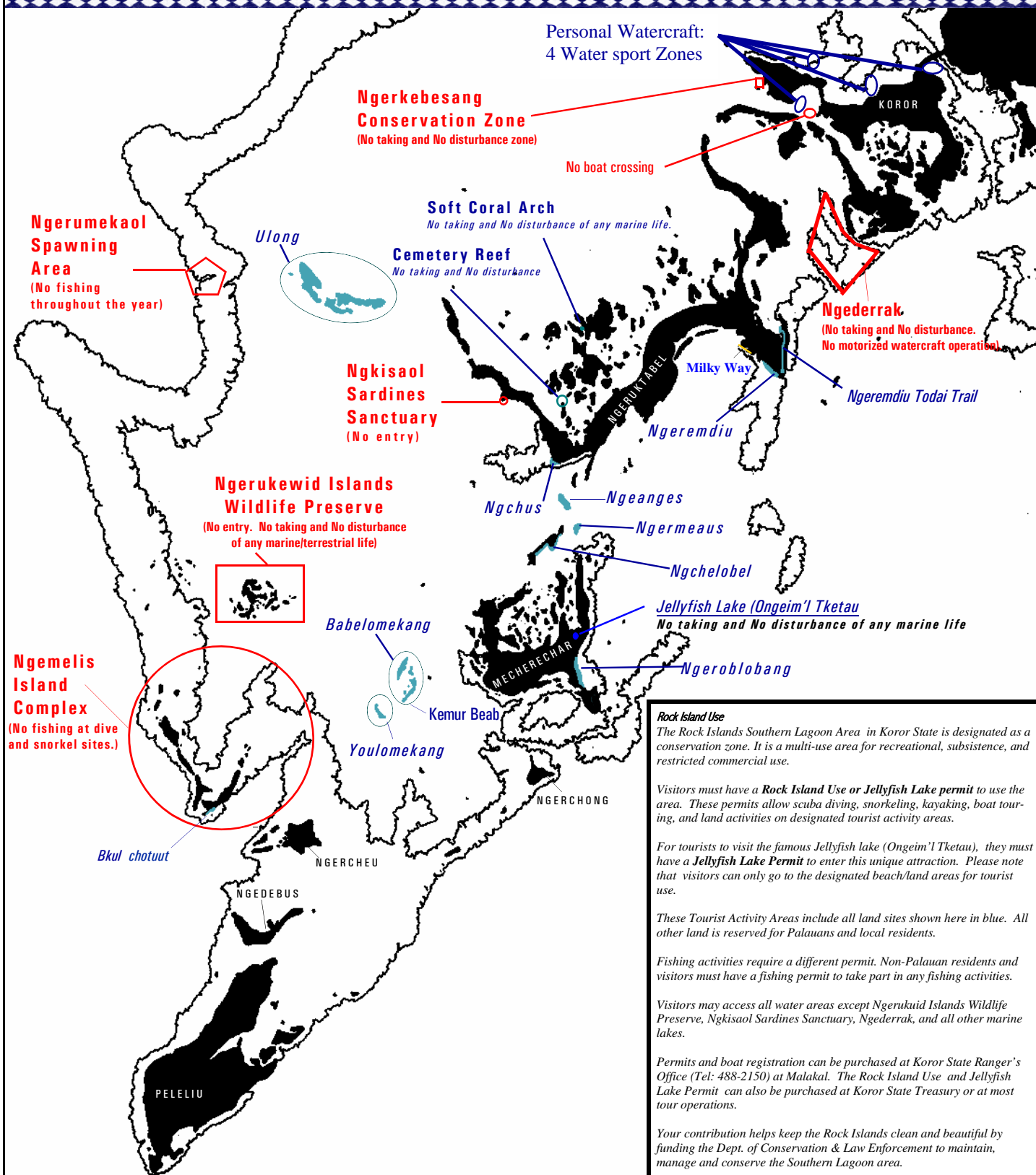




Rock Islands-Southern Lagoon Management Area Fact Sheet



(Revised January 2010—Rules and regulations are subject to change without notification)



Rock Island Use
The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Area in Koror State is designated as a conservation zone. It is a multi-use area for recreational, subsistence, and restricted commercial use.

Visitors must have a **Rock Island Use** or **Jellyfish Lake permit** to use the area. These permits allow scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, boat touring, and land activities on designated tourist activity areas.

For tourists to visit the famous Jellyfish lake (Ongeim'l Tketau), they must have a **Jellyfish Lake Permit** to enter this unique attraction. Please note that visitors can only go to the designated beach/land areas for tourist use.

These Tourist Activity Areas include all land sites shown here in blue. All other land is reserved for Palauans and local residents.

Fishing activities require a different permit. Non-Palauan residents and visitors must have a fishing permit to take part in any fishing activities.

Visitors may access all water areas except Ngerukuid Islands Wildlife Preserve, Ngkisaol Sardines Sanctuary, Ngederrak, and all other marine lakes.

Permits and boat registration can be purchased at Koror State Ranger's Office (Tel: 488-2150) at Malakal. The Rock Island Use and Jellyfish Lake Permit can also be purchased at Koror State Treasury or at most tour operations.

Your contribution helps keep the Rock Islands clean and beautiful by funding the Dept. of Conservation & Law Enforcement to maintain, manage and conserve the Southern Lagoon area.

Koror State Laws: Permits for fishing, Rock Island, Jellyfish Lake, and others.

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Law & Authority <small>(Subject matter and reference number)</small>	Effective	Main Restrictions
Fishing License (Commercial Use) K4-68-95	1995	To engage in commercial fishing in State waters a license must be obtained. The license authorizes the holder (owner of license) and 10 other people to take part in fishing on the same boat. Duration: 1 year or on a monthly basis. Classification of fishing as charged by monthly fees: 1.Spear-gun, line and hook (by long line, bottom line, casting with rod and reel, trolling, or other similar methods) = \$25.00 2.Land crabs, lobsters, and other crustacean shell fish = \$10.00 3.Sea cucumber, kelp, seaweed, and clams = \$10.00 4.Trochus = \$10.00 5.Reef fishing with net(s) = \$10.00 For a yearly license for each of the above categories, the fee shall be an amount equal to the 1 month's license fee multiplied by 12. Prohibits: Spear fishing using mechanically compressed gas, air, or other breathing apparatus. Fishing using explosive device, or toxic chemicals, fishing with a net smaller than 3 inches in mesh size, commercial fishing within the reef by foreign partnership or joint venture, drag and drift net fishing except for bait collection, and failure to comply with this Act.
Fishing License Amendment (Non-Commercial Use) K7-138-2003	2003	Amended legislation (K4-68-95), to state that non-Palauan citizens engaged in non-commercial fishing (excluding net fishing, for which the fee is \$50.00 per month), shall pay the annual fee of \$200.00 or \$20.00 per month. It shall be unlawful for any non-Palauan citizen to engage in fishing activities of any kind on any land or improvements to land on the island of Koror, and non-Palauan citizens may only engage in fishing activities from a boat or other duly registered watercraft. The term "island of Koror" means the islands of Koror, Malakal and Ngerkebesang, and all islets or land areas connected by road or causeway to Koror, Malakal or to Ngerkebesang island and all fringing reefs joined to such islands and land areas.
Rock Island Management & Conservation Act K8-209-2009	2009	The Rock Island Use permit must be purchased for a fee of \$25.00 for all visitors who are 6 years old and above. The Jellyfish Lake permit must be purchased for a fee of \$35.00 for all visitors who are 6 years old and above. <u>VISITORS TO THE ROCK ISLANDS SOUTHERN LAGOON AREA ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE AT LEAST ONE PERMIT:</u> A visitor is defined as any person who is not a Palauan citizen or a resident alien (resides or has the intention to reside in Palau for a period in excess of 90 consecutive days, as evidenced by a current visa or United States Military Orders authorizing entry into Palau for a period in excess of ninety days). For purposes of this definition, neither a tourist visa nor a business visa shall be used to provide evidence of residency. 1. Jellyfish Lake Permit: \$35.00 per visitor to access Ongeim'l Tketau Jellyfish Lake and to visit all other specifically designated tourist activity areas of the Rock Islands. 2. Rock Island Use Permit: \$25.00 per visitor to access any area specifically designated as a tourist activity area, with the exception of Ongeim'l Tketau Jellyfish Lake. Permits must be kept in the visitor's possession or control at all times, except that a tour guide or boat operator may hold or control the permit for the visitor while he/she is engaged in recreational activities. Permits must be made available for inspection by Koror State law enforcement personnel upon demand. Permits are valid for 10 days and are non-transferable/non-refundable. Visitors who engage in fishing activities must also obtain a Fishing Permit as required under separate law. Visitors who only visit the Dolphin Pacific training, educational and research facility in Malakal Harbor are exempt from the permit requirements for visitors.
Photo Permit (Commercial Use) K8-202-2008	2008	Still photographs taken for commercial purposes in the State of Koror are permitted only after obtaining a 10-day license which can be purchased for a fee of \$100.00. The fees, terms and other restrictions for motion picture photography permits are to be determined by the Governor of Koror State or a designated representative on a case by case basis, based upon individual requirements and requests of the permit applicants. Residents and members of the legitimate press whose photographs are for use in newspapers, newsreels and/or television news programs are exempt from the requirements of this section.

Koror State Laws: Protecting habitat, important species, recreational areas and regulating boats and other watercrafts.

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Law & Authority <small>(Subject matter and reference number)</small>	Effective	Main Restrictions
Prohibits Harvesting and Cutting Vegetation/Trees in Mangroves K8-211-2009	2009	Prohibits any person to cut and/or harvest any vegetation below the high tide line or in any wetland area and mangrove in the State of Koror. Exceptions: (1) To maintain or expand existing <i>mesei</i> , taro patches or create new <i>mesei</i> , taro patches. (2) State or national development designed to benefit the people of Palau, like public roads or existing docks, power or sewer lines, submerged land-use rights granted by Koror State for residential purposes and similar developments.
Land Crab Act (rekung el daob, rekung el beab, & kesuar) K7-140-2003	2003	Prohibits the taking, possession and sale of live or dead land crabs from midnight on the 2nd day before the day and night of the full moon, and on the day and night of the full moon for a total period of 3 days around the time of each full moon . Also prohibits the taking of undersized land crabs, smaller than 3 inches. No taking, possession, sale and exchange of land crabs with eggs (berried) at any time.
Prohibit Shark Feeding K8-186-2007	2007	It is unlawful to feed sharks in the waters of the State of Koror. This act also provides penalties for violations and for related purposes.
Prohibit Fishing at dive and snorkel sites K8-191-2007	2007	No one may engage in any fishing activities or possess any fish or fishing gear within 100 yards of the following dive sites: Soft Coral Arch, Cemetery Reef, Ngermeaus, Blue Holes, Blue Corner, Sias Tunnel, Shark City, Ngemelis Wall, Short Drop Off, German Channel, Big Drop Off, German Wall, Virgin Blue Holes. Governor to promulgate regulations for enforcement of Act.
Jet ski & similar motorized personal watercraft (PWC) K7-139-2003	2003	Establishes regulations for personal watercrafts and designates 4 Water Sport Zones strictly for watercrafts/water sports use. Includes general, age, time, locale, depth, capacity, and dealer and rental restrictions, safety equipment requirements, owner liability, prospective, 2-stroke engine ban, and prohibition of drug/alcohol use.
Safety tips when visiting the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Area:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before you begin your trip, make sure the tour guide or boat operator has adequate emergency equipment (cell phone/VHF radio, first aid kit, life jacket, etc.) • Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm. • Exercise the buddy system when engaged in water activities to ensure that someone is with you at all times. • Never leave a child unattended in the water. • If you're engaged in any water activity, besides scuba diving, wear a floatation device. • Observe weather advisories. • Be aware of the strength of the current and don't try to swim against it. Swim gradually out of the current by swimming across it. • Avoid swimming into channels and boat traffic areas as you may not be seen by other boaters going by.

Facts stated above shall be used only as a summary of established laws and regulations. These laws are available at Koror State Government.
For more information contact the Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement – Tel: 488-4001/8738, email: rca@kororstate.org
or Rangers Tel: 488 –2150, email: rorrangers@palaunet.com

Description:

Koror State Protected Areas

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Ngerukewid

Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve, also known as the Seventy Islands, is the first of Palau's conservation areas. Ngerukewid was established in 1956 to ensure the preservation of an area representative of the Rock Islands ecosystem. The endemic Rock Island palm tree as well as other native plants are found in Ngerukewid. In addition to being a refuge for many birds, bats, and coconut crabs, it is a critical nesting site for hawksbill turtles, and only here can you find all seven species of giant clams.

Restrictions: No entry, fishing, hunting, or disturbance of any kind.

Ngerumekaol

Every year Ngerumekaol Channel, also known as Ulong Channel, teems with groupers and other fish that have migrated from nearby reefs to spawn. Recognizing the threat of over fishing and the importance of allowing these fish to reproduce, especially the groupers (*temekai*, *ksau*, *mokas*, and *tiau*), a 1976 national law was established banning fishing in summer months. However, further research showed fish were spawning at additional times of the year. As a result, Koror State decided to close the area to fishing activity all year round.

Restrictions: No fishing all year round.

Ngemelis

Palau consistently rates among the best dive destinations in the world, primarily because of the dive sites in the Ngemelis area. The steep walls, corners, and blue holes here give divers thrilling opportunities to get up-close encounters with sharks, turtles, rays, and hard-to-find pelagic fish. Be respectful and responsible when encountering these creatures. Harassment of sea life is not tolerated. Koror State established restrictions on fishing within designated dive and snorkel sites because of the area's diverse marine life and its importance to the tourism industry.

Restrictions: No fishing within dive and snorkel sites.

Ngkisaol

Among the Rock Islands is Ngkisaol, a protected cove with a small patch of mangroves. Large aggregations of *mekebud* or the goldspot herring continually reside in the area. Harvested for food and as bait, *mekebud* are caught with throw nets and hundreds can be caught with just one throw. The steady decline of *mekebud* populations has prompted Koror State to establish Ngkisaol as a "No Take and No Entry Zone" for *mekebud* or the blue sprat as well as other baitfish such as *merau* and *teber* or the hardyhead silverside.

Restrictions: No taking of Mekebud, Merau, Teber four days before and during the full moon and no selling of sardines at any time.

Ngederrak

Ngederrak is an area that contains several important habitats including an inner lagoon, sea grass beds, coral reef channels, and outer slopes. Ngederrak is an ideal habitat for fish and invertebrates, and is an important environment for *mesekiu* or dugongs, of which there are estimated to be less than 200. Recognizing the importance of Ngederrak as an important habitat that needs further research, Koror State established appropriate restrictions on the harvesting and general use of the area.

Restrictions: No fishing and no motorized boat entry.

Ngerkebesang Conservation Zone

Located to the west of Ngerkebesang Island and adjacent to the Palau Pacific Resort, the area's diverse marine flora and fauna make it an important snorkeling and swimming attraction for resort guests. Koror State has recognized the value of this area to tourism by designating it as a conservation zone. It is illegal to take or disturb any flora and fauna within this area.

Restrictions: No fishing, capturing, netting, destroying or otherwise disturbing any marine flora and fauna.

Koror State Requirements: – Research, Rock Island, and Jellyfish Lake activities,

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Subject matter	Main Requirements
Research Permit	Required for all research activities, collecting samples or specimens from terrestrial and marine resources in Koror State. Fee based on research applicant and subject matter. Contact point: Koror State Government Administration Tel: 488-2439
Rock Island Use/Camp Reservation	Applicable for locals or visitors who plan to picnic or camp at a Rock Island designated reserved or tourist activity area. Also for large groups such as schools, religious or community groups who plan to have activities or camp at the Rock Islands. This is not required by law but we ask all local residents and visitors to come to our office and notify us of your plans. The purpose of this requirement is to help ensure safety for you, the user, who will be camping or using the Rock Island in case there is an emergency. It also helps our office better coordinate and manage the various activities that may occur on a daily basis in the Rock Islands. The person responsible for the activity should complete and sign a reservation form. No fee(s) are required, unless accompanied by any tourists or non-residents.
Rock Island/Tourist Activity Area Best Practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use facilities available. Do not build open fires. 2. Be polite and share facilities at tourist activity areas. 3. All trees and plants are protected by law. Please do not cut any vegetation. 4. Corals are living organisms. Be careful and do not touch corals or handle any marine life. 5. Fish feeding alters the behavior of fish and other animals. Please do not feed the fish. 6. Do not harass or disturb marine life. 7. Bring all trash back to Koror and dispose of it properly.
Jellyfish Lake Ongeim'i Tketau Best Practices	Guides should accompany guests and adults must accompany small children. Read and follow the signs at Ongeim'i Tketau: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please refrain from putting sunscreen on just before going up the trail. Apply sunscreen at least a half-hour prior to going to the Jellyfish Lake. The effects of sunblock/screen in the Jellyfish Lake are uncertain. 2. Take only clean snorkel gear into the Jellyfish Lake. 3. Empty your pockets. 4. Remove any sand or mud on your body and your gear before going up the trail. 5. Do not bring anything in or out of the Lake (this includes any rocks, shells, or live animals). 6. It is best to use a floatation device, even if you are a good swimmer. You can use it to rest when in the Jellyfish Lake. 7. Stay on the trail. 8. Be careful when going up and down the trail and do not litter. When in the Jellyfish Lake: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swim slowly, gently, and keep horizontal at the surface. 2. Do not handle the jellyfish. They are very fragile and delicate. 3. Take care not to kick the jellyfish and do not remove them from water. 4. Do not disturb the bottom or sides of the lake. 5. For your safety, do not <u>SCUBA</u> dive. <p>This is a serene and unique environment. Respect the others around you and be quiet and listen to the sounds of nature when on the trail and in the Lake.</p> <p>*Entry to all the other marine lakes is prohibited by law (K8-180-2007).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Have fun and exercise safety for yourself and your surroundings.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Illustrations contributed by Palau Conservation Society</p>

