

Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru

January 20, 2026 - February 7, 2027



*Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council*

WPCOUNCIL.ORG

Fish Are Food: A Way of Life

Fish has been the foundation of health, nutrition and culture for Guam for generations. Unlike fast food, fresh local seafood nourishes the body with high-quality protein, omega-3s and vital nutrients that support heart and brain health. The taotaomona (ancient Chamorros) were large, healthy and strong primarily because of their seafood-rich diet.

Guamanian's taste for fish continues to evolve. While seasonal favorites like *atulai* (bigeye scad), *i'e* (juvenile jack) and *mañåhak* (juvenile rabbitfish) remain popular, modern gear has made deep-water species such as *onaga*, *monchong* (pomfret) and *gindai* more common on the dinner table.



Seafood safety keeps this tradition alive. Knowing when, where and how fish are harvested ensures freshness and family well-being. Choosing local, safe and sustainable seafood honors the ocean, our traditions and their role in daily island life.

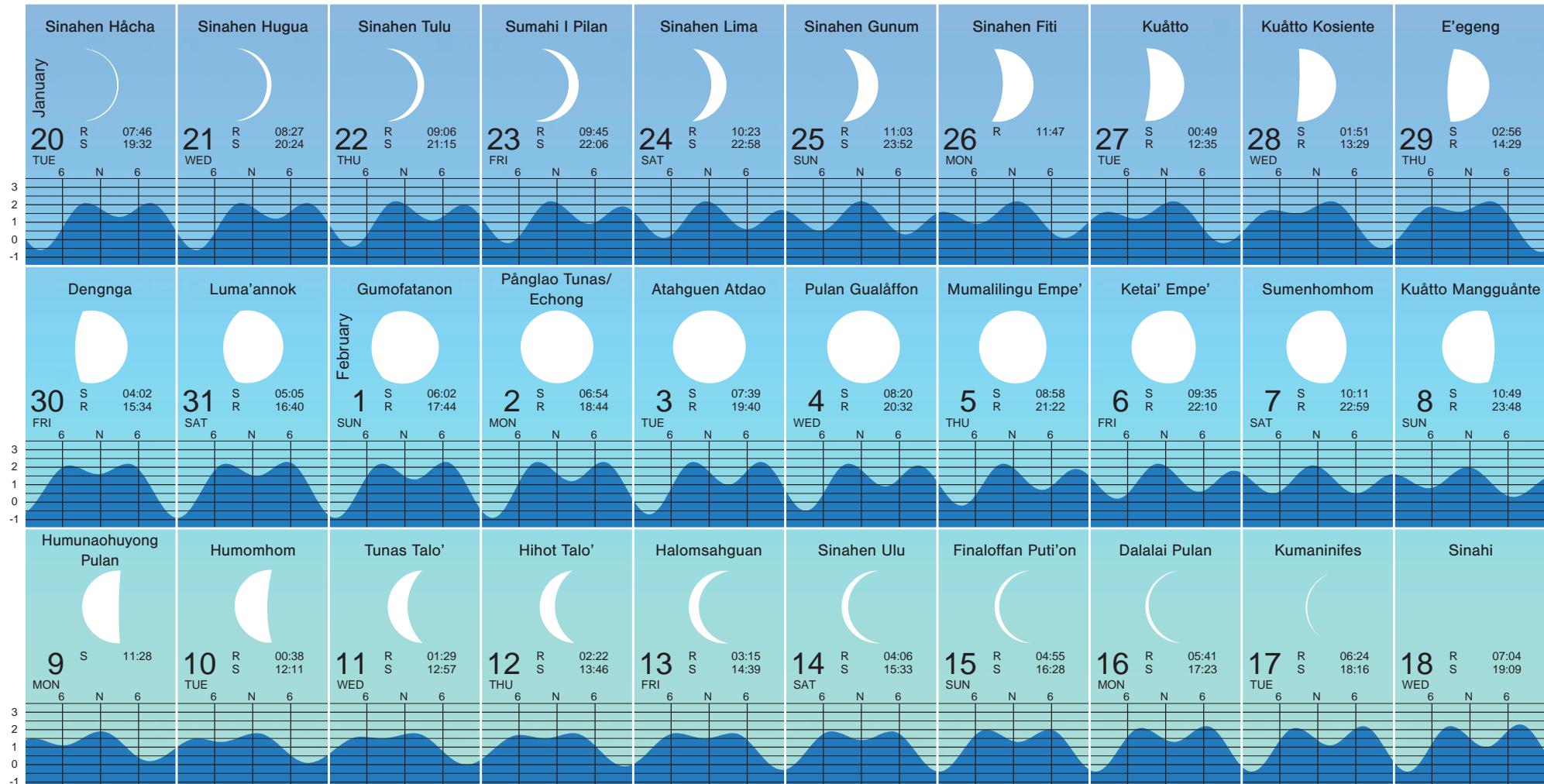
(left) A seasonal specialty, crispy fried *mañåhak* are a must for the dinner table on Guam.
PHOTO: Felix Reyes

(above) Tuna sashimi plate. PHOTO: John Kaneko

Tumaiguini

January 20 - February 18

Ineru 20 - Fibreru 18, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



Western Pacific
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Traditional Practices and Sustainability

- ① **RESPECT NATURE** and your place in it.
- ② **SEEK ADVICE** of experts with generational knowledge of the local resources.
- ③ **SHOW REGARD** to spawning seasons and juvenile fish.
- ④ **DO NOT WASTE.** Take only what is needed.
- ⑤ **KEEP SAFE** people, property and resources.
- ⑥ **OBEY** fishing laws and rules.
- ⑦ **USE PROPER** gear and techniques.
- ⑧ **PICK UP YOUR TRASH.**
- ⑨ **SHARE** your catch.

Produced by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, with the Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic & Wildlife Resources.

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Fishermen Code of Conduct

Before modern materials, nets were woven from natural fibers such as pandanus or coconut husk, crafted with great skill and patience. The advent of monofilament allowed fishers to make *talåya* (cast nets) that were lighter, stronger and easier to maintain and use rod and reel from shore. Woven in various hole sizes and edged with lead weights or chain links, the *talåya* forms pockets along its perimeter that trap fish as the net is retrieved.

More than a tool, the *talåya* symbolizes community, knowledge and respect for the ocean. Passed down from elders to youth, it connects generations and preserves cultural identity. As more young people in Guam take up this practice, they help sustain both tradition and the Chamorro value of taking only what is needed from the sea.

A father teaches his young son proper casting technique.
PHOTO: Carlos Quintanilla

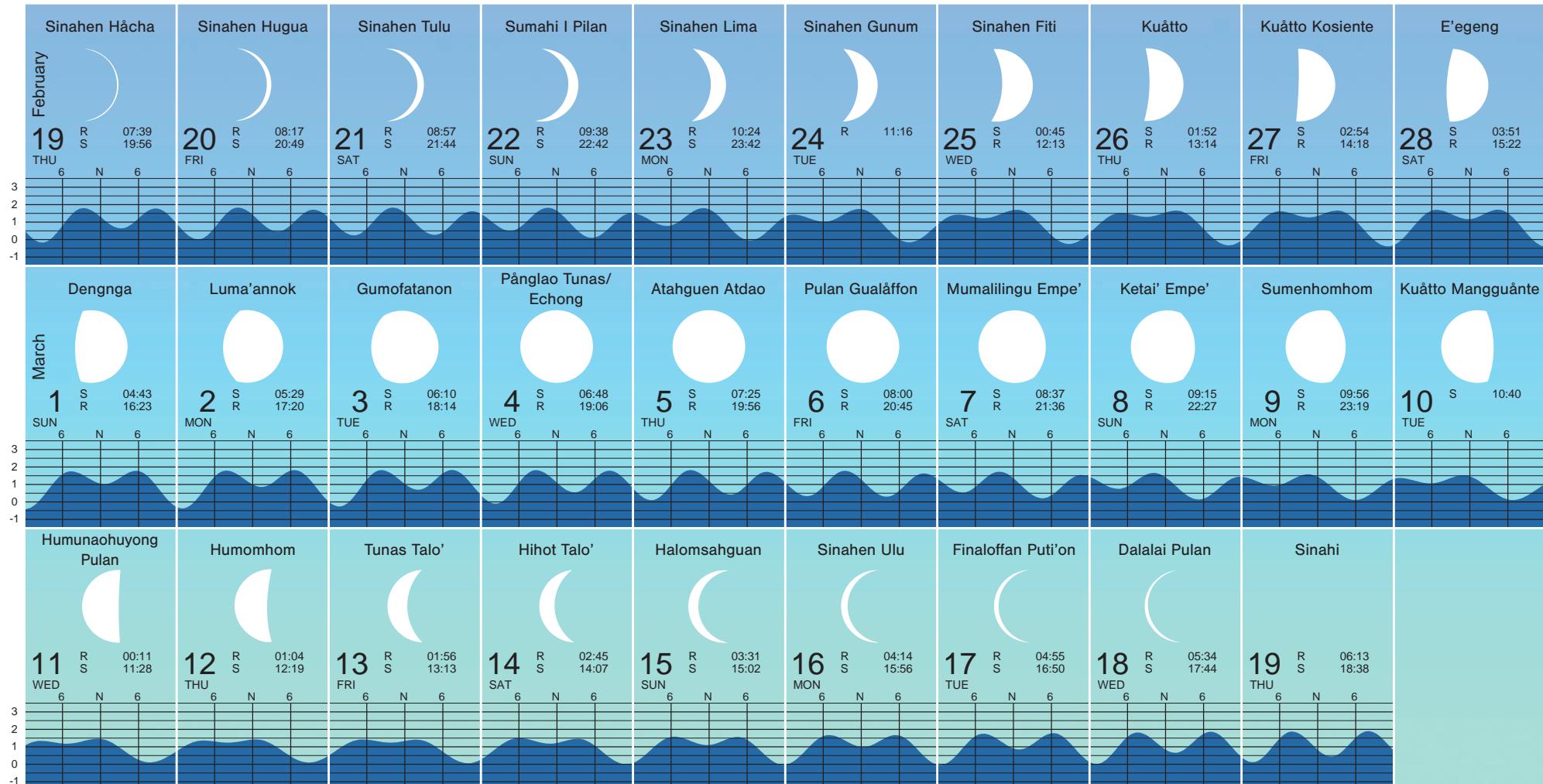


A perfectly thrown *talåya* is beautiful to watch, especially at sunset.
PHOTO: Felix Reyes

Ma'imo'

February 19 - March 19

Fibreru 19 - Måtso 19, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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Fishing Is the Culture



There are 19 villages in Guam, each celebrating traditional monthly fiestas in honor of its patron saint. It is a big event centered around the food table, which always features seafood such as *låggua* (parrotfish), and especially during the seasonal runs of *mañahak* (April, May, September, October), *ti'ao* (juvenile goatfish; June-September, December) and *atulai* (August-December).

(left/below) Fried *låggua*. PHOTOS: Amy Vandehey

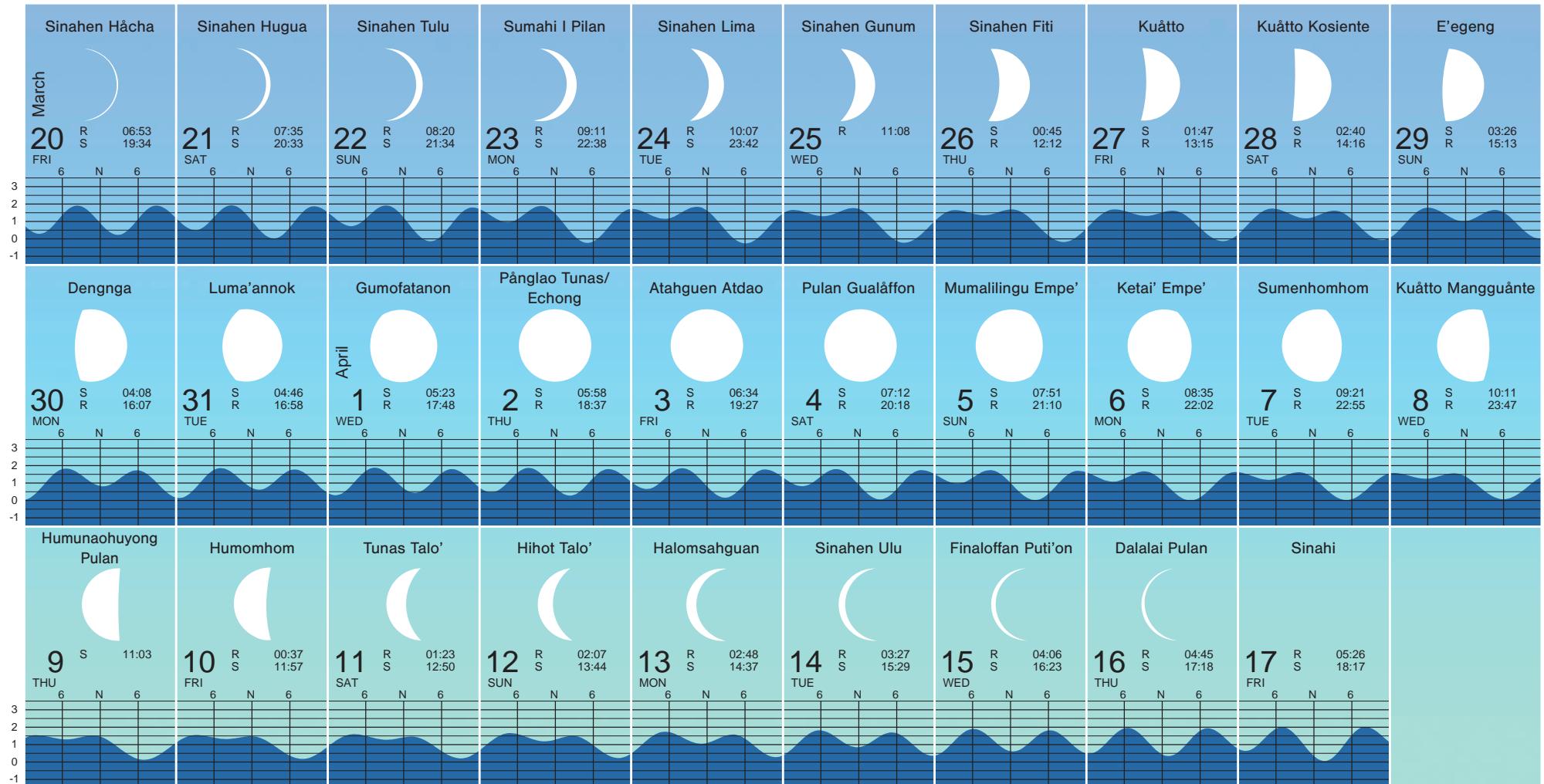
(right) The *lamasan nengkanu* (food table) is the heart of every fiesta, where families and guests gather to share dishes that highlight Guam's deep connection to the ocean. PHOTO: Felix Reyes



Umatalaf

March 20 - April 17

Måtso 20 - Abrit 17, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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The Fisher as Provider and Cultural Custodian

Each village has its own peskadot – men and women who are the community’s “go-to” people for fish. Whether spearfishers, trollers, bottomfishers, gamsum (octopus) fishers or talåya throwers, their skills are well respected and always in demand. Some come from familial peskadot, or fishing families, known for generations of fishing expertise and deep knowledge of the sea. These families are generous with their catch and readily teach the younger generation the rhythms of the tides, the rules of the sea and the values of sharing that sustain island life.



(above) Fishing with family offers a chance to pass on skills, stories and knowledge to the next generation. PHOTO: Felix Reyes

(right) *Atulai*. PHOTO: Pacific Daily News

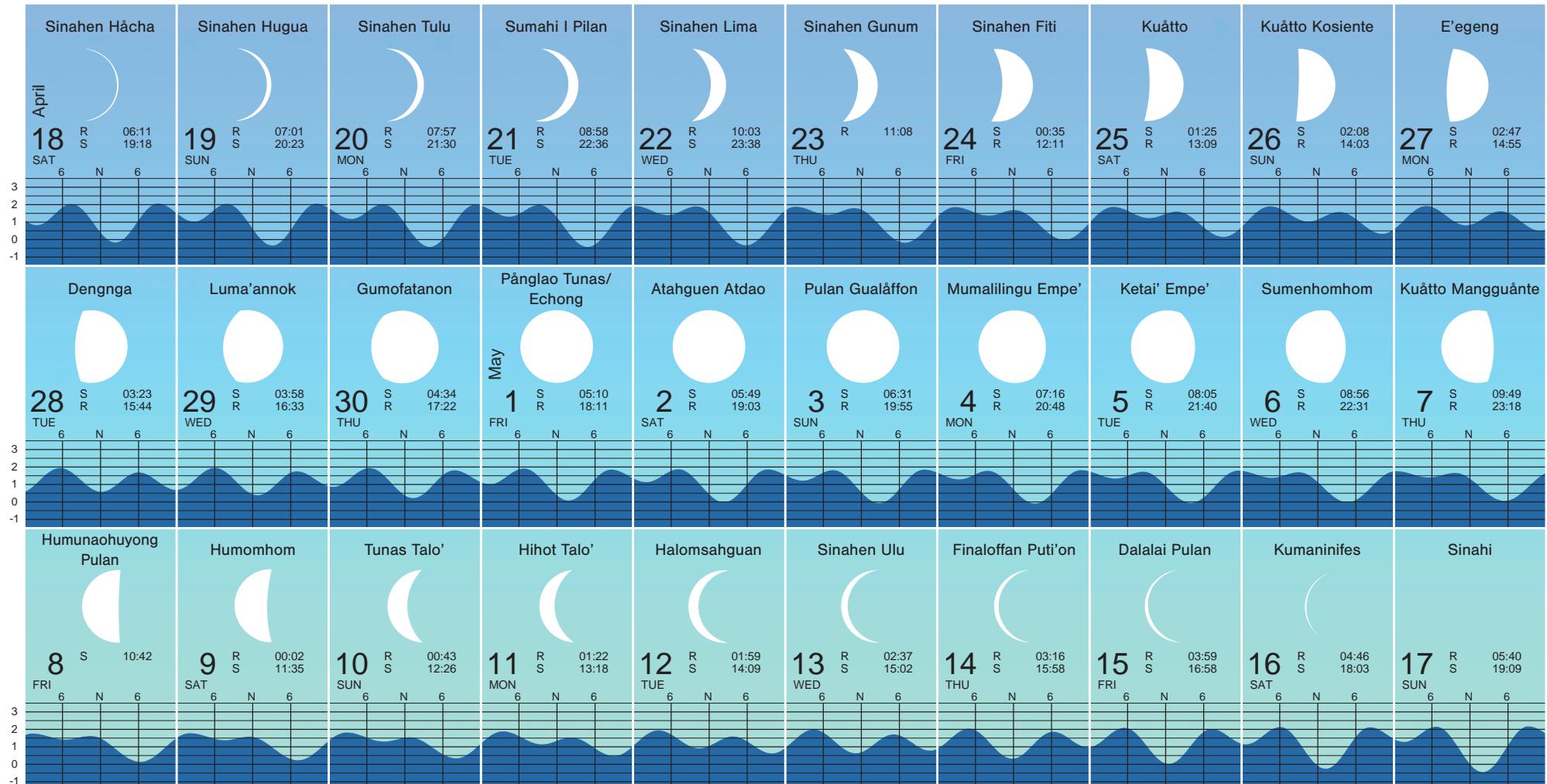
(above) “When the seasonal runs of *mañahak*, *ti’ao* or *atulai* occur, the whole family gets together and *planta* (lay) their *chenchulu* (surround net) to harvest great quantities,” said Tenbat family member Jesse Rosario. PHOTO: Johnny Atulai



Lumuho'

April 18 - May 17

Abrit 18 - Måyu 17, 2026

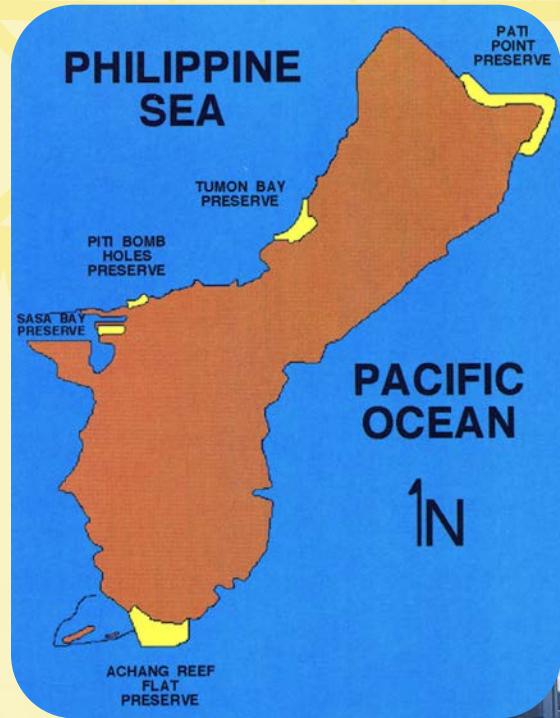


MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



Western Pacific
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Navigating Modern Challenges



SOURCE: Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources

(right) Tumon Bay Preserve allows certain types of fishing gear, such as rod and reel and *talåya*, to be used from shore.

PHOTOS: Felix Reyes

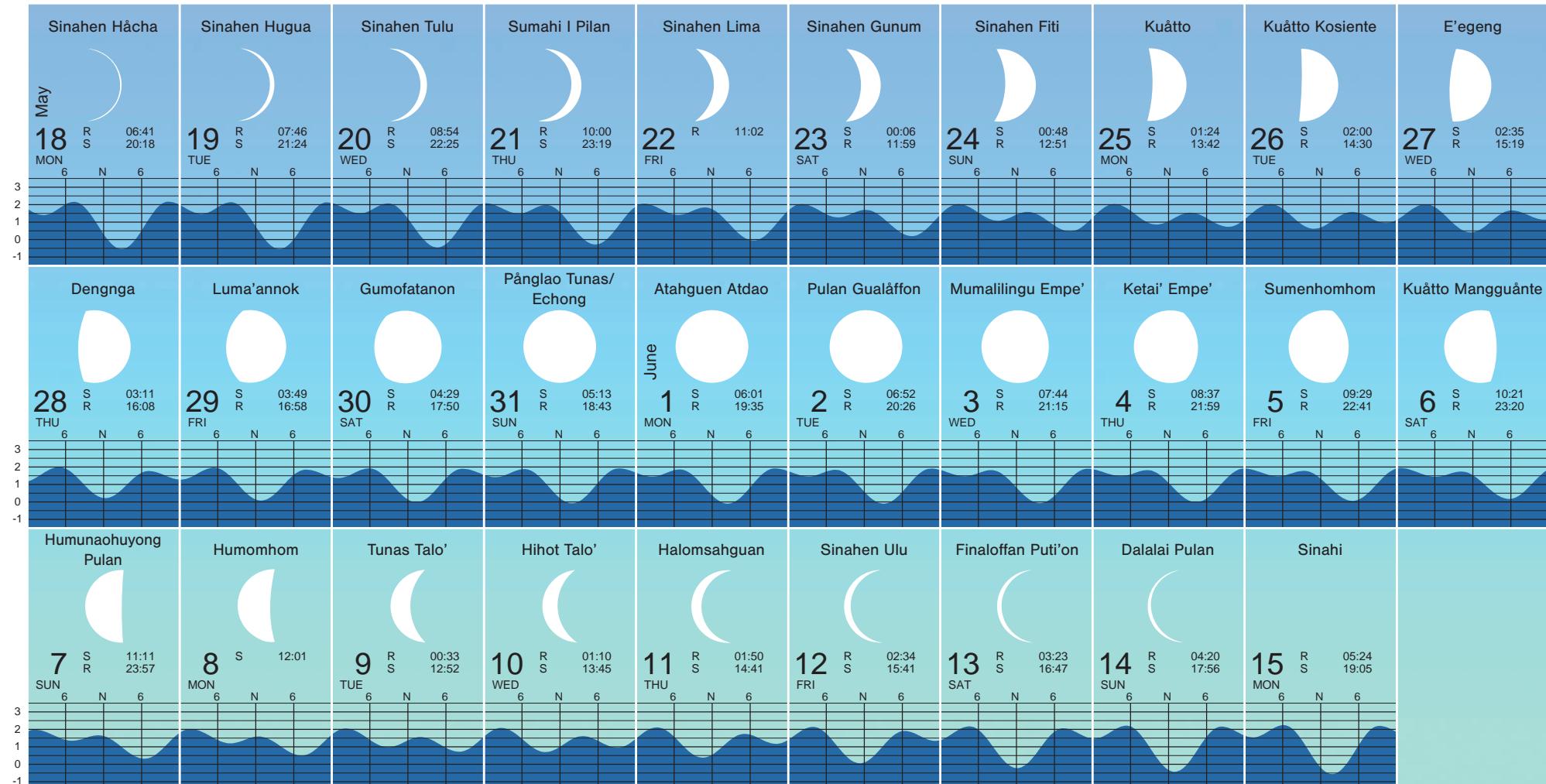
Access to traditional fishing grounds has become a growing concern in Guam, particularly with the establishment of five marine protected areas (MPAs) that impose varying levels of fishing restrictions. Created by law in 1997 and enforced in 2001, these preserves were designed to provide sanctuaries for reef fish and replenish and spill over into nearby reefs and coves. Yet, as fishing pressure increases outside the preserves, many in the community are calling for a renewed balance – one that honors both the need for conservation and the Chamorro tradition of fishing for family and cultural practice. Some suggest seasonal or cultural harvests, or rotating the MPAs, as ways to sustain both the ocean and the people who depend on it.



Makmåimao

May 18 - June 15

Måyu 18 - Huniu 15, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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Fish and Food Security

During the COVID-19 pandemic in the early 2020s, when imported foods slowed and store shelves were uncertain, many families relied on freshly caught fish for sustenance. Local fishers using talåya, rod and reel, or fisga (spear), provided fish that filled dinner tables and reinforced traditions of sharing catch with family and neighbors. With restaurants closed and tourism halted, many turned from commercial fishing to subsistence harvests, and reef fish once again became central to home meals and fiestas.

In April 2020, Guam's Department of Agriculture issued special permits allowing shore-based fishing in MPAs for cultural and subsistence purposes. Permits limited harvest of small juvenile species such as mañahak, achemson (fusiliers), ti'ao and i'e using safe, single-person methods like talåya or hook and line. Fishers impacted by the loss of tourism income also received aid through the CARES Act Fisheries Relief funding administered by the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR).

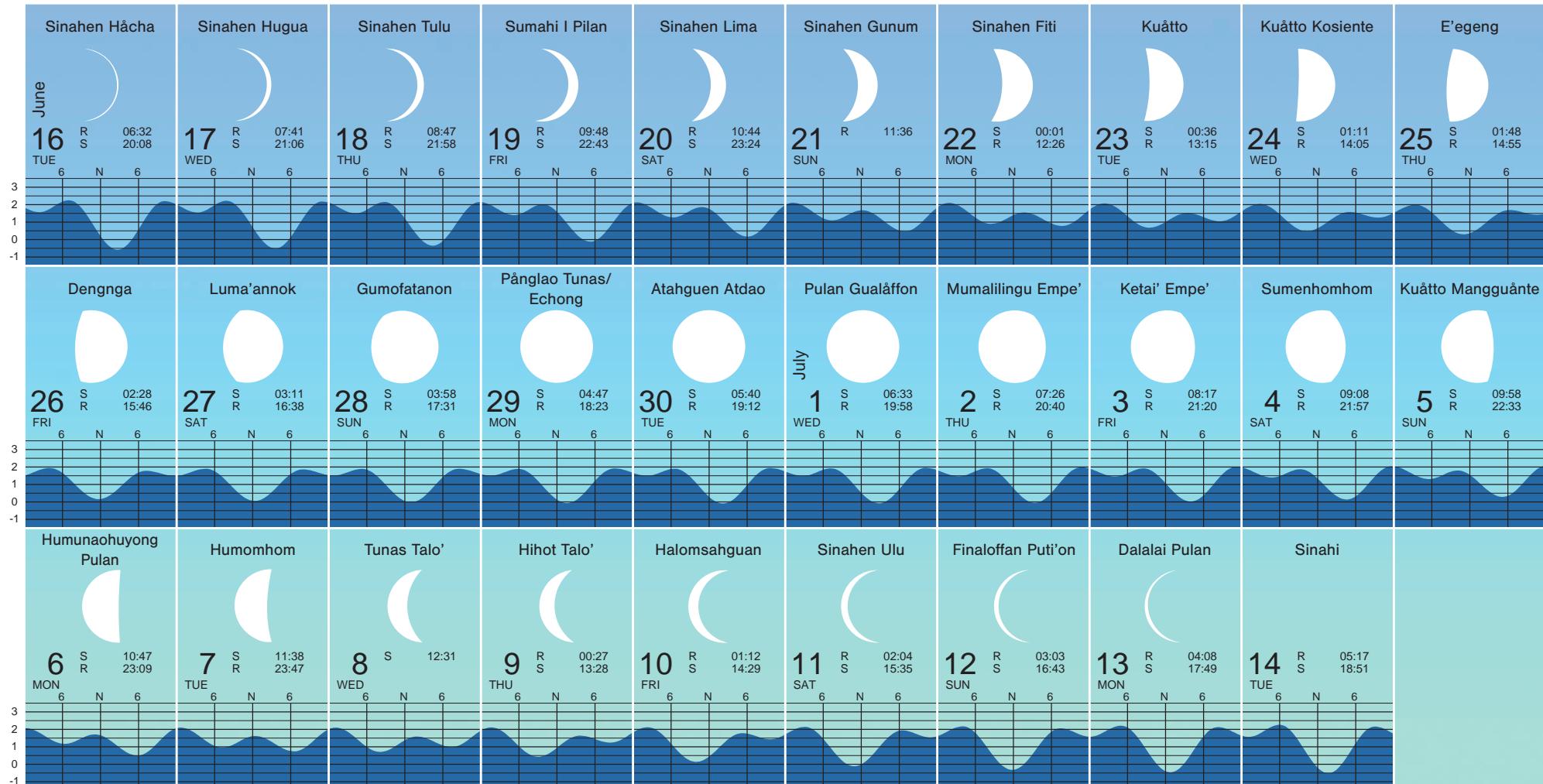
(right) Fresh from the reef – a spearfisher holds his catch of *lililok* (long-nose emperor), *tarakitu* (jack trevally) and *låggua*. PHOTO: Carlos Quintanilla



Mananaf

June 16 - July 14

Huniu 16 - Huliu 14, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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Fish Are Money

Guam's fishing industry has long been tied to the island's tourism market, with Asian visitors – especially from Japan and South Korea – making seafood a highlight of their stay. Japanese tourists, known worldwide for their appreciation of fresh fish, have traditionally sought out local favorites such as yellowfin tuna, wahoo and bonita. Over the years, charter operators have adjusted to these preferences, offering visitors an authentic island experience on the water.



While tourism from Asia remains vitally important, and is forecasted to exceed one million visitors in 2026, the U.S. military presence on Guam has increasingly become the core customer base, accounting for more than 80% of fishing charters. Service members, their families and contractors often spend a day at sea to enjoy Guam's tropical climate and test their strength against large pelagic fish. Many also delight in the island tradition of enjoying their catch sashimi-style right at the dock – adding a uniquely local touch to their fishing adventure.

Fresh charter-caught fish, filleted and enjoyed pier-side with soy sauce and wasabi.

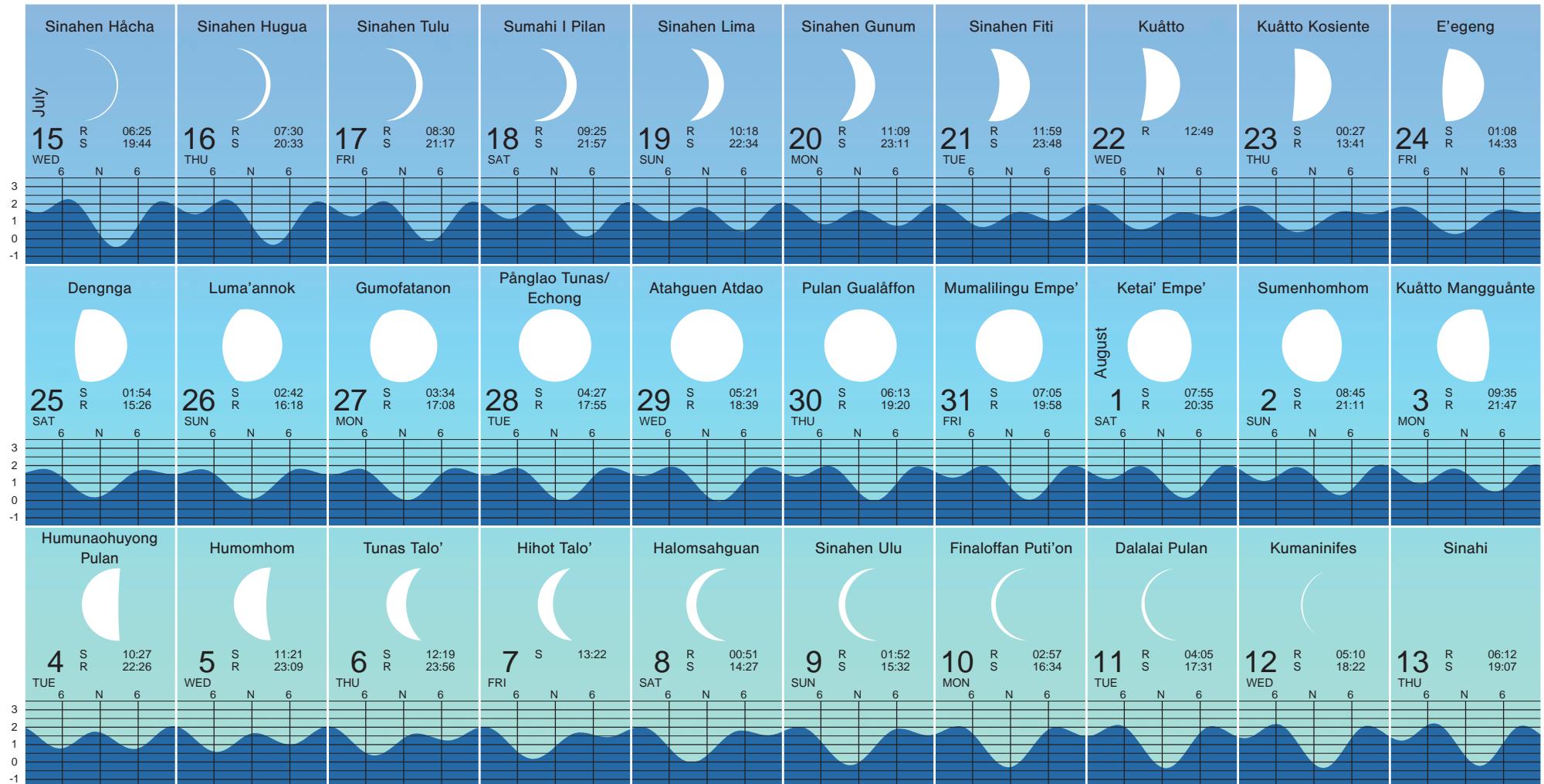
PHOTOS: Audrey Toves



Semu

July 15 - August 13

Huliu 15 - Agosto 13, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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Pacific Fisheries and U.S. Sovereignty

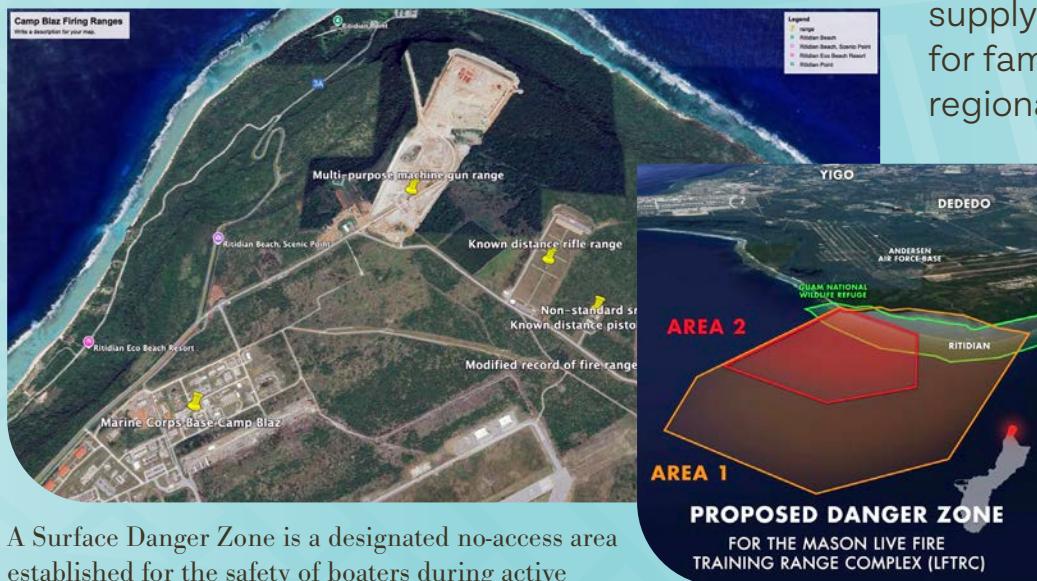


(above) The Council's Military Buildup Working Group – made up of members from the Council, its advisory groups, government agencies and the public – works closely with Joint Region Marianas to understand how the buildup may affect local fisheries in Guam and the rest of the Mariana Islands.

PHOTO: Felix Reyes

2026 · 50 Years of U.S. Fisheries Stewardship

In 1976, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) created the regional fishery management councils, including the WPRFMC. In 2026, we celebrate 50 years of this landmark law guiding sustainable, science-based management of U.S. Pacific fisheries.



A Surface Danger Zone is a designated no-access area established for the safety of boaters during active military firing range exercises. SOURCE: Nate Groff/PDN

Guam holds exceptional military importance in the Western Pacific, serving as the United States' forward operating hub for defense, security and rapid response. Its location offers a strategic advantage for protecting maritime routes, deterring aggression and supporting stability in a region vital to global trade.

At the same time, Guam's surrounding waters are vital to its people – sustaining livelihoods, culture and food security through local fisheries. The same strategic position that makes Guam essential to U.S. defense also places it within some of the richest fishing grounds in the Pacific. These fisheries provide income for local fishers,

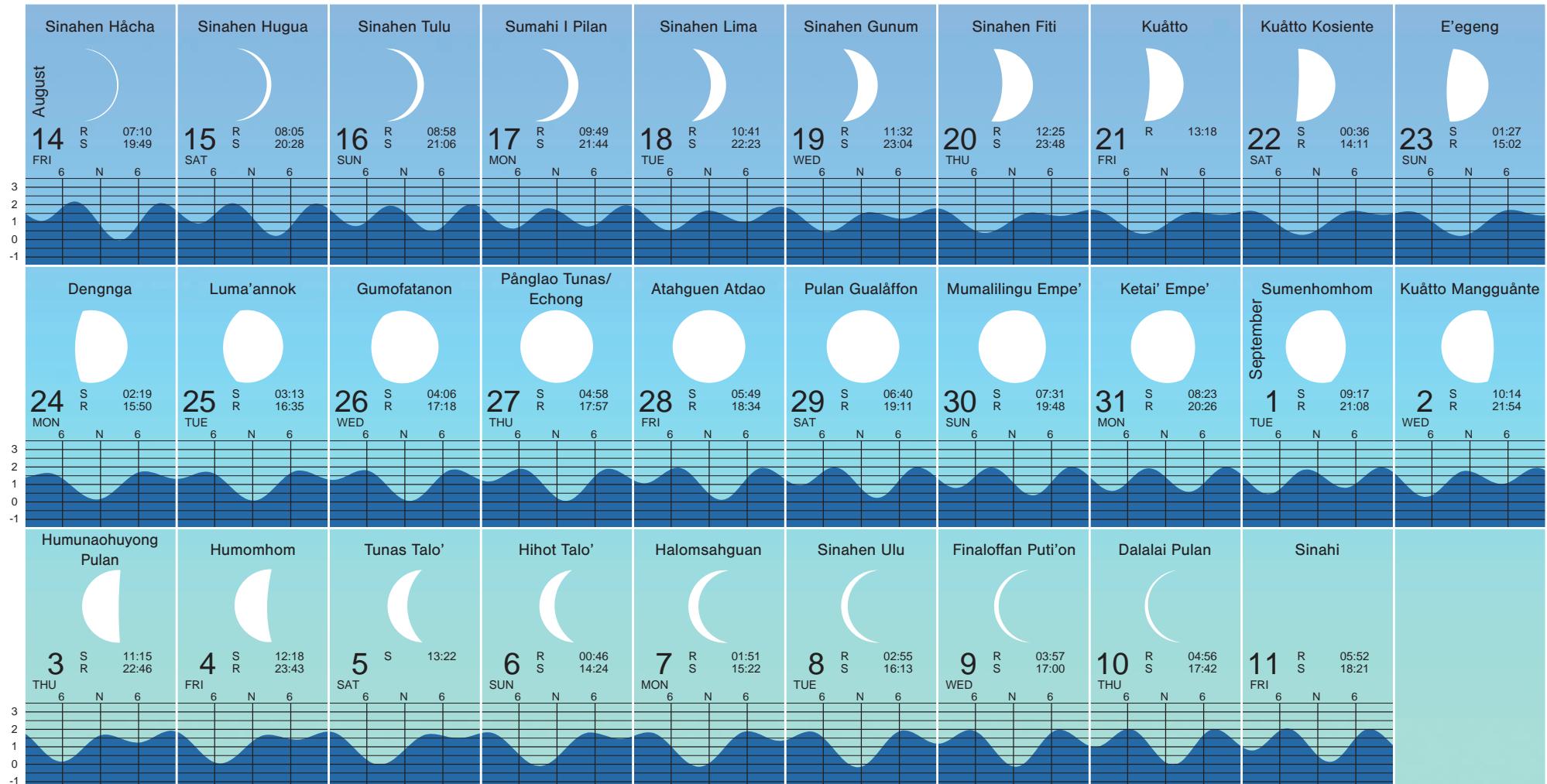
supply healthy traditional foods for families and strengthen regional food security.

This dual importance highlights the need for balance, ensuring Guam's role in national defense goes hand in hand with protecting access to the fisheries that support the island's culture, community and economy.

Tenhos

August 14 - September 11

Agosto 14 - Septembre 11, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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The Global Ocean and Local Rights

Decisions made at international fisheries meetings reach all the way to Guam's shores. Global agreements that set quotas, regulate harvests or close parts of the Pacific to commercial fishing affect how island fishers and businesses operate. Because Guam relies on both its local fisheries and its role within the wider Pacific community, these policies influence access to migratory species, seafood availability and the island's economy.

Arrangements such as the Compact of Free Association with the Federated States of Micronesia also shape who can fish in Guam's waters. Through participation in the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and collaboration with the Council, Guam helps ensure that island perspectives are heard – balancing conservation with the continuation of fishing as a vital part of island life.

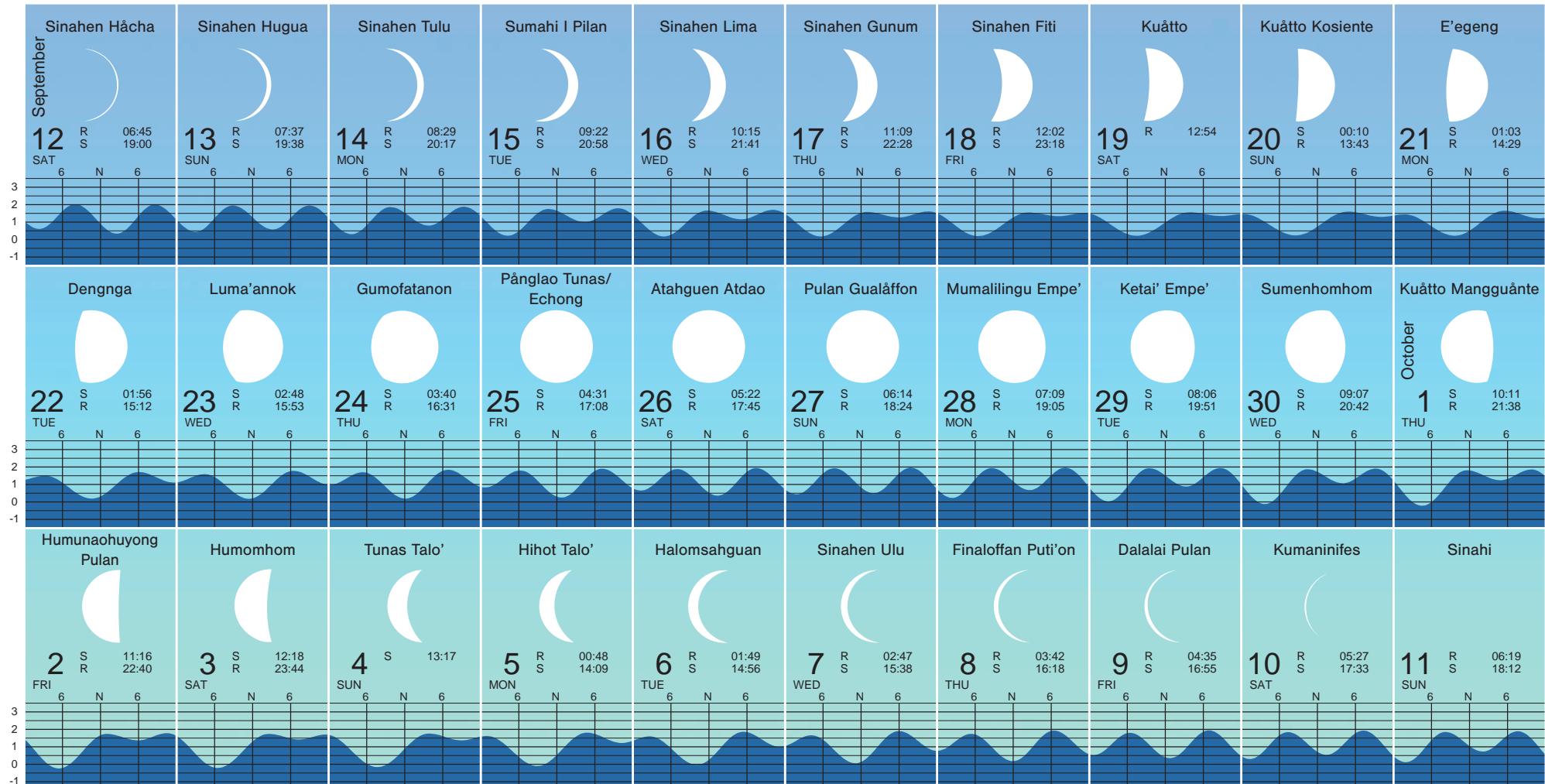


U.S.-Compact Impact Agreements with the FSM allow their citizens to harvest reef and pelagic fish near Guam. PHOTO: Felix Reyes

Lumåmlam

September 12 - October 11

Septembre 12 - Oktubri 11, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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Stewardship Through Indigenous Knowledge

The southern village of Maesso' – a traditional fishing community fronting the Cocos Island Lagoon and fished by its residents for generations – hosted a kids' boat-based *mafuti* (emperor fish) derby in August 2025. The first annual event, initiated by Guam Council member Frank Perez and organized by DAWR, the Greg D. Perez Foundation and the Council, brought 30 young participants onto the water with adult mentors on each boat. The kids learned indigenous fishing methods such as handline fishing, along with the importance of resource stewardship and taking only what is needed from the sea.

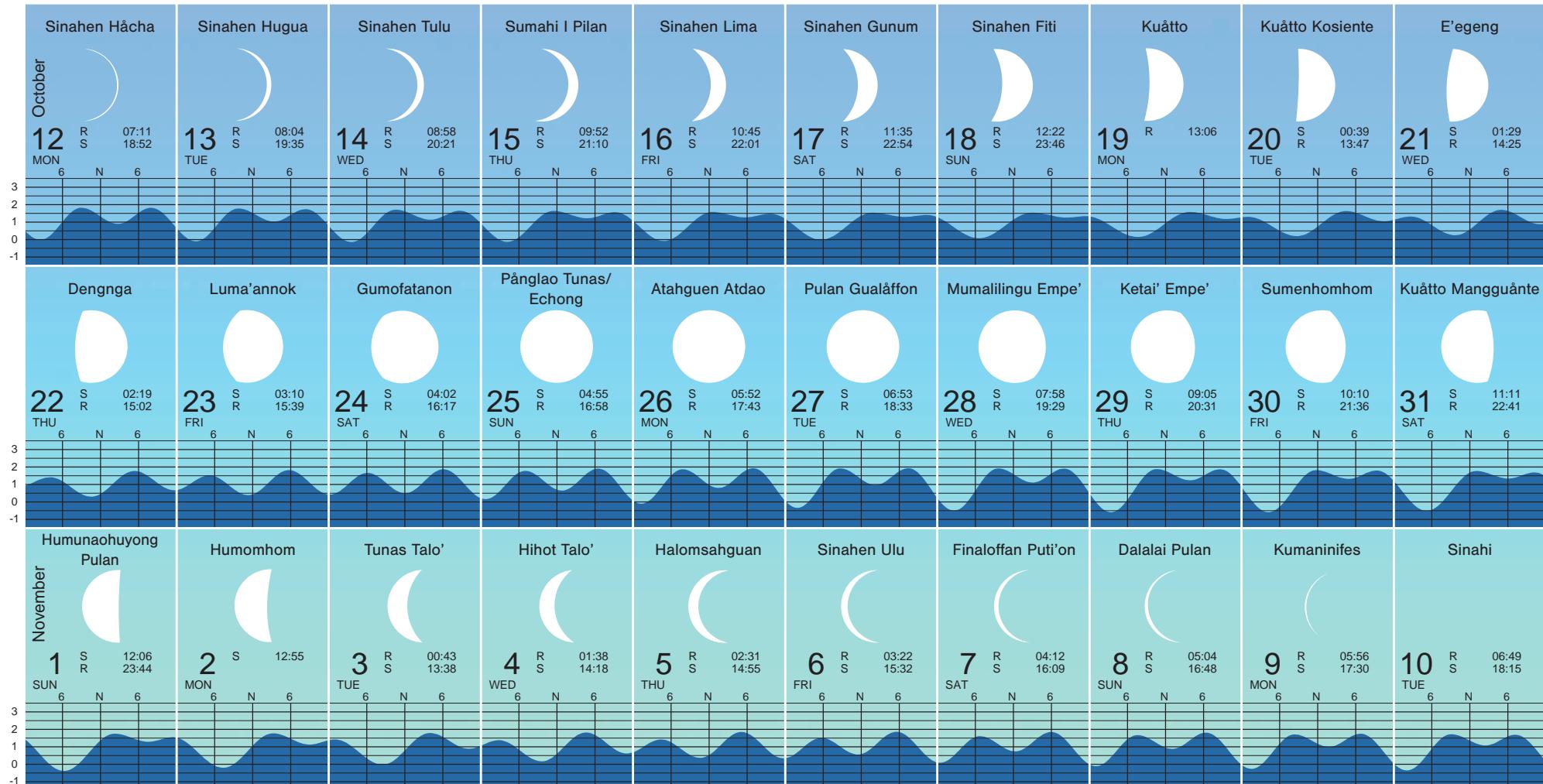
PHOTOS: Felix Reyes



Faguålo'

October 12 - November 10

Oktubri 12 - Nubembre 10, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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Youth and the Future of Fishing



Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council

Speakers Bureau

Connecting Communities with Fisheries Experts

The Council's Speakers Bureau offers educators and community groups access to experts offering to share their knowledge about Pacific fisheries.

Who Are Our Speakers?

- ✓ Commercial and recreational fishermen
- ✓ Fisheries scientists and managers
- ✓ Indigenous practitioners
- ✓ Fisheries policy experts



Available Across the Pacific

- 📍 Now serving Hawai'i, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- 💻 In person + virtual sessions for broader engagement

Why Participate?

- 💡 Learn about fisheries science and management
- 💡 Gain insights into traditional fishing practices
- 💡 Connect with experts
- 💡 Support sustainable fisheries



Schedule a Talk Today!

🔗 Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/CouncilSpeakersBureau>
Questions? 808-522-8220, www.wpcouncil.org

Guam's community today is diverse and constantly changing. The traditional passing of fishing skills from parent to child has shifted toward modern and more convenient methods, such as spearfishing and monofilament gear. Where fishing knowledge was once central to daily life, many young people now spend more time in digital spaces or in land-based activities rather than learning on the water.

This shift has led to a gradual loss of cultural connection to the sea, the foundation of survival, identity and community for generations. It highlights the need to strengthen fisheries education and hands-on training so traditional knowledge and

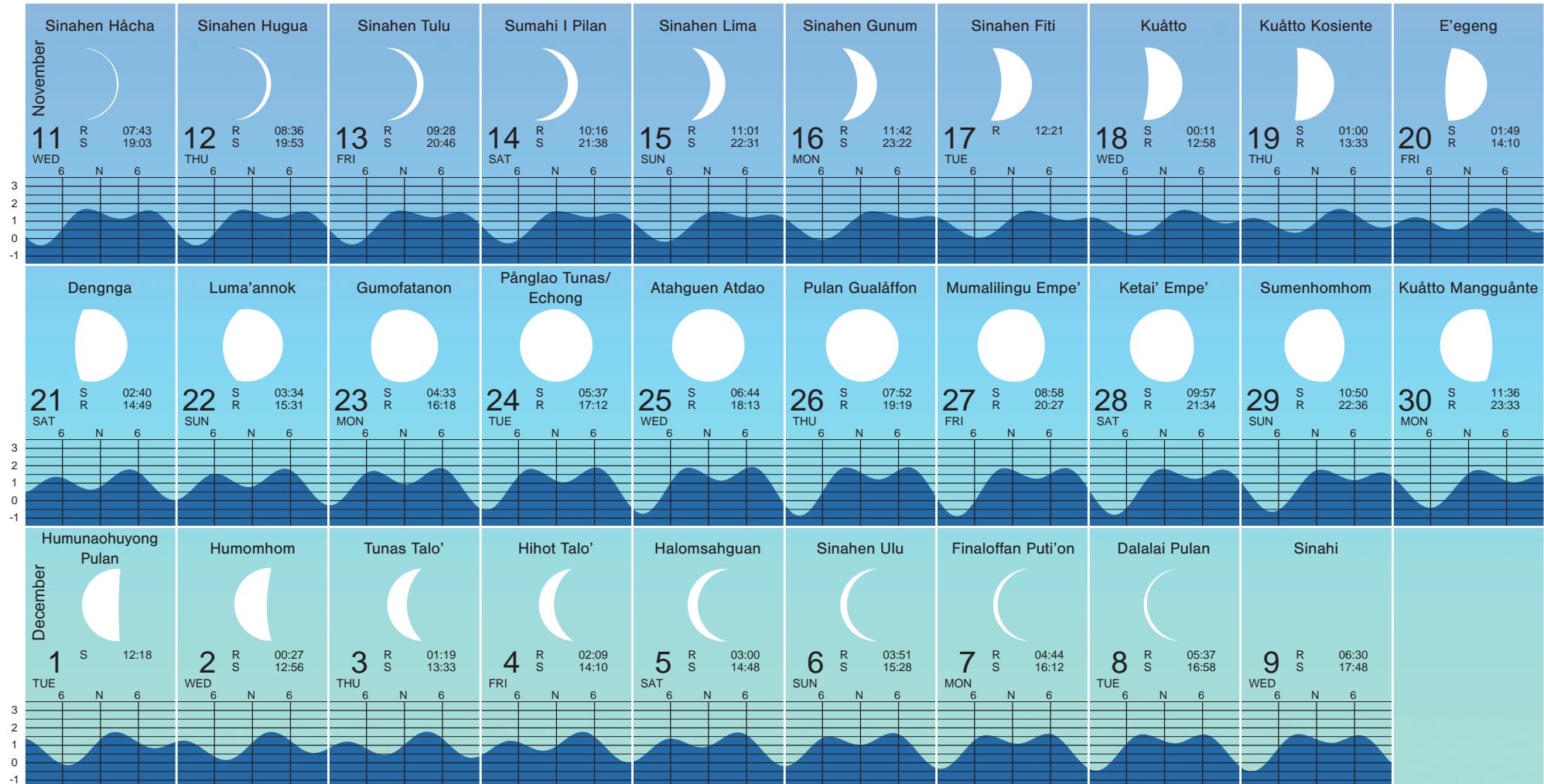
respect for the ocean can guide the next generation. Programs such as DAWR's Kids' Fishing Derbies and youth clinics, the Maesso' Mentored Kids' Mafuti Derby and the Council's Speakers Bureau, which brings fishers into classrooms, help close this gap.

Council Advisory Panel member Capt. Audrey Toves demonstrates how she uses fishing lures and gear during a Speakers Bureau presentation at Piti Middle School. PHOTO: Felix Reyes

Sumongsong

November 11 - December 9

Nubembre 11 - Disembre 9, 2026



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



Western Pacific
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Policy, Participation, and Conservation

Fisheries governance is strongest when the community's voice is heard. Public participation – through Council meetings, public comment periods and local advisory sessions – helps shape the rules that guide fishing in the Guam. Decisions on catch limits, seasonal closures and protected areas work best when grounded in both science and the firsthand knowledge of island fishers, community leaders and residents.

Ways to Get Involved:

- ▶ **Attend Council or Public Meetings** – held in person and online, with time for public comments.
- ▶ **Join Community Consultations** – the Council and DAWR visit villages to gather input.
- ▶ **Apply for the Advisory Panel (AP)** – the AP provides advice to the Council on issues affecting Guam's fisheries.

Meeting details are posted at www.wpcouncil.org and shared through local media. By taking part, community members help ensure that conservation supports both the ocean and the Guam's fishing heritage.



(right/below) Fishers and other community members are encouraged to attend fisheries meetings to share their views and help shape local management decisions.



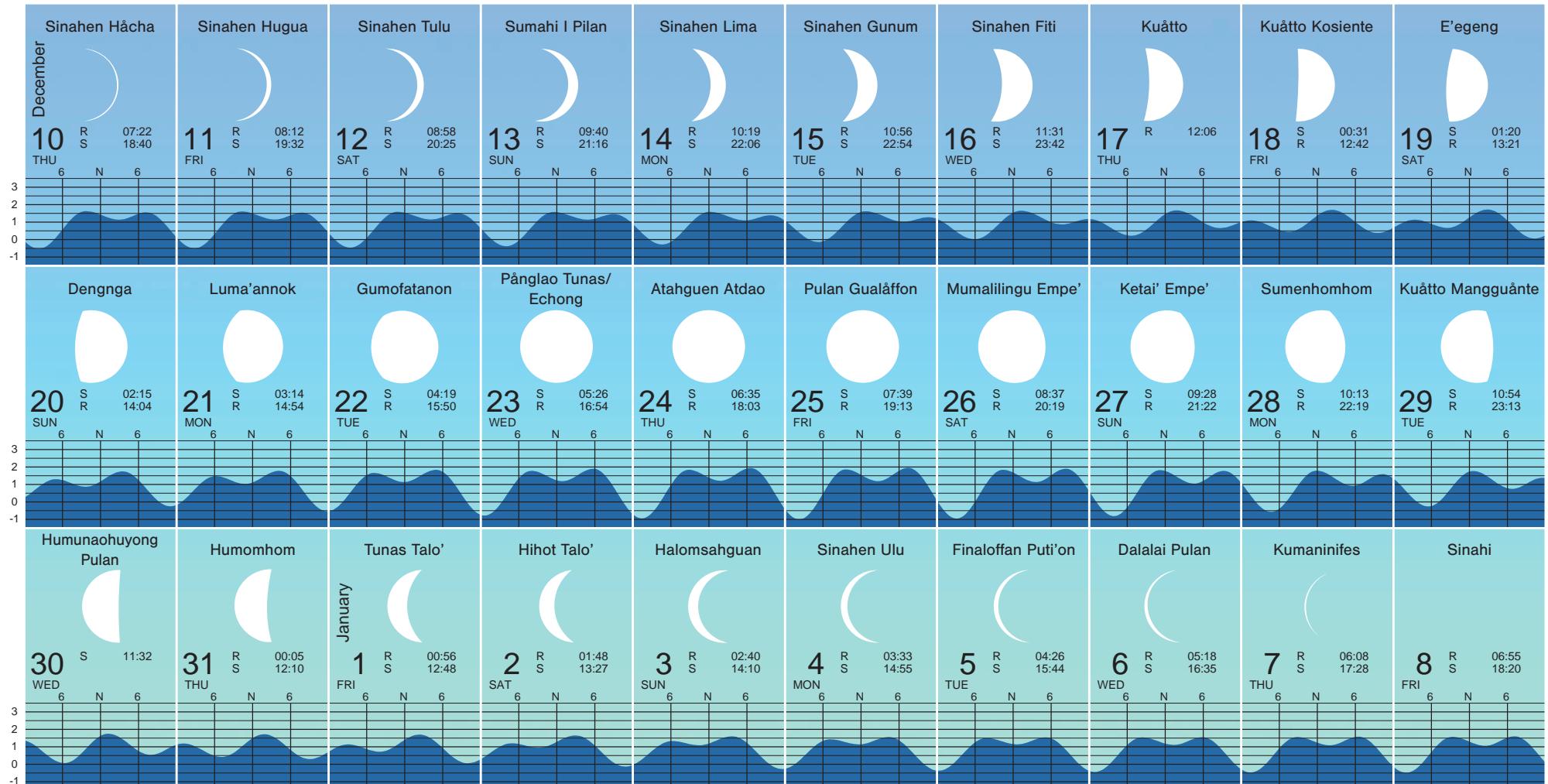
PHOTOS: Felix Reyes

(left) The Council and Pacific Islands Fisheries Group engage the Malessö community at public meetings as part of a 2-year consultation effort. See www.wpcouncil.org/ira-projects for more info.

Umayanggan

December 10, 2026 - January 8, 2027

Disembre 10, 2026 - Ineru 8, 2027



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



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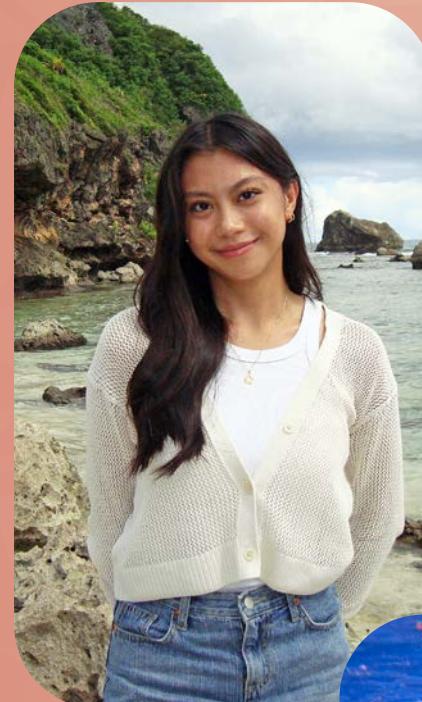
Just Keep Fishing: A Vision for the Future

The future of fishing in Guam depends on resilience, stewardship and investing in the next generation. Through the U.S. Pacific Territories Fishery Capacity-Building Scholarship Program, the Council supports students pursuing careers in fishery science and management who commit to working for a local fishery-related agency. The program helps cover tuition, fees and living costs for up to two years of study at the University of Guam (UOG), the University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Pacific University.

Three scholarship recipients who have completed their studies and are now working in Guam fisheries management are:

- ▶ **Andrew Kang, MS Biology, UOG** – Biologist at DAWR, developing a life history lab, assessing fish stocks and supporting boat-based projects that assist local fishers
- ▶ **Jeniel Mian, BS Integrated Biology, UOG** – Biologist at DAWR, providing technical guidance for resource protection and management, and supporting permitting, fishery data surveys and sea turtle projects
- ▶ **Leilani Sablan Naden, MS Biology, UOG** – Biologist with UOG Center for Island Sustainability and Sea Grant, leading the Guam Fisheries Management Plan development with DAWR and the local community

Learn more at www.wpcouncil.org.



(above) Andrew Kang

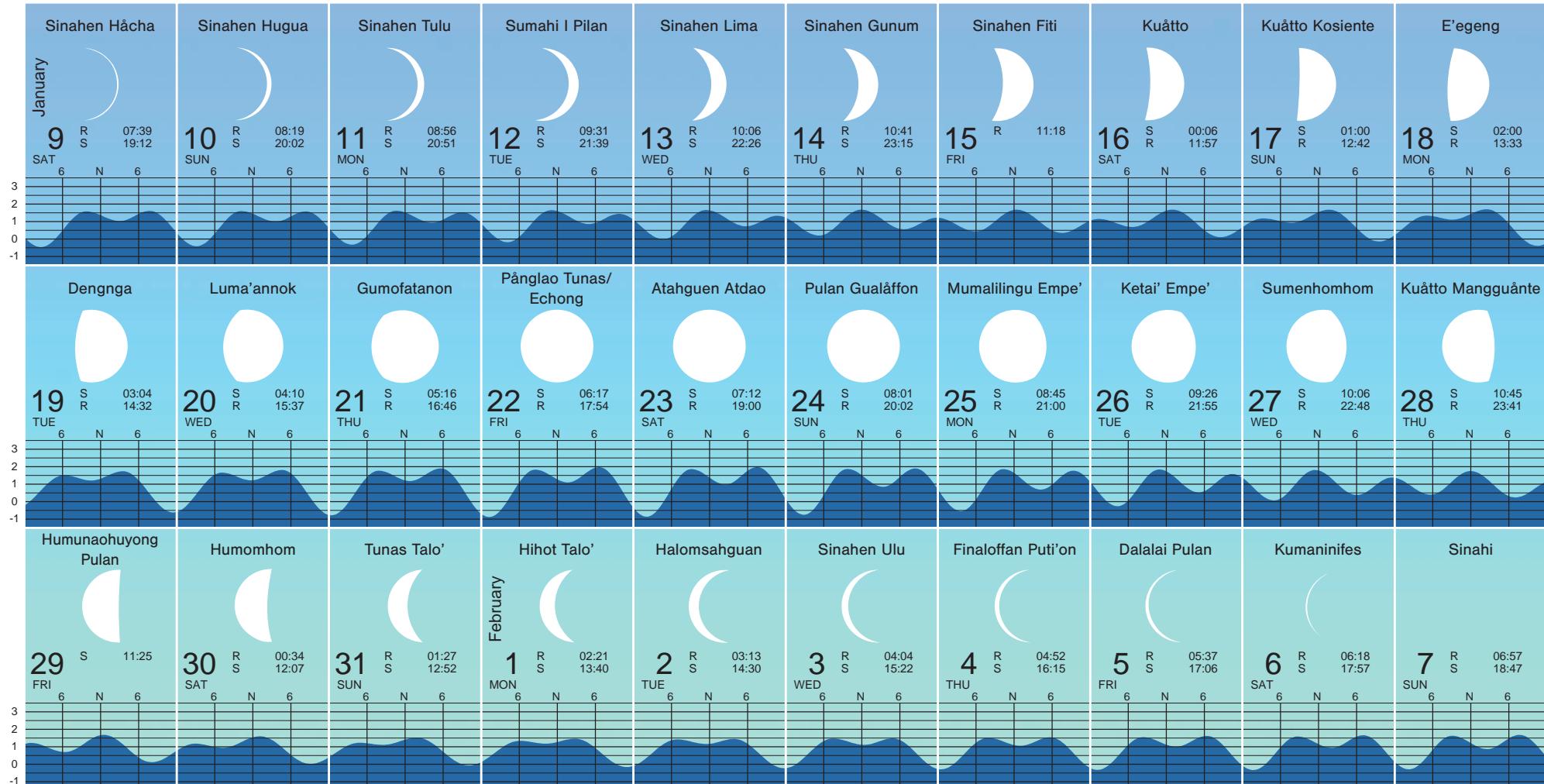
(left) Jeniel Mian

(below) Leilani Sablan Naden



Umagahåf

January 9 - February 7
Ineru 9 - Fibreru 7, 2027



MOON-RELATED OBSERVATIONS AND ACTIVITIES



Western Pacific
Regional Fishery
Management Council

About This Calendar

The **Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council** has produced traditional lunar calendars for Guam since 2007. The intent is to enhance community involvement in fishery management.

The theme for the 2026 *Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru* (Chamorro Lunar Calendar) is the importance of fish to the Pacific Islands. Each month honors their vital place at the CHamoru table, their role as a living bridge to ancestral traditions and history, and their importance as a primary source of nourishment for the people of Guam. The calendar also includes content on modern challenges and global impacts to fisheries, governance and ways to get involved in related discussions.

The lunar months, moon phases and traditional calendar months are given in Chamorro, the native language of the indigenous people of Guam. The moon phases are for Hagåtña. Data to discern the first day of the lunar month are used with permission from HM Nautical Almanac Office, UKHO and the Keeper of Public Records, UK. The tide charts with moon rise and set times are in Chamorro Standard Time for Hagåtña and were provided by OceanFun Publishing, NZ.

A special *Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase* to calendar contributors noted throughout and to Señot Ron Laguña, Sr. for his guidance on the Chamorro lunar month names. For an electronic version of this calendar, go to www.wpcouncil.org/educational-resources/lunar-calendars.

About the Council

The **Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council** was established by Congress in 1976 to manage fisheries in the offshore waters surrounding Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas. The fisheries in federal waters surrounding Guam are managed under the Mariana Archipelago and Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plans. Traditional knowledge and wide community involvement are integral parts of the ecosystem-based approach to fishery management.



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Front cover photo: Maesso Pier, the starting point to Cocos Lagoon, a large, naturally protected area perfect for fishing and other marine activities.

PHOTO: Felix Reyes