

Guam Department Of Agriculture

User Friendly Fishing Regulation Booklet



NOAA
CORAL REEF
CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Department of Agriculture developed this User Friendly Regulation Booklet, to better inform local residents, visitors and the fishing community of Guam's fishing laws and regulations to include allowable activities within Guam's 5 Marine Preserves and the location of Fishing Aggregating Device (FAD) And Shallow Water Mooring (SWM) Sites.

This User Friendly Fishing Regulation Booklet are just that, "User Friendly" and may not include all the laws and regulations as printed in Title 5 Guam Code Annotated, Chapter 63 and Title 16 Guam Administrative Rules and Regulations, Chapter 2. This booklet contains the most common violations encountered in the field by Conservation Officers and Fisheries Personnel. The Department of Agriculture recommends that you call the Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) from Monday to Friday at 735-0294 for any questions or clarifications before you enter our waters to harvest Guam's aquatic resources. Being better informed of what you can or cannot do makes a big difference in whether you enjoy our resource or pay a hefty fine for violating our fishery laws.

To report any fishing violations during normal duty hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) please call the Conservation Law Enforcement Section at 688-3297 or the DAWR office, number listed above, or the Guam Police Department at 472-8911.

Adult 12-inch Yellowstriped Goatfish
Spawns 4 to 5 times a year
Produces about 45.5 million eggs
One 12-inch goatfish produces as many eggs
As 100 6-inch goatfish



Before any misunderstanding develops, it is important to remember that no one group or event is blamed for the decline of fish around Guam. Management is a word that is often thought of as a bad thing because immediately it is associated with taking something away from the public. The true meaning of this word is "Wise Use of Resources". The marine preserves will help recover the fishery resources. However, the government and the public must be diligent about restoring water quality, dealing with sedimentation, pollution, and recreational impacts as well as looking into other fishery management measures in addition to marine preserves. If these other problems are not addressed, the coral reef habitat will continue to degrade.

Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the American's with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendements of 1972 and the laws of Guam, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Department of Interior and Guam prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age and disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility or if you desire information, please visit the Guam Department of Agriculture, Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources website at dawr.guam.gov or call the Division administration office at (671) 735-0294.

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With respect to the production of gametes, this process is most dependent on the female population of the species. A few males can produce enough sperm to fertilize many females. Females, on the other hand, are limited by the number of eggs they can produce. The yellowstripe goatfish provides a good example of the importance of a healthy female population. A six inch female yellowstripe goatfish (Figure 3) is just old enough to be mature and can produce about half a million eggs at one time. Because it is young and exerting a lot of energy into growth, the six inch goatfish probably will not produce eggs more than once a year. On the other hand a twelve inch yellowstripe goatfish would be considered a large old adult. Many people would look at the size and expect that twelve inch fish would produce twice as much eggs as the six inch fish. Much to the surprise of many the larger goatfish would produce 45.5 million eggs, nearly 90 times more eggs.

In addition, the twelve inch fish could spawn several times during a year producing hundreds of times more eggs. The yellowstriped goatfish fish has lost 95 % of its ability to produce eggs for Guam. This is because there are very few big fish in the fishery. More than 60 % of the reproductive potential and up to as much as 85 % is vested in the larger fish. This is the critical and final piece to the puzzle. These factors, a decline in stock and a shift to smaller size fishes, indicate that the marine fishery resources have been affected. This is one example of many, and indicates a need to find a way to preserve resources without losing the culture, food source, and recreation.

Figure 3. 6-Inch Yellowstriped Goatfish vs 12-Inch Yellowstriped Goatfish

Adult 6-inch Yellowstriped Goatfish
Spawns once a year.
Produces about 500,000 eggs.



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Illegal Fishing Methods

Fishing with Explosives and Poisons

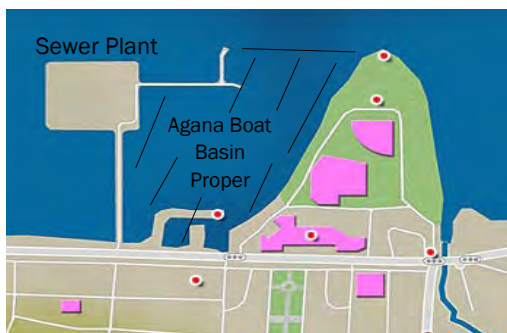
- The use of dynamite or any type of explosives in the waters of Guam for taking fish or for any other purpose shall be unlawful.
- The use of poisons or any substance that has the ability to waken or kill fish in the waters of Guam shall be unlawful.
- No person shall have in their possession any explosives or poisons in the waters or close by the shore without a license or permit.

Electric Shocking Devices

- The use or electrical shocking devices (AS or DC) to take fish, without a permit or to be found in possession of the device in the water or by the shore shall be unlawful.

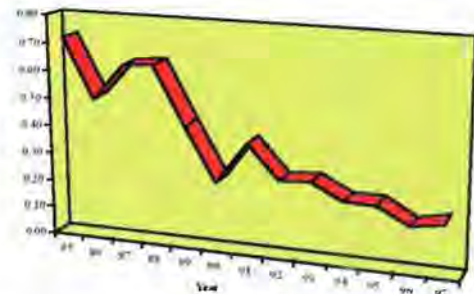
Fishing in the Agana Boat Basin

- The only approved methods of fishing in the Agana Boat Basin are: Angling and cast netting (Talaya) from the Agana Boat Basin proper and within fifty feet of the western edge of the Agana Boat Basin Channel.
- When angling, no more than three hooks can be used. No snagging of fish is allowed.
- The use of cast net within the channel and mooring areas is allowed between the hours of 4:00 am and 8:00 am. Within the other areas of the Agana Boat Basin, the cast net can be used at any time.
- It is unlawful to place or maintain a drag net (Chenchulu or Tekin) within the Agana Boat Basin proper.



The harvest tells part of the story. However, it is important that fishing effort be analyzed because if less fish is being caught it could merely mean that less people are fishing or less time is being spent fishing. The catch per unit effort (CPUE) declined approximately 74% from .72 kg/gear-hour (gh) to .19 kg/gh (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Inshore Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) 1985-1997



This means fishermen are spending more effort fishing and catching less fish. A decline in CPUE usually indicates a decline in the stock. If less people fish then there should be more fish to catch. This would mean that the catch rate would be high, but in fact the catch rate is also declining.

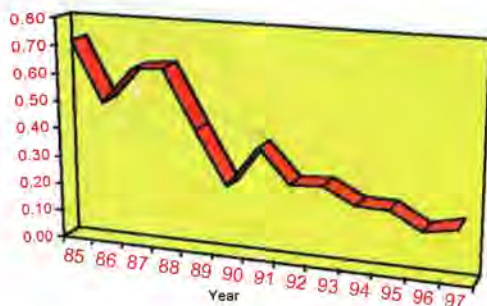
A study was conducted by DAWR in the 1980's on the yellowstripe goatfish (Ti'ao or Satmoneti). The results of the study indicated that Guam's population of yellowstriped goatfish is in trouble. A general problem in managing reef fisheries is trying to understand how these resources sustain themselves. Many marine animals release their eggs and sperm into the water to be fertilized. Once fertilized, the gametes or fertilized eggs move to the open sea at the mercy of the currents. After a certain period of time, for fish, approximately 30 to 60 days, the swimming larvae will return to Guam provided currents, temperatures, and food were all acceptable. Because of this phenomenon, many forms of marine life rely on producing large numbers of gametes in hopes that sufficient numbers will survive to return.

History and Justification for Guam's Marine Preserves

Guam has gone through a rapid economic growth, and this has had a significant impact on the health and use of Guam's marine resources. Historically, Guam's coastal marine resources were used primarily for subsistence fishing. However, westernization has steadily shifted the use of these resources toward recreational and commercial activities. This coupled with a growing tourism industry has resulted in many new coastal users and environmental impacts. Fishing also changed through the introduction of modern rods and reels, more powerful spear guns, the use of SCUBA gear, the use of monofilament nets, and underwater flashlights. Furthermore, poor land management practices have negatively affected the health of the coral reef resources. All of these factors have increased the pressure on Guam's fragile marine resources and justify the need to take a proactive measure to protect and restore the coastal natural resources.

The Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) has been monitoring the fisheries resources around Guam for over 20 years. From 1985 to 1997, annual inshore fisheries harvest declined approximately 49% from 88.6 metric tons to 45.6 metric tons (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Inshore Harvest Minus Seasonal Catch 1985-1997



Fishing with Gill Net (Tekin)

- Gill nets shall not be abandoned in the waters of Guam.
- Gill nets shall not be left attended or unattended in the waters of Guam for more than 6 hours.
- Prior to the end of the 6 hours, the gill net must be moved at least 50 yards from the point of initial placement.
- No gill net with the length of greater than 1000' feet shall be used in the waters of Guam.
- No person shall intentionally set a net to drift in the waters of Guam.
- The use of gill net for the commercial harvest of aquatic animals is unlawful.

Other types of Net Fishing

- Surround nets must be removed within 6 hours of setting. All aquatic animals captured that do not meet the take requirements must be released immediately. All animals killed must be recovered and removed from the waters of Guam.
- The use of purse seine net for the commercial harvest of any aquatic animal, marine animal or pelagic fish other than scads (Macheral or Atulai) is unlawful in the waters of Guam. If used for the taking of scads (Macheral or Atulai) all effort shall be made to release "Live" any other aquatic life captured.

Coral

- No coral growth shall be destroyed for the purpose of flushing fish from their habitat or clearing an area for fishing.
- No live coral shall be removed from the waters of Guam extending from shore to the 60 ft. depth contour.
- No coral, dead or alive, shall be removed or relocated from any of Guam's five marine preserves.



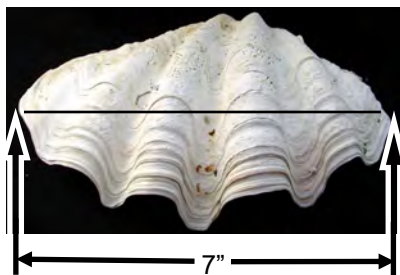
Tridacnid Clams (Hima)

The Department of Agriculture does not allow for the commercial harvest of tridacnid clams (giant clams). Giant clams cultured in approved facilities are exempted from these regulation.

Harvest of Tridacnid clams for personal use.

- No giant clams with a valve shell length or less than 7 inches can be taken.
- Each person is allowed no more than 3 Tridacnid clams, shell included, per day.
- No harvesting of Tridacnid clams is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.

How to Measure Giant Clams



Trochus

The Department of Agriculture allows for the harvest of Trochus (Aliling) for commercial sale and personal use. Regulations that governs the harvest of Trochus (Aliling) are as follows:

- Commercial harvest of Trochus shall be limited to a shell with a base diameter of not less than 4 inches for local sale only! No commercial export of Trochus is allowed.
- The commercial Harvesting of Trochus is not allowed from shore to the outer edge of the fringing reef (reef margin). No harvesting of Trochus is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.

Achang Reef Flat Preserve

- No fishing is allowed in this preserve.
- No collecting or harvesting of anything is allowed in this preserve.
- Fishing for seasonal fish is authorized by special permit only for the type of fish listed to the left.



Manahak
3 inches (76mm) or smaller



Mackerel (Atulai)



Juvenile Fusiliers
(Acherson)

Sasa Bay Preserve

Sasa Bay Preserve Regulations

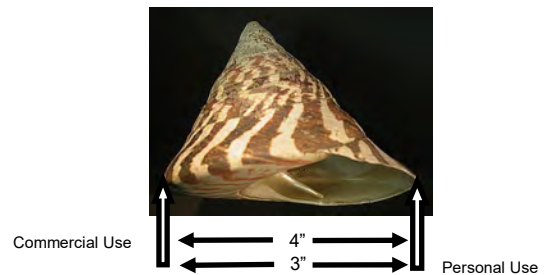
- No fishing allowed in this preserve.
- No collecting or harvesting of anything is allowed in this preserve.



Continuation: Trochus

- Commercial harvesting for locals shall be permitted all year. The commercial limit per year is set at 10,000 Pieces Island wide; once the limit is met the season closes.
- A license is required for the commercial harvest of Trochus.
- Harvest of Trochus for personal uses shall be limited to shells with a base diameter of not less than 3 inches and to no more than 50 pieces of Trochus per person per day, this includes shell.
- No more than 20 pieces of locally caught Trochus maybe hand carried as export from Guam for personal use.

How to Measure Trochus



Sea Cucumbers and Sea Urchins

- Marine invertebrates caught locally for personal use shall not be sold, traded or bartered.
- Harvest limit is 100 pieces combined per person per day.
- No export of locally caught marine invertebrates.
- No harvest of Sea Cucumbers or Sea Urchins is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.



Sea Cucumber
(Balate')



Sea Urchins
(La'on)

Harvest of Spiny Lobster

- No spiny lobster carrying eggs shall be taken.
- No spiny lobster for commercial harvest shall be taken with a carapace length of less than 4 inches.
- No spiny lobster for personal use shall be taken with a carapace length of less than three and one half (3 1/2) inches.
- It is illegal to puncture, impale or spear spiny lobster when harvesting or catching the lobster.
- There shall be no commercial export of Spiny lobsters.
- No harvesting of Spiny Lobster is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.

How to Measure Spiny Lobster



Personal use → 3 1/2" →
Commercial use → 4" →

Spiny Lobster with eggs



Eggs

Piti Bomb Hole Preserve

- No fishing is allowed in this preserve.
- No collecting or harvesting of anything is allowed in this preserve.
- Fishing for seasonal fish is authorized by special permit only for the type of fish listed below.



Juvenile Fusiliers
(Achemson)

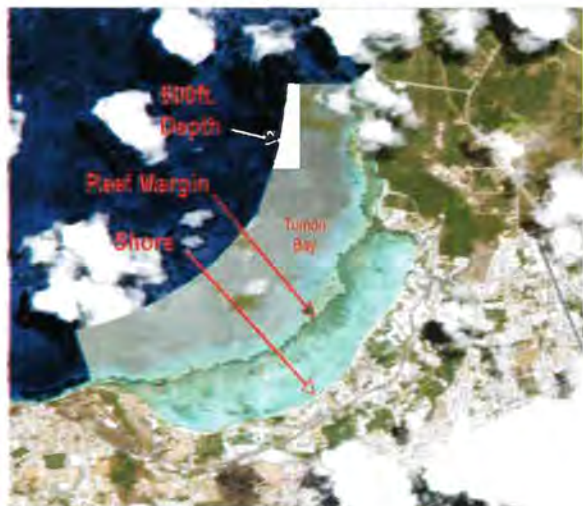


Manahak
3 inches (76mm) or smaller



Mackerel (Atulai)

Tumon Bay Preserve



Tumon Bay Preserve Regulations:

-Hook and line and cast net (Talaya) from shore are the only means of fishing allowed for four types of fish: Rabbitfish (Sesjun, Manahak), Convict Tang (Kichu), Juvenile Goatfish (Ti'ao) and Juvenile Jack (I'e')

-Cast Net (Talaya) along the reef margin for Rabbitfish (Sesjun, 3" or larger) and Convict Tang only.

-Bottom fishing is allowed from the 100ft. depth contour seaward.

-Trolling is allowed from the reef margin out to sea for pelagic fish.



Rabbitfish (Sesjun, Manahak)
(Manahak 3 inches
"76mm" or smaller)



Convict Tang
(Kichu)



Juvenile Jack
(I'e')
4 inches (100mm)
or smaller



Juvenile Goatfish
(Ti'ao)
4 inches (100mm)
or smaller

Harvest of Slipper lobster

- No slipper lobster carrying eggs shall be taken.
- No slipper lobster for commercial use shall be taken with a carapace length of less than three (3) inches.
- No slipper lobster for personal use shall be taken with a carapace length of less than two (2) inches.
- It is illegal to puncture, impale or spear slipper lobster when harvesting or catching the lobster.
- There shall be no commercial export of slipper lobsters.
- No harvesting of Slipper Lobster is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.

How to Measure Slipper Lobster



Harvest of Crabs

- No crabs carrying eggs shall be taken.
- No crabs for commercial use shall be taken with a carapace length of less than three (3) inches.
- No crabs for personal use shall be taken with a carapace length of less than two (2) inches.
- The only exception to the size limit for crabs is the Land Crabs, which can be taken at any size.
- It is illegal to puncture, impale or spear crabs when harvesting or catching the crab.
- There shall be no commercial export of crabs.
- No harvesting of Crabs is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.

How to Measure Crabs



Harvest of Coconut Crabs

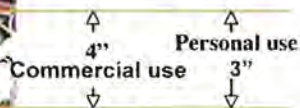
The Department of Agriculture allows for harvest of Coconut Crabs for commercial sale and personal use. Regulations that govern the harvest of these crabs are as follows:

- For the commercial harvest or sale of Coconut Crabs, no Coconut Crabs with a carapace length of less than 4 inches shall be taken.
- Commercial harvest bag limit, no more than 50 individually locally caught Coconut Crabs may be sold per year. Coconut Crabs must be preserved whole until frozen or cooked.

For personal use, the harvest of Coconut Crabs with a minimum carapace length less than 3 inches shall not be taken. Coconut Crabs not meeting the minimum length requirement shall be released immediately. Any Coconut Crab held in confinement will be considered taken and subject to the harvest regulations.

- No Coconut Crabs with eggs will be taken, removal of eggs shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this regulation. Coconut Crab shall be preserved whole until cooked.
- Any under size Coconut Crab injured due to an attempted harvest will be viewed as a take.
- Shells of the Coconut Crab taken for personal use shall not be sold, traded or bartered.
- Bag limit for personal harvest, each person is allowed no more than ten individual Coconut Crabs per day.
- No harvesting of Coconut Crabs is allowed in any of the five marine preserves.

How to Measure Coconut Crabs



Pati Point Preserve

Pati Point Preserve Regulations

- Only hook and line from shore is allowed for all types of fish.
- Trolling is allowed from the reef margin out to sea for pelagic (deep water) fish.
- No other means of taking fish is permitted.



Marine Preserve Locations around Guam



Boundaries of the preserve:

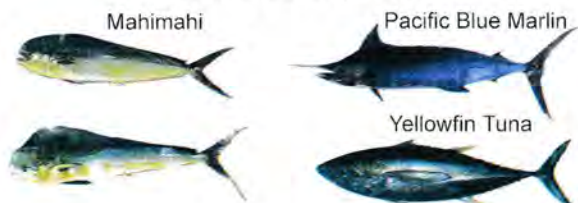
The boundaries of the preserve extend inland from 10m (33ft.) above the mean high water mark or to the nearest public right-of-way out to the 600ft. depth seaward.

The following activities are not allowed:

All forms of fishing, and the taking or altering of aquatic life, living or dead coral and any resources to include, but not limited to, mangroves, seagrass, sand, and rocks within a preserve, is unlawful except as specifically permitted by the Director of Agriculture through regulations.

Trolling is allowed in all preserves for pelagic (Deep water) fish.

Samples of Pelagic Fish



Threatened or Endangered Species of Plants or Animals

Unless an individual or any organization is licensed or permitted by law, it is against the law to:

- Import or export any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals within Guam's jurisdiction.
- Take any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals within Guam's jurisdiction.
- Possess, process, sell or offer for sale, deliver, carry, transport or ship, by any means whatsoever; any threatened or endangered plants or animals.
- The Exception: any person who has in their possession any threatened or endangered plants or animals at the time the law was enacted may keep, process or dispose of those threatened or endangered species of plants or animals already in their possession.

Examples of Threatened or Endangered Species of Plants and Animals



Harvesting of Freshwater Fauna

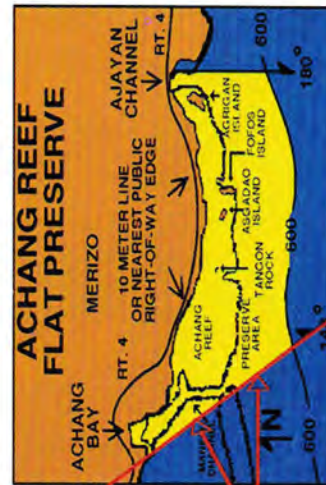
The commercial harvest of freshwater fauna is prohibited. This does not include cultivated freshwater fauna from aquaculture facilities.

- No more than four (4) peacock bass (Tucunare) may be taken into possession per day.
- No peacock bass less than ten (10) inches in length may be taken. Peacock bass must be kept whole until cooked or frozen.
- Any peacock bass, which does not meet the minimum size requirements, must be released immediately.
- If undersized gamefish are hooked in such a way that the hook can not be removed without killing the fish, the line must be cut as close to the hook as is possible and the fish released.
- Any peacock bass in confinement will be considered taken and subject to harvest regulations.
- Take of peacock bass shall be limited to a single hook and line per fisherman.
- Only one (1) baited hook per line or one (1) artificial lure, which may have up to three (3) barbs originating at a common shaft, may be used.
- It is against the law to puncture, impale or spear any peacock bass. Stringers are prohibited. Capture of peacock bass by traps is prohibited. Any peacock bass caught in traps must be released.
- Tilapia, catfish, prawns and freshwater eels are considered non-game fish and can be harvested without limit all year.
- Traps may be used to take non-game-fish, but must not be left unattended more than twelve (12) hours, nor exceed a volume of twenty (20) cubic feet in size.
- Except for landing nets or dip nets, the use of nets is prohibited in take of any freshwater fauna.
- A landing net with a handle and opening not exceed two (2) feet or four (4) square feet may be used to net a fish already hooked while fishing.

Marine Preserve Range Markers



Range Markers are used to show the side boundaries of the Marine Preserves. The photo above shows the range markers that are located on the western boundary of the Achang Reef Flat Preserve. The markers must be aligned as shown in the map to the right, to see where the boundary are in a preserve.



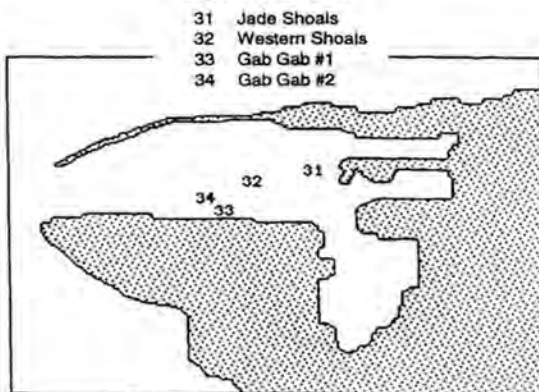
This is the location on the map of the two range markers shown in the photo to the left

You align one pole in front of the other to see the boundary line. From the sea if you are to the left of the line you are outside of the preserve, if you are to the right of the line you are inside the preserve.

SHALLOW WATER MOORING (SWM) SITES



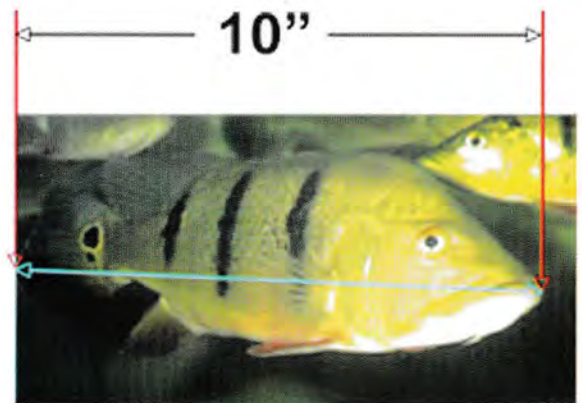
Apra Harbor



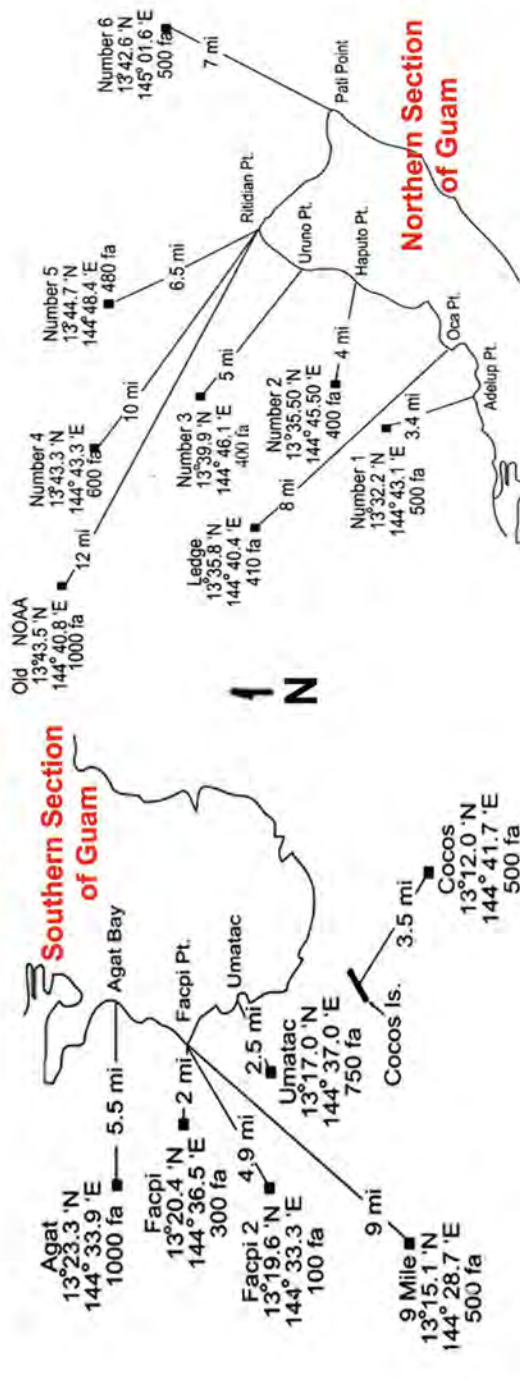
Continuation: Harvesting of Freshwater Fauna

- A dip net with a handle and opening not to exceed one (1) foot in diameter or one (1) square foot may be used to take up to one hundred (100) freshwater animals less than three (3) inches in length (non-game-fish) per day.
- All fishing gear other than traps must be attended to at all times.

How to Measure Peacock bass (Tucunare)



Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) Sites



Fish Aggregating Device (FAD) and Fishing Locations around Guam

DESTINATION	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
Boat Basin	13°29.24'N	144°45.15'E
D. R. Pinnacle	13°35.45'N	144°49.00'E
Ritidian Point	13°40.00'N	144°50.65'E
Ritidian NE. PIN	13°41.00'N	144°52.10'E
Ritidian NW. PIN	13°41.30'N	144°51.68'E
Rota Banks	13°47.50'N	144°57.20'E
Rota Banks East	13°48.10'N	144°57.68'E
Rota Banks West	13°49.50'N	144°56.00'E
Spoon	13°46.60'N	144°40.20'E
45° Bank	13°38.85'N	145°00.30'E
Ice Box	14°00.23'N	144°59.64'E
Camel Rock	13°29.24'N	144°42.35'E
Magundus	13°28.60'N	144°37.60'E
Orote Point	13°27.12'N	144°36.58'E
Facpi Point	13°19.53'N	144°37.03'E
Eleven Mile	13°13.65'N	144°27.00'E
Galvez NW	13°06.30'N	144°25.90'E
Galvez NE	13°05.80'N	144°29.25'E
Galvez Finger	13°00.80'N	144°27.20'E
Galvez Center	13°04.00'N	144°27.00'E
Stu Bank	13°56.00'N	144°22.00'E
Baby Bank	13°00.00'N	144°24.27'E
White Tuna	13°48.00'N	144°19.00'E
White Tuna Center	12°45.00'N	144°20.00'E
White Tuna S.	12°42.00'N	144°22.00'E
White Tuna NE	12°49.85'N	144°17.95'E
White Tuna NW	12°48.00'N	144°18.00'E
Santa Rosa Bank-NE	12°50.00'N	144°27.00'E
Santa Rosa Bank-E	12°51.00'N	144°26.50'E
Santa Rosa S.	12°47.50'N	144°26.00'E
Perez Bank	13°38.50'N	144°24.00'E
Adelup FAD (No.1)	13°32.80'N	144°41.80'E
Haputo FAD (No.2)	13°35.50'N	144°45.59'E
Urano FAD (No.3)	13°39.90'N	144°46.10'E
No. 4 (betw Rtd-Uru)	13°43.3'N	144°43.30'E
Ritidian FAD (No.5)	13°44.74'N	144°48.40'E
Facpi FAD	13°20.40'N	144°36.50'E
9 mile FAD	13°15.10'N	144°28.70'E
Umatac FAD	13°16.30'N	144°36.80'E
Cocos Island	13°15.42'N	144°37.03'E