



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Eloy S. Inos

Governor

Jude U. Hofschneider

Lieutenant Governor

10 JAN 2014

Honorable Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero
Speaker, House of Representatives
Eighteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

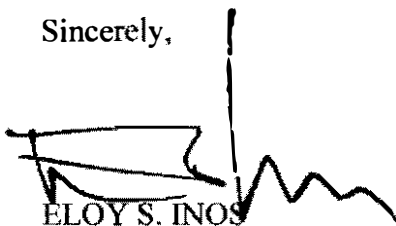
Honorable Ralph DLG. Torres
Senate President, The Senate
Eighteenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 18-106, HD1, entitled, "To amend 2 CMC § 5631, as amended by Public Law 17-31, to authorize one-half inch net mesh to catch bigeye scad (atulai) and to allow net fishing for goat fish (tiao) during their seasonal run in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 18-32**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your ready reference.

Sincerely,



ELOY S. INOS

cc: Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Mayor of Rota, Rota Resident Director for DLNR, Press Secretary, Commonwealth Law Revision Commission, Special Assistant for Administration, Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



House of Representatives

18th NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 500586
SAIPAN, MP 96950

December 12, 2013

The Honorable Eloy S. Inos
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Inos:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. No. 18-106, HD1**, entitled: "To amend 2 CMC §5631, as amended by Public Law 17-13, to authorize one-half inch net mesh to catch bigeye scad (atulai) and to allow net fishing for goat fish (tiao) during their seasonal run in the First Senatorial District; and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda B. Maña".

Linda B. Maña
House Clerk

Attachment



*Eighteenth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sixth Special Session

July 26, 2013

Representative Teresita A. Santos, of Rota, Precinct 7 (*for herself*), in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. No. 18-106, HD1

AN ACT

TO AMEND 2 CMC§5631, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 17-13, TO AUTHORIZE ONE-HALF INCH NET MESH TO CATCH BIGEYE SCAD (ATULAI) AND TO ALLOW NET FISHING FOR GOAT FISH (TIAO) DURING THEIR SEASONAL RUN IN THE FIRST SENATORIAL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources, which submitted Standing Committee Report 18-52, adopted on September 26, 2013.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, OCTOBER 25, 2013;**
with amendments in the form of H. B. 18-106, HD1 and transmitted to the
THE SENATE.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic, Development and Programs.
THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON FIRST AND FINAL READING, NOVEMBER 26, 2013;
without amendments and returned to the
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON OCTOBER 25, 2013.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



*Eighteenth Legislature
of the
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands*
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINTH DAY, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

OCTOBER 25, 2013

H. B. 18-106, HD1

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 2 CMC §5631, AS AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 17-13,
TO AUTHORIZE ONE-HALF INCH NET MESH TO CATCH BIGEYE
SCAD (ATULAI) AND TO ALLOW NET FISHING FOR GOAT FISH
(TIAO) DURING THEIR SEASONAL RUN IN THE FIRST
SENATORIAL DISTRICT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

**Be it enacted by the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth
Legislature:**

1 **Section 1. Findings and Purpose.** The Legislature finds that non-commercial net-
2 fishing has been a traditional source of food for the people of the CNMI. Fishing has
3 traditionally been relied upon to support and sustain families. The Legislature is cognizant
4 that certain nets with net mesh not smaller than two inches are authorized in the waters
5 surrounding the First Senatorial District. The intent of this Act is to authorize certain nets
6 with net mesh of not less than one-half inch to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) and to allow nets
7 to catch goat fish (Tiao) during their respective seasonal run.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** Subject to codification by the Law Revision Commission,

HOUSE BILL 18-106, HD1

1 2 CMC 5631, as amended by Public Law No. 17-13, is amended as follows:

2 “(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) and (c), it shall be unlawful for any
3 commercial and non-commercial fishermen to use explosives, poisons, electric
4 shocking devices, scuba tank or hookah when fishing for reef fish and harvesting
5 other marine life within waters of the Commonwealth, provided however, that the use
6 of throw nets (talaya), or the use of the following types of nets provided the net mesh
7 size are no smaller than two inches, drag nets (chenchulun lagua), surround nets
8 (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be legal in the
9 waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for non-commercial
10 purposes only. Non-commercial purpose means fish caught for personal or
11 immediate family use. Any sales or distribution beyond ones immediate family shall
12 be a violation of this law.

13 (b) The use of the following types of nets, drag nets (chenchulun lagua),
14 surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be
15 legal in the waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for non-
16 commercial purposes to catch Bigeye Scad (Atulai) during its seasonal run provided
17 the net mesh size is not less than one-half inch. The fee for the mesh net under this
18 subsection shall be \$25.00 for every 50-foot net in length for each Atulai seasonal run.

19 (c) The use of the following types of nets drag nets (chenchulun lagua),
20 surround nets (chenchulun umesugon) or trap nets (chenchulun managam) shall be
21 legal in the waters surrounding the First Senatorial District when used for non-
22 commercial purposes to catch Juvenile Goat Fish (Tiao) during its seasonal run

HOUSE BILL 18-106, HD1

1 provided the net mesh size is not less than one-half inch. The fee for the mesh net
2 under this subsection shall be \$25.00 for every 50-foot net in length for each Tiao
3 seasonal run.”

4 **Section 3. Rules and Regulations.** The Rota Resident Director of the Department of
5 Lands and Natural Resources shall promulgate rules and regulations designating the period of
6 the seasonal run for Atulai and Tiao and other necessary rules and regulations consistent with
7 this Act.

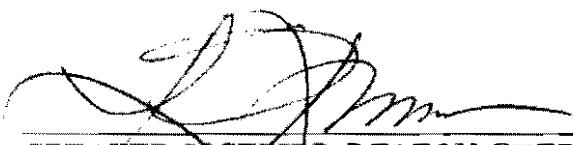
8 **Section 4. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
9 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
10 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
11 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

12 **Section 5. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
13 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes
14 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
15 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
16 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
17 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
18 becomes effective.

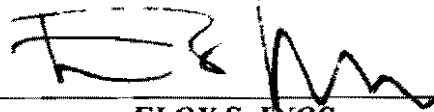
HOUSE BILL 18-106, HD1

1 Section 6. **Effective Date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
2 Governor, or its becoming law without such approval.

Attested to by: 
Linda B. Muña, House Clerk

Certified by: 
SPEAKER JOSEPH P. DELEON GUERRERO
House of Representatives
18th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

~~APPROVED~~ this 10TH day of JANUARY, 2013¹⁴


ELOY S. INOS
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands