

— PL 11-112 House Clerk —



GOV. COMM. 12-12
(HOUSE)

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Pedro P. Tenorio
Governor
Jesus R. Sablan
Lt. Governor

Caller Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670)664-2200
Fax: (670)664-2211

The Honorable Benigno R. Fitial
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twelfth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

18 JAN 2000

and

The Honorable Paul A. Manglona
President of the Senate
Twelfth Northern Marianas
Commonwealth Legislature
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I have signed into law House Bill No. 11-492, entitled, "To prohibit cyanide fishing in the waters of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes," which was passed by the Eleventh Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature.

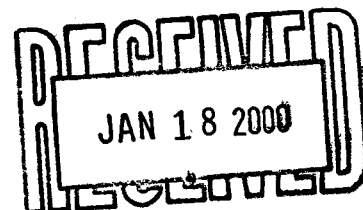
I agree with the Legislature that a ban of cyanide fishing in the Commonwealth is crucial in order to preserve our marine life. I urge the Legislature to review the possibility of subsequent amendments which would expand the ban to include other chemicals and methods that are not only deadly to coral reefs and marine organisms, but also dangerous to human lives.

This bill becomes **Public Law No. 11-112**. Copies bearing my signature are forwarded for your reference.

Sincerely,

PEDRO P. TENORIO

CC: Secretary of Lands and Natural Resources
Director, Division of Fish and Wildlife
Special Assistant for Programs & Legislative Review



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

PUBLIC LAW NO. 11-112
HOUSE BILL NO. 11-492

AN ACT

To prohibit cyanide fishing in the waters of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

Offered by Representative: Manuel A. Tenorio

Date: November 26, 1999

HOUSE ACTION

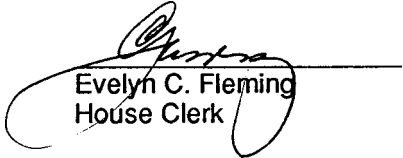
Standing Committee Report: None

First and Final Reading: November 26, 1999

SENATE ACTION

Standing Committee Report: None

Second and Final Reading: December 7, 1999


Evelyn C. Fleming
House Clerk

Rec 12/15/99

ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE

SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, 1999

PUBLIC LAW NO. 11-112

H. B. NO. 11-492

AN ACT

To prohibit cyanide fishing in the waters of the Commonwealth; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ELEVENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

1 Section 1. Short Title. This act may be cited and known as the “Cyanide Fishing Act
2 of 1999.”

3 Section 2. Findings. The Legislature finds that there is an alarmingly increase of
4 cyanide fishing in the Indo-Pacific Region. Cyanide fishing is a method in which fishermen
5 harvest marine life by spraying such poisonous material into the coral reefs to stunt fishes and
6 crustaceans, extract them by breaking apart the coral rocks, and finally, selling them in
7 aquarium and live food markets around world. Although cyanide does not kill the marine life
8 harvested, it kills and destroys the other life forms that inhabit and make up the coral reef.

9 The demand for fresh seafood is at a high and a complete ban of cyanide fishing in the
10 Commonwealth today will preserve our marine life for our future. To destroy coral reefs is to
11 destroy the people’s veritable fish factories, their major source of food and provider of income.
12 This **is** an industry that must be banned from feeding off the pristine waters of the CNMI. The
13 waters of the Commonwealth must be protected from this marine life genocide.

14 Section 3. General Provisions.

15 “Definition.

16 a) ‘Cyanide’ means compounds that include cyanide salts, such as sodium
17 cyanide or potassium cyanide, which can be solids or in solutions, and the
18 gas hydrogen cyanide (HCN), also known as hydrocyanic acid gas.

19 b) ‘Cyanide fishing’ means a fishing method by use of cyanide compounds.

20 Prohibited Acts.

21 It is hereby prohibited in the waters of the Commonwealth of the Northern
22 Mariana Islands, the fishing method known as, cyanide fishing. The Division of Fish
23 and Wildlife shall promulgate rules and regulations to enforce the intent of this act.

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Penalty.

Any individual in violation of this act shall be fined not less than \$10,000.00, imprisoned for not more than 3 years, or both.”

Section 4. severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

CERTIFIED BY:



DIEGO ESPINOSA
VENTE

House of Representatives

ATTESTED BY:



EVELYN C. FLEMING
House Clerk

Approved this 18th day of January, 2000
1999



PEDRO P. TENORIO
Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands