

194th Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

Isla Informe: Guam Island Report

Judith Guthertz

1. Guam Port Authority News

The Port Authority of Guam Board of Directors approved funding of up to \$1 million for the construction of a Hagatña Marine seawall. The seawall was done at the request of Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero who has committed to upgrading the marinas and providing for the fishing communities that serve the people of Guam. The Governor said she is very pleased that the board approved the funding which helps to support fishing and will be instrumental in the creation of a vibrant fishing and aquaculture industry in Guam. The Guam Fishermen's Coop is a vital part of our community as it provided a mechanism where fishermen can sell their catch and make a living while feeding the people of Guam. She said "I have always supported the vision of the Coop's Manny Dueñas, the Guam Fishermen's Coop, and initiatives that promote food sustainability. It is a great day for our island's fishermen to see the Port and GEDA working together to see this project through." Port Board Vice Chair Dot Harris added "The sea wall is much needed for the Hagatña Marina. This is to protect all the investments that have taken place and to continue to support our local seafaring community is good and it is about time. The government has not looked at this in decades."

2. Agat Marina Launch Ramp Finger Repair

The Port Authority is working on the repair of the concrete fingers at the Agat Marina launch ramp.



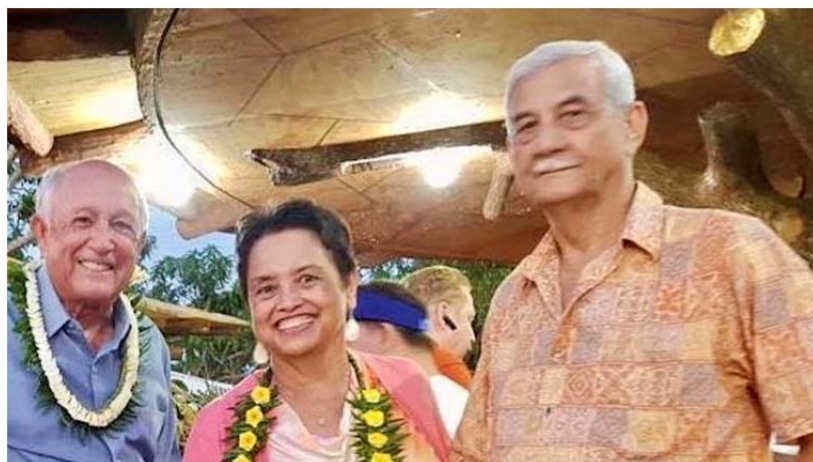
Manny Dueñas

1. The Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (Co-op) construction continues with the temporary facility almost done. Completion is expected to be around the summer 2024 and cost around \$8 million.



2. Gone to Sea

Former Guam senator and former Port Authority of Guam General Manager Uncle Roy Dueñas went to fishermen's heaven on December 18, 2022. Uncle Roy was very generous with his knowledge about boating and fishing, and I owe all that I know to my father's brother. Former Guam Governor and current Guam Visitors Bureau CEO Carl TC Gutierrez said "No one knew Roy Dueñas better than Manny Dueñas, who has run the Coop as president with his own excellent skill and unyielding determination for decades. Manny's grit and intelligence to succeed in ways that protect and uplift our people and our precious CHamoru culture runs in the family. Manny's heart has remained tied to i tasi (the ocean), where he, too does his part to support Guam's 'catch and share' culture."



3. The US Coast Guard recently rescued two men from a 42-foot boat transporting goods from Guam to Rota. A third person was lost. Waters between Rota and Guam is always treacherous with a small craft advisory in effect at the time. The sunk boat was carrying concrete blocks and commodities for Rota stores. The two mariners were in the water for more than 15 hours.





Si Yu'us Ma'ase!