



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Benigno R. Fitial

Governor

Eloy S. Inos

Lt. Governor

28 NOV 2012

Honorable Eliceo D. Cabrera
Speaker, House of Representatives
Seventeenth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Honorable Paul A. Manglona
Senate President, The Senate
Seventeenth 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. 17-282 entitled, "To amend 2 CMC § 5104, to establish a mandatory catch recording and reporting system and for other purposes," which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 17-89**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Benigno R. Fitial".

BENIGNO R. FITIAL

cc: Lt. Governor; Attorney General's Office; Press Secretary; Special Assistant for Administration; Special Assistant for Programs and Legislative Review



The House of Representatives

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 500586
Saipan, MP 96950

October 26, 2012

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern
Mariana Islands
Capitol Hill
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Governor Fitial:

I have the honor of transmitting herewith for your action **H. B. 17-282**, entitled: "An Act to amend 2 CMC § 5104; to establish a mandatory catch recording and reporting system and for other purposes.", which was passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate of the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

Sincerely yours,



Linda B. Moña
House Clerk

Attachment



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

Fifth Regular Session

March 22, 2012

Representative Ray N. Yumul, of Saipan, Precinct 3 (*for himself*, Representatives Joseph M. Palacios and Ramon A. Tebuteb) in an open and public meeting with an opportunity for the public to comment, introduced the following Bill:

H. B. 17-282

AN ACT

**TO AMEND 2 CMC §5104, TO ESTABLISH A MANDATORY
CATCH RECORDING AND REPORTING SYSTEM AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.**

The Bill was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

**THE BILL WAS PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
FIRST AND FINAL READING, APRIL 26, 2012;**
without amendments 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, OCTOBER 11, 2012;
without amendments.

H. B. 17-282 WAS RETURNED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OCTOBER 15, 2012.

THE BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED ON APRIL 26, 2012.



Linda B. Muña, House Clerk



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

Second Day, Second Special Session

April 26, 2012

H. B. 17-282

AN ACT

TO AMEND 2 CMC § 5104, TO ESTABLISH A MANDATORY CATCH RECORDING AND REPORTING SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Seventeenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature:

1 Section 1. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that since the enactment of
2 Public Law 2-51, the Division of Fish and Wildlife within the Department of Natural
3 Resources assumed the responsibility for the protection of fish, game and endangered and
4 threatened species exclusively within the CNMI.

5 Over the years, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has asked and received cooperation
6 with various persons and business entities to provide data on all fish harvested for
7 commercial and retail sale. Such information included types of fish harvested and their
8 measurements such as weight and length.

HOUSE BILL 17-282

1 The Legislature additionally finds that within just the last few years, the cooperation
2 given the Division of Fish and Wildlife has decreased and the stakeholders have become
3 reluctant to submit the voluntary information needed for the Division to adequately monitor
4 and report annual catch so that the CNMI can benefit from the data being generated for future
5 reference and to implement plans for a continued sustainment of this ocean resource.

6 The Legislature lastly finds that it is in the best interest of the CNMI to grant the Division
7 of Fish and Wildlife the option to require catch recording by regulation.

8 **Section 2. Amendment.** 2 CMC § 5104 (b) 7 is hereby amended to include the
9 following:

10 “(g) Establish a catch recording and reporting system for any individual and/or
11 business engaged in the commercial harvest of fish products within the
12 Commonwealth waters;

13 (h) Establish a recording and reporting system for any individual and/or
14 business engaged in the commercial purchase and/or sale of locally harvested fish
15 products.”

16 **Section 3. Severability.** If any provisions of this Act or the application of any such
17 provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent
18 jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or
19 circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

20 **Section 4. Savings Clause.** This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be
21 construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes


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1 repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers
2 contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law.
3 The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying,
4 any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act
5 becomes effective.

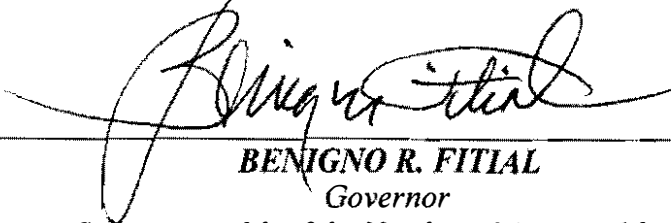
HOUSE BILL 17-282

1 **Section 5. 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 ELIECO "ELI" D. CABRERA
House of Representatives
17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature

APPROVED this 28th day of NOVEMBER, 2012


BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands