

**TWENTY-FOURTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE**

**THIRD SPECIAL SESSION, 2025**

**SEN. COMMEMORATIVE RES. NO. 24-02**

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**A SENATE COMMEMORATIVE RESOLUTION**

To honor the legacy of fishermen and fisherwomen who have shared their indigenous and traditional knowledge of fishing practices in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the First Annual Fishers Recognition Week.

1           **WHEREAS**, this Legislative Body recognizes the significance of preserving  
2 indigenous practices and methods that have nourished our island communities for  
3 centuries; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the first settlers in the Mariana Islands brought with them a wealth of  
5 knowledge on cultivating the land and harvesting the ocean for sustenance, which has  
6 evolved over time; and

7           **WHEREAS**, traditional fishing methods have been crucial in maintaining healthy  
8 ecosystems that support the thriving communities of the Commonwealth; and

9           **WHEREAS**, surrounded by an abundance of marine life, the rich history and  
10 culture of the Marianas reflect a fishing community that has inherited historical knowledge  
11 about seasonal migration patterns, traditional techniques, and access to specific fishing  
12 grounds passed down through generations; and

13           **WHEREAS**, as descendants of fishers who have navigated the surrounding waters,  
14 the traditional fishing practices we cherish today are the result of the selfless and  
15 courageous contributions of fishermen and fisherwomen in the Commonwealth, ensuring  
16 that these practices remain intact and leave behind a legacy of respect and knowledge for  
17 future generations; and

18           **WHEREAS**, several fishing tournaments and derbies are held annually throughout  
19 the Commonwealth, promoting the community's passion for fishing the surrounding  
20 waters. These events have evolved from mere sporting competitions to favored outreach

1 programs that engage youth in learning the knowledge and traditions of fishing practices;  
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Division of Fish and Wildlife under the Department of Lands and  
4 Natural Resources has taken the initiative to support the fishing community through  
5 partnerships and collaborations with stakeholders, including our local fishermen and  
6 fisherwomen, to showcase the significant heritage of our fishing community during the  
7 First Annual Fishers Recognition Week, scheduled from June 1-7, 2025; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Fishers Recognition Week is set to be a weeklong event honoring  
9 both past and present local fishers throughout the Commonwealth who have contributed to  
10 the livelihood of a growing population; and

11 **WHEREAS**, Fishers Recognition Week aims to highlight techniques to sustain a  
12 healthy marine environment, promote and preserve fishing practices unique to the  
13 Commonwealth, and emphasize the mental and physical health benefits of fishing; and

14 **WHEREAS**, this year's Fishers Recognition Week would not be possible without  
15 the logistical support and planning by the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Aquatic  
16 Education Program, funded by the Sport Fish Restoration, and the 2025 Fishers Steering  
17 Committee; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Fishers Recognition Week unites our community to pay humble  
19 tribute to our fishermen and fisherwomen, providing them with a platform to showcase  
20 their skills, share their knowledge, and inspire the younger generation to become self-  
21 reliant during trying times;

22 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Senate of the Twenty-Fourth  
23 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature that the Senate hereby joins the people in  
24 recognizing the indigenous and traditional knowledge of fishing practices in the  
25 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

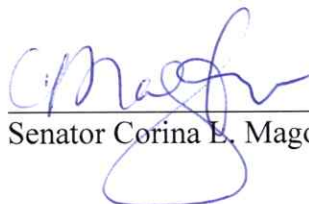
26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all fishermen and fisherwomen of the  
27 Commonwealth shall be honored during the Fishers Recognition Week each year on the  
28 first week of June for their selfless contributions in fishing, including net-fishing

1     (*chenchulu/ating, tekking/uugh, talaya/télóóya*), handline fishing, small boat fishing, deep  
2     bottom fishing, or pelagic fishing; and

3             **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Senate shall certify, and  
4     the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this resolution and thereafter  
5     the Senate Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to Sylvan O. Igisomar, Secretary of the  
6     Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR); Rosemary Camacho, Acting  
7     Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife; Dena N. Kamano, Public Information  
8     Officer, Aquatic Education Program and Chairperson, 2025 Fishers Recognition Week  
9     Steering Committee; the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of  
10    the Northern Mariana Islands; the Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House  
11    of Representatives, Twenty-Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; the  
12    Honorable Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives  
13    Washington, 119th United States Congress; the Honorable Aubry M. Hocog, Mayor of the  
14    Municipality of Rota; the Honorable Edwin P. Aldan, Mayor of the Municipality of Tinian  
15    and Aguiguan; the Honorable Ramon B. Camacho, Mayor of the Municipality of Saipan;  
16    and the Honorable Valentino N. Taisacan, Jr, Mayor of the Northern Islands.

Date: 05/29/25

Introduced By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Senator Corina E. Magofna