

AN ACT

To create a sanctuary for the protection and preservation of the Ngerumekaol spawning area, to establish and conserve the Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve, to provide for penalties for violations of this Act, and for related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF KOROR REPRESENTED IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE
OF KOROR DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Findings. The Sixth Koror State Legislature hereby finds that it is in the best interest of the people of the State of Koror to protect and conserve the marine environment of the State of Koror, and particularly to establish the Ngerumekaol spawning area, and for the Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve.

The reefs and islands of the State of Koror are under great stress as the result of the effects of development, pollution, over fishing, the introduction and taking of plants and animals, and the impact of tourists. The number of fish aggregating in Ngerumekaol has noticeably decreased over the years. The Ngerukewid Islands have also suffered from the introduction of non-indigenous flora and fauna and the taking or capturing of plants, birds, turtles, and other marine animals which has had a detrimental effect on the fragile ecosystem that has developed over thousands of years.

Steps should be taken to protect the island and reef habitats and allow them to flourish in their natural states free from human interference, to increase the abundance and size of fishery species, to increase production of eggs and larvae, to allow the free and undisturbed emigration to the spawning areas, to increase and maintain bio-diversity, to prevent the depletion of fishery and land based resources, to protect the genetic diversity of the breeding fish stocks and fishery organisms, to increase public awareness, and to study the impacts upon fishery species and the reef environment. Steps should also be taken to preserve the island flora and fauna in their natural state, and to minimize or eliminate the taking or introduction of flora and fauna that will destroy the natural diversity of the islands.

Section 2. Establishment of Ngerumekaol Spawning Area; Prohibitions.

A. There is hereby established the Ngerumekaol Conservation Area, which shall contain the reef area described as follows:

All of the reef and submerged areas within a circle whose center-point is located in the middle of Ulong Channel at 07°, 17', 15" north latitude, and 134°, 14', 59" east longitude; the radius of the circle shall be one (1) kilometer, or sixty-two one-hundredths (.62) of a mile.

The Ngerumekaol Conservation Area as described herein shall encompass the area within the dotted lines as shown in the drawing which is attached to this Act and which is incorporated by this reference.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to kill, trap, capture, wound, possess, transport, retain, or otherwise have under his control any fish or any part thereof in Ngerumekaol at any time.

C. Penalties. Any person convicted of violating this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and imprisoned for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days, or fined not more than \$50.00, or both.

Section 3. Establishment of Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve; Prohibitions.

A. The Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve is hereby established to include all land, water, reef and underwater areas of the island group known as Ngerukewid (Orukuisu) Islands, bounded by the grid coordinates 91 and 94 and by 18 and 22 on sheets 1043 I SW and 1043 II NW on Army Map Service series W 856. The Preserve is henceforth to be retained in its present primitive condition where the natural plant and animal life shall be permitted to develop undisturbed.

B. No person shall take or transport any firearms of any description, or other weapons, nets, traps, snares or objects or materials capable of killing, or otherwise taking birds, animals,

or marine life, nor have any such objects in his possession within its boundaries.

C. No person shall kill or otherwise take or have in his possession or otherwise restrain any bird, animal or marine life, or take any eggs within the boundaries of the Preserve.

D. No person shall take or transport into or have in his possession within the boundaries of the Preserve any domestic bird or animal, or allow any such birds or animals under his control to enter the area.

E. The lighting or use of fires is prohibited within the boundaries of the Preserve.

F. No person shall cut or destroy any plant life within the Preserve or remove any plant life therefrom.

G. Penalties. Any person convicted of violating this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and imprisoned for a period not exceeding ninety (90) days, or fined not more than \$50.00, or both.

Section 4. Severability. In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction determines that any part or portion of this law is invalid, then the offending portion or portions may be stricken, and the remaining portions shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 5. Effective date. This act shall become effective upon its approval by the House of Traditional Leaders of the State of Koror, or upon its becoming law by operation of the Koror State Constitution.

PASSED: September 1, 1999

CERTIFIED BY:

ATTESTED TO BY:

/s/ _____
Salvador Tellames, Speaker
6th Koror State Legislature

/s/
Charlyne Uong, Clerk
6th Koror State Legislature

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 1999.

John C. Gibbons
Governor, Koror State

APPROVED THIS 20 DAY OF Sept., 1999.

/s/
Ibedul Y. M. Gibbons
Chairman, House of Traditional Leaders

** Copy of a map attached to the bill was not scanned.