

YAP STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

REGULATIONS

TURTLE CONSERVATION

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF SEA TURTLES

PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1.1 Authority:** These Regulations are promulgated and issued by the Yap State Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") pursuant to 18 YSC 1507 (a), as amended. These Regulations have the force and effect of law.
- 1.2 Purpose:** The purpose of these Regulations is to implement the Yap State Environmental Quality Protection Act (Y.S.L. 3-73) by establishing restrictions on the harvest of sea turtles to ensure that sustainable populations of sea turtles exist for future generations.
- 1.3 Definitions:** The following words and terms, when used in these Regulations, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:
- (a) "Agency" means the Yap State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
 - (b) "Sea Turtle" means any species of sea turtle including, but not limited to, Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Green Turtles (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and Olive Ridley Turtles (*Lepidochelys olivacea*).
 - (c) "Vessel" means any vessel, boat, ship, or other craft which is used for, equipped to be used for, or of a type that is normally used for:
 - i. Fishing;
 - ii. Aiding or assisting one or more vessels at sea in the performance of any activity related to fishing, including but not limited to, preparation, supply, storage, refrigeration, transportation or processing.
 - (d) "Vessel Catch Limit" means one (1) Sea Turtle harvested for each individual Vessel per week.

- (e) "Vessel Operator" means the captain, master or other individual aboard and in charge of that vessel.
- (f) "Wholly Protected Sea Turtle" means Hawksbill Turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricate*) or Leatherback Turtles (*Dermochelys coriacea*).

PART II. RESTRICTIONS ON THE TAKING OF TURTLES

- 2.1 No person may intentionally or recklessly disturb, harm or kill any Sea Turtle in the months of March, April, May, June, July, or August.
- 2.2 No Vessel Operator may permit their Vessel to exceed the Vessel Catch Limit.
- 2.3 No person may intentionally or recklessly disturb, harm, or kill a Sea Turtle while it is on shore.
- 2.4 No person may intentionally or recklessly disturb or harm Sea Turtle eggs at any time.
- 2.5 No person may intentionally or recklessly disturb, harm, or kill a Wholly Protected Sea Turtle at any time.
- 2.6 No person may intentionally or recklessly harm, or kill any Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) whose shell is less than 40 inches when measured over the top of the carapace shell lengthwise.
- 2.7 No person may intentionally or recklessly harm, or kill any Olive Ridley Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) whose shell is less than 25 inches when measured over the top of the carapace shell lengthwise.
- 2.8 No person may knowingly receive, possess, conceal, store or dispose of any Sea Turtles, Sea Turtle eggs, or Sea Turtle flesh in the months of March, April, May, June, July, or August.
- 2.9 No person may export any Sea Turtle, Sea Turtle flesh, or Sea Turtle eggs.

PART III SCIENTIFIC EXCEPTION


- 3 A person does not violate a provision in Part II of these Regulations if their activity:
 - (a) is done in strict accordance with an approved researcher permit issued by the Yap State Government; and
 - (b) does not involve the harming or killing of any Sea Turtle.

PART IV. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

4 Any person who violates any provision in these Regulations shall be liable for civil penalties of \$5,000 for each violation, or damages as provided by the Environmental Quality Protection Act, 18 YSC 1512, as amended.

These Regulations will be effective upon filing with the Attorney General and the Chief Clerk of the Legislature.

PROMULGATED BY



Christina Fillmed
Director, Yap State Environmental Protection Agency

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APPROVED BY



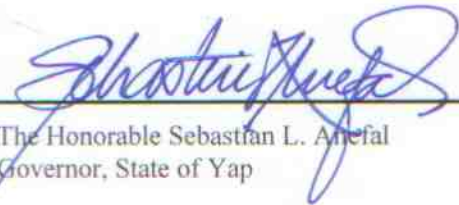
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RECEIVED AND FILED 12 / 30 /2014

APPROVED BY



The Honorable Sebastfan L. Anfal
Governor, State of Yap



Dee N. N. Libian
Chief Clerk of the Legislature, State of Yap