

Description:

Koror State Protected Areas

(Revised September 2012—Rules and regulations are subject to change without notice)

Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve

Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve, also known as the Seventy Islands, is the first of Palau's conservation areas. Ngerukewid 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 Ngerukewid. In addition to being a refuge for many birds, bats, and coconut crabs, it is a critical nesting 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 Spawning Area

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 (*temekai, 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 Island Conservation Zone

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. Be respectful and responsible when encountering these creatures. Harassment of sea life is not tolerated. Koror State established restrictions on fishing within 1-mile of the Ngemelis shoreline, to include the German Channel.

Restrictions: No fishing or disturbance of marine/terrestrial flora and fauna within 1-mile of the Ngemelis shoreline to include the German Channel.

Ngkisaol Sardines Sanctuary

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.

Ngkisaol Sardines Sanctuary

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 blue sprat as well as other baitfish such as *merau* and *teber* or the heardyhead silverside.

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

Ngederrak Conservation Area

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 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.

Long Island Park and Conservation Area

Consists of all fringing reef and island areas of Ngermalk where Long Island Park is located, including all land and fringing reef areas to the east of Ern-guul Road.

Restrictions: No fishing, taking, touching, harvesting, removing, controlling, transporting or otherwise disturbing of any marine or terrestrial flora and fauna.

Koror State Laws: Protected Area Regulations

(Revised September 2012—Rules and regulations are subject to change without notice)

Area & Location	Law & Authority	Effective	Approx. Size	Main Restrictions
Ngerukewid Islands Wildlife Preserve	Republic of Palau PDC 201 (24 PNCA 30)	1956	11.4km 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	11.4 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.
	K9-234-2011			Penalty increase to \$250-\$500 fine.
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 K9-234-2011	1999 2011	3.5 km ²	No fishing through out the year. No fishing, killing, trapping, or possession of any fish at any time. Penalty increase to \$250-\$500 fine.
Ngemelis Island Conservation Zone	State of Koror K9-229-10	2010	40.3 km ²	No fishing for all areas within one mile of the shoreline of all islands in Ngemelis. No taking, harvesting or disturbance of any marine or terrestrial flora and fauna. No introduction of any terrestrial flora or fauna into the Ngemelis Islands Conservation Zone.
Ngkisaol (Inlet) Sardines Sanctuary	State of Koror K6-95-99 Sardines Act	1999	1 km ²	No fishing, hunting, or taking of sardines (<i>mekebud, merau, & teber</i>) within 100 yards. No fishing, hunting, taking or disturbance of marine flora and fauna.
Soft Coral Arch, Cemetery Reef, and any marine lakes	State of Koror K6-95-99 Sardines Act	1999	Within 100 yards (0.008 km ²) of each island	No fishing, hunting, or taking of any marine flora and fauna.
Ngederrak Conservation Area	State of Koror K6-119-2001 (Original Act)	2001	5.9 km ²	No fishing, hunting, or taking of any marine flora and fauna. No operation, presence or use of any motorized watercraft.
	Amendment Acts: State of Koror K7-156-2005	2005	5.9 km ²	Permanent conservation moratorium. Same prohibitions as above.
Ngerkebesang Conservation Zone	State of Koror K7-136-2002	2002	0.12 km ²	No fishing, hunting, taking or disturbance of any marine flora and fauna.
Long Island Park and Conservation Area	State of Koror K9-244-2011	2011	0.36 km ²	No fishing, taking, touching, harvesting, removing, controlling, transporting or otherwise disturbing of any marine or terrestrial flora and fauna.

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Koror State Laws: Fisheries/marine harvesting regulations

(Revised August 2012—Rules and regulations are subject to change without notice)

Law & Authority (Subject matter and reference number)	Effective	Main Restrictions
Fishing License (Commercial Use) K4-68-95	1995	<p>To engage in commercial fishing in State waters a license must be obtained. Children under 13 years of age are exempt from the licensing requirement. The license authorizes the holder (owner of license) and 10 other people to take part in fishing on the same boat.</p> <p>Duration: 1 year or on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Classification of fishing as charged by monthly fees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Spear-gun, line and 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.Kelp, seaweed, and clams = \$10.00 4.Trochus = \$10.00 5.Reef fishing with net(s) = \$10.00 <p>For a yearly license for each of the above categories, the fee shall be an amount equal to the 1 month's license fee multiplied by 12.</p> <p>Prohibits: Spear fishing using mechanically compressed gas, air, or other breathing apparatus. Fishing using explosive device or toxic chemicals, fishing with a net smaller than 3 inches in 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.</p>
Fishing License (Non-Commercial Use) K4-68-95 Amendments K7-138-2003 K9-232-2011	1995 2003 2011	<p>Non-Palauan citizens engaged in non-commercial fishing (excluding net fishing, for which the fee is \$50.00 per month), shall pay the annual fee of \$200.00 or \$20.00 per month. Children under 13 years of age are exempt from this requirement. It shall be unlawful for any non-Palauan citizen to engage in fishing activities of any kind on any land or improvements to land on the island of Koror, and non-Palauan citizens may only engage in fishing activities from a boat or other duly registered watercraft. The term "island of Koror" means the islands of Koror, Malakal and Ngerkebesang, and all islets or land areas connected by road or causeway to Koror, Malakal or to Ngerkebesang island and all fringing reefs joined to such islands and land areas.</p>
Sardine harvesting restrictions K6-95-99	1999	<p>Prohibits the sale of sardines (<i>mekebud</i>) at all times throughout the entire year, and restricts fishing or capture of sardines (<i>mekebud, merau, & teber</i>) at certain areas and for 4 days before and during full moon.</p>
Land Crab Act (<i>rekung el daob, rekung el beab, & kesuar</i>) K7-140-2003	2003	<p>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 and exchange of land crabs with eggs (berried) at any time.</p>
Prohibit Fishing at dive and snorkel sites K8-191-2007 K9-234-2011	2007 2011	<p>No one may engage in any fishing activities or possess any fish or fishing gear within 100 yards of the following dive sites: Soft Coral Arch, Cemetery Reef, Ngermeaus, Blue Holes, Blue Corner, Siaes Tunnel, Shark City, Ngemelis Wall, Short Drop Off, German Channel, Big Drop Off, German Wall, Virgin Blue Holes. Governor to promulgate regulations for enforcement of Act.</p> <p>Penalty increased to \$250-\$500.</p>
Moratorium on sea cucumber harvesting K9-247-2011	2011	<p>Prohibits the harvesting, taking, possession and selling of all species of sea cucumber. The moratorium is in effect for a period of three years from the effective date of the Act (November 2011).</p>
Fisheries Management Act K9-243-2011	2011	<p>Regulates the harvesting of <i>Bekerkard el Tiau, Tiau, Basloki</i> (lyretail groupers), and <i>Melech</i> (pantherfish or polka dot groupers). The taking, selling or possession of these fish species is prohibited unless they are at least twelve inches (12") in length (measured from the tip of the head to the tip of the tail). The prohibitions do not apply to cultured fish spawned and raised in captivity.</p>

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Koror State Laws: Natural and cultural resource use and protection

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Law & Authority (Subject matter and reference number)	Effective	Main Restrictions
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.
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 the operation of motorboats at Kerker ra Kosiil.
Historical and tangible cultural property permit review and fees K8-183-2007	2007	Provides for Koror State legislative review of permits issued by the national government Division of Cultural Affairs relating to historical sites and tangible cultural property within Koror State, and the creation of a \$100 permit fee for access to cultural/ historical sites.
Prohibits Harvesting and Cutting Vegetation/Trees in Mangroves K8-211-2009	2009	Prohibits any person to cut and/or harvest any vegetation below the high tide line or in any wetland area and mangrove in the 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, submerged land-use rights granted by Koror State for residential purposes and similar developments with written permission by Koror State.
Prohibit Shark Feeding K8-186-2007 Amendment Act K9-217-2010	2007 2010	It is unlawful to feed sharks and for aiding and abetting such activity in the waters of Koror State. This act also provides penalties for violations and for related purposes. Increase in penalty \$200-\$500.
Prohibit construction within the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon Area K9-222-2010	2010	It is unlawful to engage in or to perform any construction or development in the rock islands southern lagoon as they may pose a threat to the fragile marine environment, particularly if there are overnight accommodations. The presence of buildings and lights, along with human activities may have a detrimental effect on the environment and upon wildlife. This shall not apply to construction or improvements made be Koror State Government such as bio-toilets, summer houses, picnic tables and benches, cooking facilities and similar improvements.
Research Permit		Required for all research activities, collecting samples or specimens from terrestrial and marine resources in Koror State. Fee based on research applicant and subject matter. Contact point: Koror State Government Administration. Tel: 488-2439

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Koror State Laws: Boating and other watercrafts activities

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Law & Authority (Subject matter and 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.</p> <p>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"> 1. All Motorboats with outboard engines 2. 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><u>Fees based on horsepower (hp) of engine(s):</u></p> <p>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><u>Fees based on size of boat:</u></p> <p>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>
Boat Registration Act K8-184-2007	2007	To amend Koror State Public Law No. K6-99-99 to require boat registration for a one year period from the date of registration instead of one calendar year, and for related purposes. If a boat is not re-registered by the expiration date, a late fee (50% of registration cost) is required to be paid by the owner.
Jet ski & similar motorized personal watercraft (PWC) K7-139-2003	2003	Establishes regulations for personal watercrafts and designates 4 Water Sport Zones strictly for watercrafts/water sports use. Regulations 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.
Live-aboard vessels K8-213-2009	2009	<p>Limits the number of live-aboard vessels operating in Koror State and bans the operation of new vessels. The act also establishes permit fees.</p> <p>Live-aboard environmental impact fee (s) to be paid each year:</p> <p>\$1,000.00 for vessels with 5 to 10 cabins \$2,000.00 for vessels with 11 to 30 cabins</p> <p>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) K6-218-2010	2010	<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"> (1) Equal to or over 16 feet but less than 23 ft.: \$10 per month, (2) Equal to or over 23 ft. but less than 40 ft.: \$20 per month, (3) Equal to or over 40 ft. but less than 65 ft.: \$40 per month, (4) Equal to or over 65 ft.: \$80 per month

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Koror State Requirements: – Rock Islands Southern Lagoon best practices

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Subject matter	Main Requirements
<p>Safety and security tips for boating and other water-based activities within the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before you begin your trip, make sure the tour guide or boat operator has adequate emergency equipment (cell phone/VHF radio, first aid kit, life jacket, etc.) • Always inform others where you plan to go and when you expect to return. • Do not mix alcohol with swimming, diving or boating. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance and coordination, affects your swimming and diving skills and reduces your body's ability to stay warm. • Exercise the buddy system when engaged in water activities to ensure that someone is with you at all times. • Never leave a child unattended in the water. • If you're engaged in any water activity, besides scuba diving, wear a floatation device. • Observe weather advisories. • Be aware of the strength of the current and don't try to swim against it. Swim gradually out of the current by swimming across it. • Avoid swimming into channels and boat traffic areas as you may not be seen by other
<p>Rock Island Use/Camp Forms</p>	<p>Applicable for locals or visitors who plan to picnic or camp at a Rock Island designated tourist or non-tourist activity area. Also for large groups such as schools, religious or community groups who plan to have activities or camp at the Rock Islands.</p> <p>This is not required by law but we ask all local residents and visitors to come to our office and notify us of your plans. The purpose of this is to help ensure safety for you, the user, who will be camping or using the Rock Island in case there is an emergency. It also helps our office better coordinate and manage the various activities that may occur on a daily basis in the Rock Islands. The person responsible for the activity should complete and sign a reservation form.</p>
<p>Rock Island/Tourist Activity Area Best Practices</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use facilities available. Do not build open fires. 2. Be polite and share facilities at tourist activity areas. 3. All trees and plants are protected by law. Please do not cut any vegetation. 4. Corals are living organisms. Be careful and do not touch corals or handle any marine life. 5. Fish feeding alters the behavior of fish and other animals. Please do not feed the fish.
<p>Jellyfish Lake Ongeim'l Tketau Best Practices</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Illustrations contributed by Palau Conservation</p>	<p>Guides should accompany guests and adults must accompany small children.</p> <p>Read and follow the signs at Ongeim'l Tketau:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please refrain from putting sunscreen on just before going up the trail. Apply sunscreen at least a half-hour prior to going to the Jellyfish Lake. The effects of sunscreen in the Jellyfish Lake are uncertain. 2. Take only clean snorkeling gear into the Jellyfish Lake. 3. Empty your pockets. 4. Remove any sand or mud on your body and your gear before going up the trail. 5. Do not bring anything in or out of the Lake (this includes any rocks, shells, or live animals). 6. It is best to use a floatation device, even if you are a good swimmer. You can use it to rest when in the Jellyfish Lake. 7. Stay on the trail. 8. Be careful when going up and down the trail and do not litter. <p>When in the Jellyfish Lake:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swim slowly, gently, and keep horizontal at the surface. 2. Do not handle the jellyfish. They are very fragile and delicate. 3. Take care not to kick the jellyfish and do not remove them from water. 4. Do not disturb the bottom or sides of the lake. 5. For your safety, do not <u>SCUBA</u> dive. <p>This is a serene and unique environment. Respect the others around you and be quiet and listen to the sounds of nature when on the trail and in the Lake. Have fun and exercise safety for yourself and your surroundings.</p> <p>*Entry to all the other marine lakes is prohibited by law (K8-207-2009).</p>

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