joe retired from the military in Guam and decided to stay. He was a very strong supporter of the Coop and the Guam fishing community. We miss all of them.



Si Yu'us Ma'ase!