§ 1. **Statement of purpose.** — The living resources of the sea around Micronesia are a finite but renewable part of the physical heritage of the people of Micronesia. As Micronesia is nearly devoid of land-based resources, the sea provides the only feasible means for the development of economic viability necessary to provide the foundation for political stability. The resources of the sea around Micronesia are being heavily exploited by the citizens of other nations without benefit to the people of Micronesia. Catch statistics indicate that certain reef and highly migratory stocks of fish may be threatened with irreversible diminution by reckless and excessive exploitation, thus threatening the material advancement and ultimately the political viability and stability of Micronesia. The purpose of this title is to promote economic development and to manage and conserve Micronesia's vital sea resources by means of the extension of the fishery jurisdiction of Micronesia out two hundred miles from its shores. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)


§ 2. **Definitions.** — As used in this title, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:
1. "Atoll" means a circular or oval coral reef forming a geographic and ecologic unity crowned by at least one island.
2. "Authority" means the Micronesian maritime authority established by section 101 of this title.
4. "Director" means the director of the Micronesian maritime authority.
5. "District" means any of the administrative districts of the Trust Territory except the Mariana Islands District.
6. "Fish" means any living resource.
7. "Fishery" means:
   a. One or more stocks of fish which can be treated as a unit for purposes of conservation and management and which are identified on the basis of geographical, scientific, technical, recreational, and economic characteristics; and
(b) Any fishing for such stocks.

(8) "Foreign fishing agreement" means an agreement approved by the Congress between the authority on behalf of the government of Micronesia and one or more foreign commercial fishing interests to permit foreign vessels to harvest fish within the territorial sea and fishery zones of Micronesia. A "foreign party" is a party to such an agreement other than the authority.

(9) "Foreign fishing" means fishing by vessels not wholly owned by citizens of Micronesia, or fishing by a foreign vessel chartered by citizens of Micronesia.

(10) "Island" means a naturally formed area of land, surrounded by water, which is above water at high tide.

(11) "Living resource" means finfish, mollusks, crustaceans, and all other forms of marine animal and plant life other than marine birds.

(12) "Micronesia" or "government of Micronesia" refers to all of the Trust Territory except the Mariana Islands District.

(13) "Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, association, or other entity, the government of Micronesia or any of its subdivisions or any entity thereof, and any foreign government, subdivision of such government or entity thereof.

(14) "Reef fish" means any species of living resource which predominately inhabits reef areas or internal waters.

(15) "Stock of fish" means a species, subspecies, geographical grouping, or other category of fish capable of management as a unit.

(16) "Submerged reef" means a coral reef forming a geographic and ecologic unity which is wholly submerged at high tide. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 51. "Baseline system" defined. — A baseline is a continuous line which encircles an island or atoll. The baseline from which the zones designated in this chapter are to be measured is as follows:

(1) The baseline of an island or portion of an island lacking a barrier reef, fringing reef, or other reef system is the low water line of the island as marked on large scale charts officially recognized by the government of Micronesia.

(2) The baseline of an atoll or island or portion of an island having a barrier reef, fringing reef, or other reef system is a line following the contour of the seaward edge of the reef system, which line connects those outermost elevations of the reef which are above water at low tide, and which line exists as marked on large scale charts officially recognized by the government of Micronesia. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 52. Territorial sea. — (1) There is hereby established a territorial sea of three miles breadth. The inner boundary of the territorial sea of each island or atoll is the baseline as defined in section 51 of this title. The outer boundary is a line, every point of which is three nautical miles seaward of the nearest point on the baseline.

(2) Waters landward of the baseline, including the lagoons of atolls or islands, are internal waters. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)


§ 53. Exclusive fishery zone. — (1) There is hereby established an exclusive fishery zone contiguous to the territorial sea. The inner boundary of the exclusive fishery zone of each island or atoll is the seaward boundary of the territorial sea, and the outer boundary is a line, every point of which is twelve nautical miles seaward of the nearest point on the baseline as defined in section 51 of this title.

(2) The government of Micronesia possesses and may exercise the same sovereign rights to living resources in the exclusive fishery zone as it does in the territorial sea. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 54. Extended fishery zone. — There is hereby established an extended fishery zone contiguous to the exclusive fishery zone. The inner boundary of the extended fishery zone of each island or atoll is the seaward boundary of the exclusive fishery zone, and the outer boundary is a line, every point of which is two hundred nautical miles seaward of the nearest point on the baseline as defined in section 51 of this title. The government of Micronesia shall have exclusive management, conservation, and regulatory authority over all living resources within the extended fishery zone to the full extent recognized by international law. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 55. Merged zones. — Where the zone of one island overlaps a like zone of another island, they merge and become one, the outer boundary of which is the seaward most boundary of the merged zones. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)
§ 56. **Submerged reefs.** — Traditionally recognized fishing rights in submerged reef areas wherever located within the fishery zones of Micronesia shall be preserved and respected in accordance with the regulations of the district authorities established pursuant to section 102 of this title. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 57. **Delimitation.** — (1) The Micronesian maritime authority and the United States government shall cooperate in the delimitation of the Micronesian extended fishery zone when it overlaps a zone of national jurisdiction established by another nation.

(2) In the event an administrative district chooses to establish its own fishery zone in accordance with section 58 of this title, the boundary between the extended fishery zone established herein and the fishery zone of said district shall be established by agreement between the authority and the appropriate district agency. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 58. **Separate district zones.** — By district law approved by not less than a two-thirds roll call vote of the membership of the district legislature, any district may remove itself from the application of this title. After removal, such district is hereby authorized to enact its own fishery zone legislation. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude cooperation between the Micronesian maritime authority and a district agency established to manage a fishery zone created by a district. It is self-evident that any island or group of islands which achieves separate sovereignty through political separation from the remaining districts of Micronesia will thereby attain sovereign rights to its sea area. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)
§ 101. Micronesian maritime authority. — (1) There is hereby established a Micronesian maritime authority composed of four members appointed by the High Commissioner; four members appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia; and one member appointed jointly by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the High Commissioner. All appointments shall be for a term of two years except that two of the initial appointments of the High Commissioner and two of the initial appointments of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be for a term of one year. All subsequent appointments shall be for a two year term. The term of office of each member shall commence effective the date of the first meeting of the authority. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the term of the office of the vacancy. The authority shall be constituted not less than sixty days after the effective date of this act. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall jointly designate one appointee as a temporary chairman. The temporary chairman shall call the first meeting of the authority and preside over its deliberations until a permanent chairman is chosen by a majority vote of the members of the authority. The authority shall meet at such times and places as may be designated by the chairman or by the authority. The authority shall adopt its own rules of procedure and regulations by majority vote. Regulations adopted by the authority shall have the full force and effect of law. The process for the adoption of regulations by the authority is expressly exempt from the requirements of the administrative procedure act set forth in title 17 of this Code, but the authority nevertheless shall insure wide dissemination of the proposed regulations and afford the public a reasonable opportunity to present its views prior to the adoption of any regulation.

(2) The authority shall have the following duties, functions and authority:
   (a) To adopt regulations for the conservation, management, and exploitation of all living resources in the territorial sea and fishery zones of Micronesia pursuant to sections 52, 53, and 54 of this title;
   (b) To participate in the delimitation of the extended fishery zone in accordance with section 57 of this title;
   (c) To negotiate and conclude foreign fishing agreements in accordance with section 152 of this title;
   (d) To issue foreign fishing permits in accordance with regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection 1 and paragraph 2 (a) of this section;
   (e) To submit its budget and a report regarding the expenditure of its funds to the Congress of Micronesia each regular session for approval; and
   (f) To perform such other duties and functions as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.

(3) The authority shall employ a full-time director possessing such qualifications as may be established by the authority. The authority may employ such other staff as it may deem necessary.

(4) Members of the authority, other than the member appointed jointly by the presiding officers of the congress and the High Commissioner, shall be compensated at the rate of fifty dollars per day when actually on the business
of the authority. The joint appointee shall be compensated at a rate established by the authority, but shall not participate in the decision of the authority determining his compensation. If any member of the authority, including the joint appointee, is concurrently employed by the Trust Territory government, or is a member or employee of the Congress of Micronesia, he shall receive his regular salary while on the business of the authority, or fifty dollars per day, whichever is greater. All members of the authority shall receive per diem and travel expenses at established Trust Territory government rates while on the business of the authority.

(5) The chairman of the authority shall report on its activities to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the chairmen of the Senate and House committees on resources and development of the Congress of Micronesia on a quarterly basis, and to the congress as a whole on an annual basis. The annual report shall contain a detailed accounting of the expenditure of funds by the authority. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1; P.L. No. 7-134, § 1.)


§ 102. District authorities. — The district governments are hereby authorized to manage, conserve, and regulate the harvesting of reef fish throughout their habitat, both within the reef areas of islands and atolls, and in distant submerged reef areas within the jurisdictional competence of the district. Prior to the establishment of a district authority, the Micronesian maritime authority shall be responsible for the management, conservation and regulation of the reef fishery in the district. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)
CHAPTER 4.

FOREIGN FISHING.

§ 151. Permitted. — After June 30, 1979, no foreign fishing regulated pursuant to the provisions of this title is permitted in the territorial sea and fishery zones of Micronesia except by valid and applicable permit issued under authority conferred by sections 101 or 102, and section 154 of this title, and except in accordance with a valid and applicable foreign fishing agreement approved by the congress by resolution. (P.L. No. 7-7, § 1.)

Cross references. — Foreign fishing in Palau fishery zone legislation, Part V, P.L. Federated States of Micronesia, Part III, Title No. 6-7-14, ch. 4.

§ 152. Foreign fishing agreements. — (1) Each foreign fishing agreement shall acknowledge the exclusive fishery management authority of the government of Micronesia as set forth in this title.

(2) In negotiating foreign fishing agreements, the authority shall seek substantial agreement by the foreign parties to the following terms and conditions:

(a) The foreign party and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such agreement will abide by all regulations issued under authority of sections 101 and 102 of this title.

(b) The foreign party and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such foreign fishing agreements will abide by the agreement that:

(i) Any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this title shall be permitted to board and search or inspect any vessel at any time and make arrests and seizures provided for in section 208 of this title whenever such officer has reasonable cause to believe, as a result of such a search or inspection, that any such vessel or any person has committed an act prohibited by this title;

(ii) Such officer shall also be permitted to examine and make notations on the permit issued pursuant to section 154 of this title;

(iii) The permit issued for any such vessel pursuant to section 154 of this title shall be prominently displayed in the wheelhouse of such vessel;

(iv) Appropriate position-fixing and identification equipment shall be installed and maintained in working order on each such vessel;

(v) Duly authorized Micronesian observers shall be permitted on board any such vessel and that the government of Micronesia shall be reimbursed for the cost of such observers; and

(vi) Agents shall be appointed and maintained within Micronesia who are authorized to receive and respond to any legal process issued in Micronesia with respect to such owner or operator.

(c) The foreign party and the owners or operators of all of the fishing vessels of such party shall not, in any year, exceed such party's allocation of the total allowable level of foreign fishing.

(d) Foreign parties will:

(i) Apply, pursuant to section 154, for any required permits;

(ii) Deliver promptly to the owner or operator of the appropriate fishing vessel any permit which is issued under that section for such vessel; and
(iii) Abide by the requirement that no foreign fishing will be permitted in the territorial sea and fishery zones of Micronesia after June 30, 1979, without a valid and applicable permit, and that all conditions and restrictions of the permit are complied with.

(e) The foreign party and the owner or operator of any fishing vessel fishing pursuant to such agreement will abide by all other terms and conditions of the agreement.

(3) The total allowable level of foreign fishing, if any, with respect to any fishery subject to the provisions of this title, shall be that portion of the optimum yield of such fishery which will not be harvested by vessels of Micronesia.

(4) After reviewing recommendations by the Micronesian maritime authority, the Congress of Micronesia by legislation shall determine the allocation among foreign nations of the total allowable level of foreign fishing which is permitted with respect to any fishery subject to the provisions of this title. In determining the allocation among nations, the congress shall take into consideration:

(a) The extent to which vessels of such nations have traditionally fished the particular regulated species;
(b) Whether such nations have cooperated with the government of Micronesia in, and made substantial contributions to, fishery research and the identification of fishery resources;
(c) Whether such nations have cooperated with the government of Micronesia in enforcement of the provisions of this title and the regulations issued under its authority; and
(d) Such other matters as it may deem appropriate. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 153. International fishery agreements. — An international fishery agreement is an international agreement primarily affecting living resources within the fishery zones of Micronesia. Such agreements shall be negotiated and concluded in cooperation between the administering authority and the authority. Prior to the conclusion of such an agreement, the United States shall obtain the concurrence of the Congress of Micronesia by resolution to its terms and provisions to the extent such terms and provisions affect living resources within the fishery zones of Micronesia. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 154. Fishing permits. — (1) After June 30, 1979, no foreign fishing vessel shall engage in fishing regulated pursuant to the provisions of this act in the territorial sea or fishery zones of Micronesia unless such vessel has on board a valid permit issued under this section for such vessel.

(2) Fishing permits will only be issued in accordance with a foreign fishing agreement approved by the congress; provided that permits issued for non-commercial fishing in accordance with subsection (10) of this section need not be pursuant to a foreign fishing agreement.

(3) Each foreign party entitled to permits in accordance with its foreign fishing agreement shall make application on forms prescribed by the Micronesian maritime authority specifying, inter alia:

(a) The name and official number or other identification of each fishing vessel for which a permit is sought, together with the name and address of the owner thereof;
(b) The tonnage, capacity, speed, processing equipment, type and quantity of fishing gear, and such other pertinent information with respect to characteristics of each such vessel as the authority may require;
(c) Each fishery in which such vessel wishes to fish;
(d) The amount of fish or tonnage of catch contemplated for each such vessel during the time such permit is in force; and
(e) The ocean area in which, and the season or period during which, such fishing will be conducted.

(4) Upon receipt of an application, the director shall transmit copies to each member of the authority and to the chairmen of the House and Senate committees on resources and development of the congress.

(5) The authority shall review the application, solicit views from appropriate persons in the administrative districts, hold public hearings where necessary and may approve the application on such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as the authority deems appropriate.

(6) If the authority does not approve the application submitted by the foreign party, the chairman shall notify such foreign party of the disapproval and the reasons therefor. After taking into consideration the reasons for disapproval, the foreign party may submit a revised application.

(7) Fees and other forms of compensation for the right to exploit living resources within the territorial sea or fishery zones of Micronesia shall be established in the agreement.

(8) Upon notification by the foreign party of acceptance of the terms, conditions, and restrictions on the application and permit, the chairman shall issue the permit.

(9) If any foreign fishing vessel for which a permit has been issued pursuant to this section has been used in the commission of any act prohibited by this title or if any civil penalty or criminal fine imposed by this title has not been paid and is overdue, the authority shall:

   (a) Revoke such permit with or without prejudice to the right of the foreign party involved to obtain a permit for such vessel in any subsequent year; or

   (b) Suspend such permit for the period of time deemed appropriate; or

   (c) Impose additional conditions and restrictions on the approved application of the foreign party involved and on any permit issued under such application.

(10) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the authority may by regulation provide for the issuance of permits, on reasonable conditions, to foreign vessels or parties for research, recreational, or other non-commercial fishing within the fishing zones of Micronesia. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)
§ 201. Prohibited acts. — (1) It is unlawful for any person:
   (a) To violate any provision of this title or of any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this title;
   (b) To use any fishing vessel to engage in fishing after revocation, or during the period of suspension, of an applicable permit issued pursuant to this title;
   (c) To violate any provision of, or regulation under, an applicable foreign fishing agreement entered into pursuant to sections 151 and 152 of this title;
   (d) To refuse to permit any officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this title to board a fishing vessel subject to such person's control for purposes of conducting any search or inspection in connection with the enforcement of this title or any regulation, permit, or agreement referred to in paragraphs (a) and (c) of this section;
   (e) To forcibly assault, resist, oppose, impede, intimidate, or interfere with any such authorized officer in the conduct of any search or inspection described in paragraph (d);
   (f) To resist a lawful arrest for any act prohibited by this section;
   (g) To knowingly ship, transport, offer for sale, sell, purchase, import, export, or have custody, control, or possession of any fish taken or retained in violation of this title or any regulation, permit or agreement referred to in paragraph (a) and (c) of this section; or
   (h) To interfere with, delay, or prevent, by any means, the apprehension or arrest of another person, knowing that such person has committed any act prohibited by this section.

   (2) It is unlawful for any vessel other than a vessel wholly owned by citizens of Micronesia, and for the owner or operator of any vessel other than a vessel wholly owned by citizens of Micronesia, to engage in fishing in the territorial sea or fishery zones of Micronesia unless such fishing is authorized by and conducted in accordance with a valid and applicable fishing permit issued pursuant to section 154 of this title. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

provisions of this title, or places any such officer in fear of imminent bodily injury, the offense is punishable by a fine of not more than two hundred fifty thousand dollars, or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.

(4) Any offense described as a prohibited act by section 201 (2), is punishable by a fine of not more than one hundred thousand dollars. Each day of continuing violation shall be considered a separate offense. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 204. Forfeitures. — (1) Any fishing vessel involved in the commission of any act prohibited by section 201 of this title shall, along with its fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo used, and any fish taken or retained, in any manner, in connection with or as a result of such act, be subject to forfeiture to the government of Micronesia. All or part of such vessel shall, and all such fish shall, be forfeited to the government of Micronesia pursuant to a civil proceeding under this section.

(2) The High Court of the Trust Territory shall have jurisdiction, upon application by the Attorney General or the director on behalf of the government of Micronesia, to order any forfeiture authorized under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If a judgment is entered for the government of Micronesia in a civil forfeiture proceeding under this section, the Attorney General shall seize any property or other interest declared forfeited to the government of Micronesia, which has not previously been seized pursuant to this title.

(4) The forfeited vessel, gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo, and fish may be sold and the proceeds deposited with the authority for use in accordance with section 205 of this title, or may be retained for use by, or at the direction of, the government of Micronesia.

(5) Pending completion of the civil forfeiture proceeding, the seized vessel, gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo, and fish, or any part thereof, may be discharged at the discretion of the court upon deposit with the court of a satisfactory bond or other security at least equal to the fair market value of the seized property. Such bond or other security shall be conditioned upon such person delivering such property to the appropriate court upon order thereof, without any impairment of its value, or paying the monetary value of such property pursuant to an order of such court. Judgment shall be recoverable on such bond or other security against both the principal and any sureties in the event that any condition thereof is breached, as determined by such court.

(6) Any fish seized pursuant to this title may be sold, subject to the approval and direction of the court. The proceeds of any such sale shall be deposited with such court pending the disposition of the civil forfeiture proceeding.

(7) For purposes of this title, it shall be a rebuttable presumption that all fish found on board a fishing vessel which is seized in connection with an act prohibited by section 201 of this title were taken or retained in violation of this title. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 205. Disposition of revenue from fines and forfeitures. — All fines and the proceeds of sale of all forfeitures collected pursuant to the provisions of this title shall be deposited with the authority for use for its administrative expenses and the costs of enforcement of the provisions of this title. All funds remaining in excess of administrative expenses and costs of enforcement shall be used for the development of marine resources in the Trust Territory. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 206. Disposition of fees. — After the payment of the operating and other expenses of the authority, the fees collected by the authority pursuant to section 154 (7) for foreign fishing in the territorial sea or fishery zones of Micronesia shall be returned to each district in proportion to the catch harvested by foreign fishermen in that district. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)
§ 207. Jurisdiction of courts. — The High Court of the Trust Territory shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any case or controversy arising under this title. The court may at any time enter restraining orders or prohibitions; issue warrants, process in rem, or other processes; prescribe and accept satisfactory bonds or other security; and take such other actions as are in the interests of justice. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)

§ 208. Enforcement of title. — (1) Primary responsibility for the enforcement of this title shall be assumed by the office of the Attorney General through the division of public safety. The High Commissioner and Attorney General may, from time to time, seek enforcement assistance from the United States government.

(2) Any officer who is authorized by the Attorney General to enforce the provisions of this title, may:
   (a) With or without a warrant or other process:
      (i) Arrest any person, if he has reasonable cause to believe that such person has committed an act prohibited by section 201 of this title;
      (ii) Board, and search or inspect any fishing vessel which is subject to the provisions of this title;
      (iii) Seize any fishing vessel used or employed in, or when it reasonably appears that such vessel was used or employed in, the violation of any provision of this title;
      (iv) Seize any fishing gear, furniture, appurtenances, stores, cargo, and fish in the possession of a fishing vessel seized pursuant to authority granted by subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph; and
      (v) Seize any other evidence related to any violation of any provision of this title;
   (b) Execute any warrant or other process issued by any court of competent jurisdiction; and
   (c) Exercise any other lawful authority.

(3) For purposes of this chapter the terms "provisions of this title" and "violation of any provisions of this title" includes the provisions of any regulation or permit issued pursuant to this title. (P.L. No. 7-71, § 1.)