
A BILL FOR AN ACT

To amend Title 27 of the Palau National Code to allow for the commercial fishing of sharks within Palau’s Exclusive Economic Zone, to impose a tax on the export of sharks and tuna-like species, and for other related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF PALAU REPRESENTED IN THE OLBIIL ERA KELULAU DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1. Amendment.** Title 27 of the Palau National Code is hereby amended to
2 read as follows:

3 “§ 181. Prohibited acts. It is unlawful for any person:

4 ...

5 (k) ~~to use any foreign fishing vessel to fish, as that term is defined in 27 PNC~~
6 ~~Chapter 12, for any shark, or any part of any such, or to remove the fins of or otherwise~~
7 ~~intentionally mutilate or injure any such shark. If any shark is inadvertently caught or~~
8 ~~captured, it shall be immediately released, whether dead or alive; if the shark is caught or~~
9 ~~captured alive, it shall be released in the manner that affords it the greatest opportunity for~~
10 ~~survival.~~ It shall be unlawful for any person to have on board a fishing vessel shark fins
11 that total more than five percent of the weight of sharks on board.”

12 **Section 2. Regulations.** The Minister of Finance shall promulgate rules and
13 regulations pursuant to 6 PNC Chapter 6, the Administrative Procedure Act, to implement
14 the following provisions of this Act:

15 (a) An appropriate export tax for shark and fish caught pursuant to this Act.

16 (b) A minimum monetary or in-kind fish donation that commercial fishing
17 companies shall make to the Belau National Hospital, the Aging Program within the
18 Ministry of Community and Cultural Affairs, or similar governmental agency or private,
19 non-profit organization. These donations shall come from fish or shark caught pursuant to
20 this Act, or revenues generated from those fish or shark.

21 **Section 3. Effective date.** This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the
22 President of the Republic of Palau, or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: _____ Introduced by: /s/
Paul W. Ueki, Senator

Senate Bill No. _____