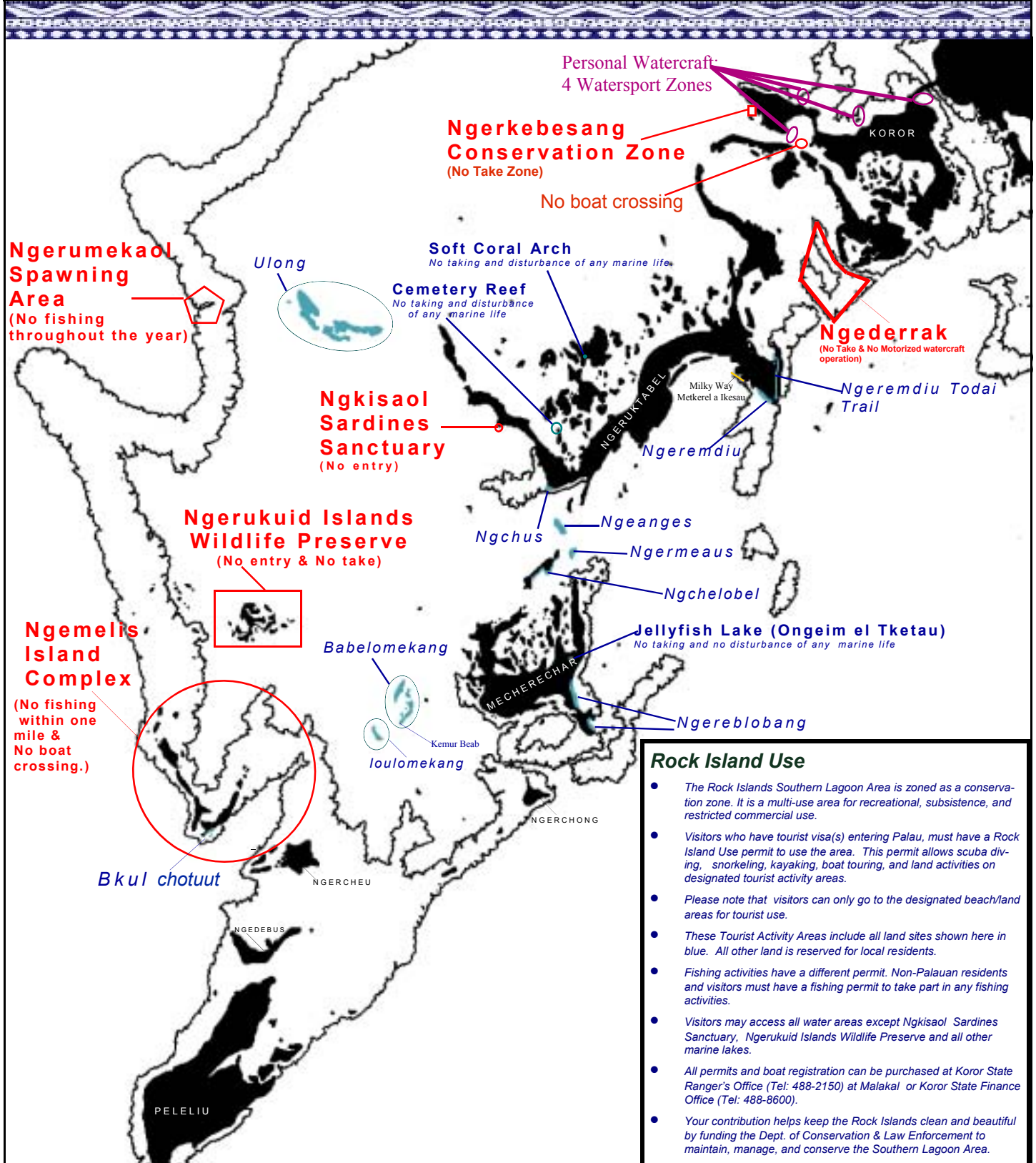


Management of the Rock Islands-Southern Lagoon

Tourist Designated and Zoned Activity Areas

(As of December 2003)



Rock Island Use

- The Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Area is zoned as a conservation zone. It is a multi-use area for recreational, subsistence, and restricted commercial use.
- Visitors who have tourist visa(s) entering Palau, must have a Rock Island Use permit to use the area. This permit allows scuba diving, snorkeling, kayaking, boat touring, and land activities on designated tourist activity areas.
- Please note that visitors can only go to the designated beach/land areas for tourist use.
- These Tourist Activity Areas include all land sites shown here in blue. All other land is reserved for local residents.
- Fishing activities have a different permit. Non-Palauan residents and visitors must have a fishing permit to take part in any fishing activities.
- Visitors may access all water areas except Ngkisaol Sardines Sanctuary, Ngerukuid Islands Wildlife Preserve and all other marine lakes.
- All permits and boat registration can be purchased at Koror State Ranger's Office (Tel: 488-2150) at Malakal or Koror State Finance Office (Tel: 488-8600).
- Your contribution helps keep the Rock Islands clean and beautiful by funding the Dept. of Conservation & Law Enforcement to maintain, manage, and conserve the Southern Lagoon Area.

Produced by Koror State Dept. of Conservation & Law Enforcement with assistance from ICRAN, International Coral Reef Action Network.



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Koror State Regulations: – For General Resource Use

(As of December 2003)

Law & Authority (Subject matter and reference number)	Effective	Main Restrictions
Permit for Shell Collection MO 49-69	1969	It is unlawful for any person to take or collect shells within the waters of the State without obtaining a written permit by the Mayor or designated representative. It does not apply to the taking of shells for scientific purposes or for food.
Photo Permit (Commercial Use) MO 50-69	1969	Prohibits any non-Koror State resident professional photographer from taking photos or movies in Koror State for commercial purposes; Requirement: \$50 permit from the Governor or designated representative.
Harvesting Restrictions in the Rock Islands Decree by Ngarameketii, Chief Council of Koror	1973	Prohibits non-Koror State residents from fishing or taking, cutting, taking away, or hunting any terrestrial or marine life in the Rock Islands or the surrounding waters. Also prohibits the taking of any article of value from within the Koror Municipality. No pets such as cats, dogs, or monkeys may be taken to the Rock Islands nor disposed there at any time. All residents of Koror fishing or picnicking in the Rock Islands shall carefully observe traditional and cultural methods and regulations pertaining to the use of Rock Islands and the surrounding waters.
Fishing License (Commercial Use) K4-68-95	1995	To engage in commercial fishing in State waters a license must be obtained. The license shall allow the licensed owner and 10 other people to take part in fishing, if they accompany the license (owner) on the same boat. Duration: 1 year or month. Classification of fishing as charged by monthly fees: 1. Spear-gun, line, hook (by long line, bottom line, casting with rod and reel, trolling, or other similar methods) = \$25.00 2. Land crabs, lobsters, and other crustacean shell fish = \$10.00 3. Sea cucumber, kelp, seaweed, and clams = \$10.00 4. Trochus = \$10.00 5. Reef fishing with net(s) = \$10.00 For yearly license for each of the above categories, the fee will be an amount equal to the 1 month's license fee multiplied by 12. Prohibits: Spear fishing using mechanically compressed gas, air, or other breathing apparatus. Fishing using explosive device, or toxic chemicals, fishing with net smaller than 3 inch mesh size, commercial fishing within the reef by foreign partnership or joint venture, Drag and drift net fishing except for bait collection, and failure to comply with this Act.
Fishing License Amendment (Non-Commercial Use) K7-138-2003	2003	Amended legislation that prohibits Non-Palauan citizens from taking part in fishing activities of any kind on any land of Koror island (includes islands of Koror, Malakal, Ngerkebesang, and all fringing reefs joined to islands and land areas). A non-commercial fishing license permits fishing activities from a boat or other properly registered watercraft. Annual fee (excluding net fishing, its fee is \$50 per month) is \$200 or \$20 per month
Prohibit Harvesting and Cutting Vegetation/Trees in Mangroves K6-110-2000	2000	Prohibits any person to cut and/or harvest any vegetation below the high tide line or in any wetland area and mangrove in State of Koror. Exceptions: (1) To maintain or expand existing <i>mesei</i> , taro patches or create new <i>mesei</i> , taro patches. (2) State or national development designed to benefit the people of Palau, like public roads or existing docks, power or sewer lines, and similar developments.
Rock Island Management & Conservation Act K6-113-2000	2000	Established tourist activity areas where tourists can enter if they have a valid User Permit issued by Koror State. Permits costs \$15, valid for 15 days (non-transferable). The user permit is for the following recreational activities (but not limited to): scuba diving, snorkeling, kayak, boat touring, and personal watercraft sports, etc. The Rock Islands that are not tourist activity areas are reserved for exclusive use of Palauan citizens and resident aliens'.
Rock Island Management & Conservation Amendment K6-126-2001	2001	Amended the legislation to allow children 5 years old or less to be exempted from the (\$15) user permit and may use the Tourist Activity Areas at no cost. It also allowed people who visit (only) the Dolphins Pacific to be exempted from the (\$15) user permit.
Economic and Non-economic Values of Coral Reef Ecosystems K6-121-2001	2001	Recognizes the economic and non-economic values present in all living and non-living resources in the coral reef ecosystem in Koror State waters, and authorizes the Governor to put in effect rules and regulations for the enforcement of this Act, and for related purposes.
Prohibit Motorboat Operation at Kerker ra Kosiil K7-130-2002	2002	Prohibits anyone to drive, operate, or otherwise use any motorized watercraft on, over or above <i>Kerker ra Kosiil</i> , the area northwest of Ernguul road.
State Parks—Koror Side Japan Friendship Bridge and Long Island K7-132-2002	2002	Designated and established the following areas as Koror State Parks: 1. Area under the Japan-Friendship Bridge, Koror side 2. Area commonly known as Long Island, to be known as Long Island State Park Restrictions: No commercial development, uses, or activity. Prohibitions do not include the installation of any infrastructure such as water and electrical services.
Land Crab Act (rekung el daob, rekung el beab, & kesuar) K7-140-2003	2003	Prohibits the taking, possession, and sale of live or dead land crabs from midnight on the 2nd day before the day and night of the full moon, and on the day and night of the full moon for a total period of 3 days around the time of each full moon. Also prohibits the taking of undersized land crabs, smaller than 3 inches. No taking, possession, sale, exchange of land crabs with eggs (berried) at any time.

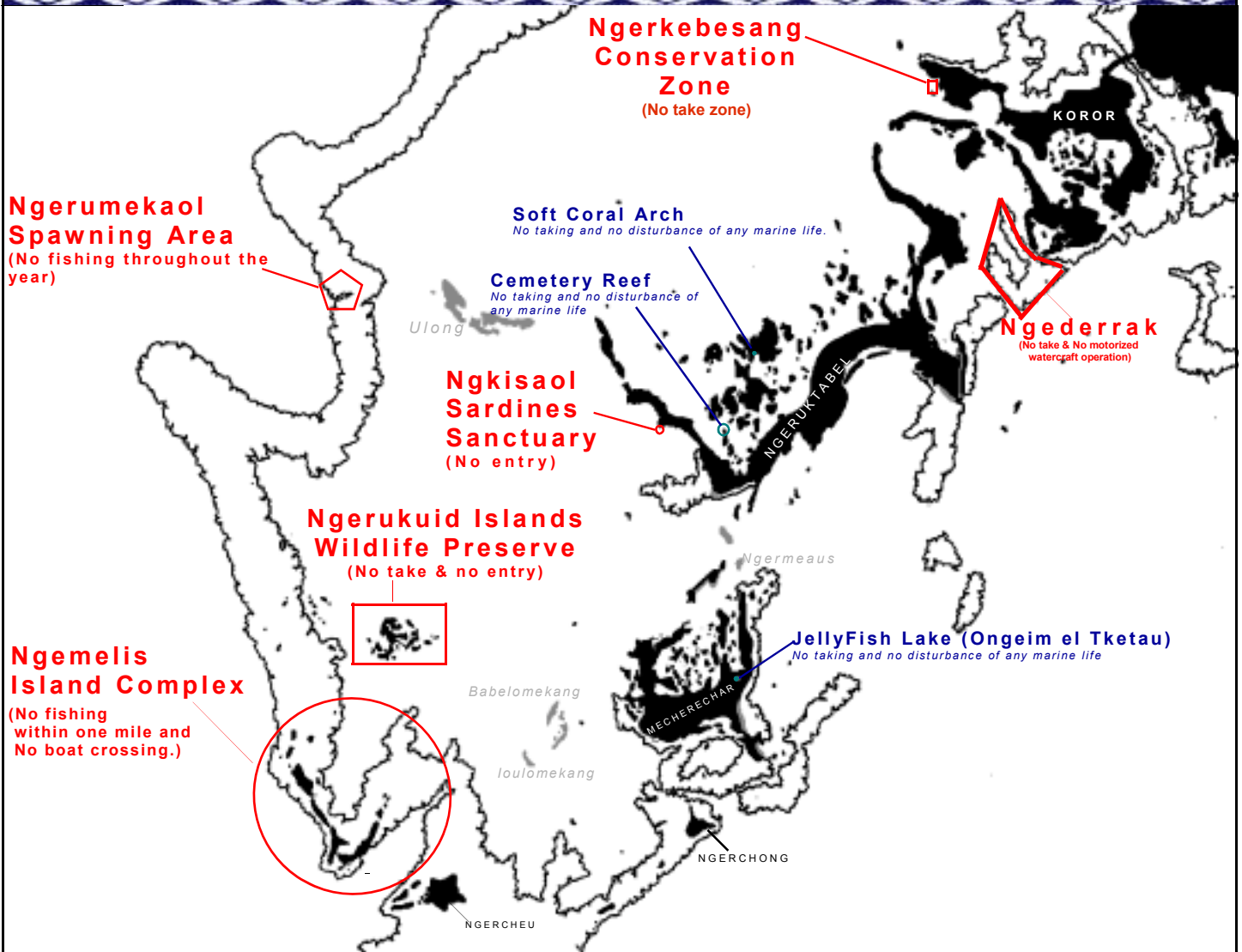
Facts stated above shall be used only as a summary of established legislation, should not be used as law. Copies of legislation are available at Koror State Government.

For more information on the Rock Islands of Koror please contact the Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement – Tel: 488-4001, email: rica@kororstate.org or Rangers
Tel: 488-2150, email: rorangers@palaunet.com

FACT SHEET:

Koror State Protected Areas

(As of December 2003)



Preserving the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Area

Palau's Rock Islands are world-renowned as a dive destination, harboring an abundance of marine life and spectacular underwater geological formations. The Rock Islands area is an integral part of Palau's cultural heritage and biodiversity. In addition, it provides important habitat for endemic and endangered species both on land and in the sea. The leadership of Koror State recognizes that it must put in place restrictions to ensure that these vital resources are protected for the future. With that goal in mind, Koror State and the National Government of Palau have established several protected areas.

Please see the next page for full description of conservation areas.

Produced by Koror State Dept. of Conservation & Law Enforcement with assistance from ICRAN, International Coral Reef Action Network.



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Description:

Koror State Protected Areas

(As of December 2003)

Ngerukuid

Ngerukuid Islands Wildlife Preserve, also known as the Seventy Islands, is the first of Palau's conservation areas. Ngerukuid was established in 1956 to ensure the preservation of an area representative of the Rock Islands ecosystem. The endemic Rock Island palm tree as well as other native plants are found in Ngerukuid. In addition to being a refuge for many birds, bats, and coconut crabs, it is a critical breeding site for hawksbill turtles, and only here can you find all seven species of giant clams.

Restrictions: No entry, fishing, hunting, or disturbance of any kind.

Ngerumekaol

Every year Ngerumekaol Channel, also known as Ulong Channel, teems with groupers and other fish that have migrated from nearby reefs to spawn. Recognizing the threat of over fishing and the importance of allowing these fish to reproduce, especially the groupers, (*temekaj*, *ksau*, *mokas*, and *tiau*,) a 1976 national law was established banning fishing in summer months. However, further research showed fish were spawning at additional times of the year. As a result, Koror State decided to close the area to fishing activity all year round.

Restrictions: No fishing all year round.

Ngemelis

Palau consistently rates among the best dive destinations in the world, primarily because of the dive sites in the Ngemelis area. The steep walls, corners, and blue holes here give divers thrilling opportunities to get up-close encounters with sharks, turtles, rays, and hard-to-find pelagic fish. Koror State established restrictions on fishing within the Islands that make up Ngemelis complex because of the area's diverse marine life and its importance to the tourism industry.

Restrictions: No fishing within one mile and No motorboat operation between island complex.

Ngkisaol

Among the Rock Islands is Ngkisaol, a protected cove with a small patch of mangroves. Large aggregations of *mekebud* or the goldspot herring continually reside in the area. Harvested for food and as bait, *mekebud* are caught with throw nets and hundreds can be caught with just one throw. The steady decline of *mekebud* populations has prompted Koror State to establish Ngkisaol as a "No Take and No Entry Zone" for *mekebud* or the bluesprat as well as other baitfish, such as *merau*, or the blue sprat, and *teber*, or the hardyhead silverside.

Restrictions: No taking of Mekebud, Merau, Teber four days before and during the full moon and no selling of sardines at any time.

Ngederrak

Ngederrak is an area that contains several important habitats including an inner lagoon, sea grass beds, coral reef channels, and outer slopes. Ngederrak is an ideal habitat for fish and invertebrates, and is an important environment for *mesekiu*, or dugongs, of which there are estimated to be less than 200. Recognizing the importance of Ngederrak as an important habitat that needs further research, Koror State established appropriate restrictions on the harvesting and general use of the area.

Restrictions: No fishing and no motorized boat entry.

Ngerkebesang Conservation Zone

Located to the west of Ngerkebesang Island and adjacent to the Palau Pacific Resort, the area's diverse marine flora and fauna make it an important snorkeling and swimming attraction for resort guests. Koror State has recognized the value of this area to tourism by designating it as a conservation zone. It is illegal to take or disturb any flora and fauna within this area.

Restrictions: No fishing, capturing, netting, destroying or otherwise disturbing any marine flora and fauna.

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Partners with Palau Conservation Society at Ph: 488-3993/4716, email: pcs@palaunet.com



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Regulations: Koror State Protected Areas

(As of December 2003)

Area & Location	Law & Authority	Effective	Approx.	Main Restrictions
Ngerukuid Islands Wildlife Preserve	Republic of Palau PDC 201 (24 PNCA 30)	1956	12 km ²	No Entry. No fishing, hunting, or taking of any marine flora and fauna. No taking, killing of any bird, animal, marine life, or any eggs.
	State of Koror K6-101-99	1999	12 km ²	No cutting or taking of any plant life. No use or lighting of fires. No possession or transport of any firearms of any description, or other weapons and no transport of any domestic animals.
Ngerumekaol Spawning Area	Republic of Palau PL 6-2-4 (24 PNCA 31)	1976	3.5 km ²	No fishing Between April 1 st – July 31 st .
	State of Koror K6-101-99	1999	3.5 km ²	No fishing through out the year. No fishing, killing, trapping, or possession of any fish at any time.
Ngemelis Island Complex (Between <i>Bailechesengel, Cheleu, Lilblau, Dmasech, Ngis, and Desomel</i>).	State of Koror K4-68-95	1995	30 km ²	No fishing within one mile of the island complex.
	State of Koror K6-97-99	1999	30 km ²	No operation of motorboat between island complex.
Ngkisaol (Inlet) Sardines Sanctuary (<i>mekebud, merau, & teber</i>)	State of Koror K6-95-99 Sardines Act	1999	0.008 km ²	No fishing, hunting, or taking of sardines (<i>mekebud, merau, & teber</i>) within 100 yards. Also, no fishing, hunting, taking or disturbance of marine flora and fauna.
All of Koror and Rock Islands	State of Koror K6-95-99 Sardines Act	1999		No selling of sardines (<i>mekebud</i>) at any time. No fishing or capture of sardines (<i>mekebud, merau, & teber</i>) 4 days before and during the full moon (day & night).
Soft Coral Arch, Cemetery Reef, and any marine lakes	State of Koror K6-95-99 Sardines Act	1999	Within 100 yds Or 0.008 km ²	No fishing, hunting, or taking of any marine flora and fauna.
Ngederrak Reef Area	State of Koror K6-119-2001	2001	6 km ²	No fishing, hunting, or taking of any marine flora and fauna. No operation, presence or use of any motorized watercraft.
	K7-133-2002	2002		Prohibitions remain until Jan. 9, 2005.
Ngerkebesang Conservation Zone	State of Koror K7-136-2002	2002		No fishing, hunting, taking or disturbance of any marine flora and fauna.

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Koror State Regulations: – For Boats, Vessels, Yachts, & Watercrafts

(As of December 2003)

Law & Authority (Subject matter & reference number)	Effective	Main Restrictions
Boat Registration Act K6-99-99	1999	<p>Motorboat owners that reside in Koror must register boats to operate within the state waters. Registered boats will be given a certificate of registration with a number that must be displayed on the boat at all times. Boat registration needs to be renewed every year in order to operate in Koror State waters. Persons applying for registration must provide proof of safety inspection certificate indicating compliance with national government regulations. Two classes of motorboats are subject to this provision:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All Motorboats with outboard engines Motorboats without outboard engines that are 25 feet or less in length. <p>Any motorboat with length of less than 25 ft. shall pay a flat fee of \$5 plus a fee based on its engine power.</p> <p>Fees based on horsepower (hp) of engine(s): Under 15 hp = \$2.50 per year 15-55 hp=\$5 per year 56-115 hp=\$7.50 per year 116-175 hp=\$10 per year 176-235 hp=\$12.50 per year 236-305 hp=\$15 per year 306-399 hp=\$17.50 per year 400-599 hp=\$20 per year 600 hp and up=\$22.50 per year plus \$2.50 for each additional 50 hp</p> <p>Boats having length of 25 ft. or more that use at least one outboard engine shall pay a fee based on its length plus a fee based on its engine power .</p> <p>Fees based on size of boat: 25-29 ft. =\$10 per year 30-39 ft.=\$15 per year 40-49 ft.=\$20 per year 50 ft and up=\$25 per year plus \$1 for each foot exceeding 50 ft.</p>
Live-aboard vessels K6-124-2001	2001	<p>Limits the number of live-aboard vessels operating in Koror State to 7 at any given time. Bans operation of new live-aboard vessels. Exemptions: Live-aboard vessels operating in Koror State waters for scientific/educational research and monitoring by written permission obtained from Koror State Government, or for emergency situations.</p> <p>Live-aboard environmental impact fee(s) to be paid each year: \$1,000.00 for vessels with 5 to 10 cabins \$2,000.00 for vessels with 11 to 30 cabins The impact fee will also be paid for any fraction of the year that a live-aboard operates within Koror State waters.</p>
Cruising Yacht Permit (Non-Commercial) K6-107-2000	2000	<p>Yacht owners must have permits for yachts when anchoring, mooring, or docking within Koror State waters, except Malakal Port.</p> <p>Fees for Cruising yachts with overall length:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Equal to or over 16 feet but less than 23 ft.: \$10 per month, Equal to or over 23 ft. but less than 40 ft.: \$20 per month, Equal to or over 40 ft. but less than 65 ft.: \$40 per month, Equal to or over 65 ft.: \$80 per month
Jet Ski & similar motorized personal watercraft (PWC) K7-139-2003	2003	<p>Regulations for personal watercrafts include being restricted to 4 Water Sport Zones. Includes general, age, time, locale, depth, capacity, and dealer and rental restrictions, safety equipment requirements, owner liability, prospective, 2-stroke engine ban, and prohibition of drug/alcohol use.</p>

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