

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To levy fees on fishing vessels on an amount per gross ton basis, and for other related purposes.

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

1 **Section 1.** Legislative Findings. The Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that the
2 Republic continues to receive a very small percentage of the value of the tuna and other
3 fish harvested from our waters by foreign fishing vessels, although fishing vessels are
4 depleting the Republic’s national waters of fish and other marine resources at an alarming
5 rate. Fishing vessels also create environmental problems when they discharge waste and
6 other pollution into the Republic’s waters, damaging marine life and threatening public
7 health and safety. The larger the vessel, the greater its impact on the Republic’s waters.
8 Therefore, in order to compensate the Republic for the negative effects of fishing vessels,
9 whether the vessel is foreign or domestic, the Olbiil Era Kelulau finds that such vessels
10 should pay a mitigation fee in the form of a fee for each gross ton of the fishing vessel.

11 **Section 2.** Amendment. 7 PNC §107, addressing fees for the registration of
12 vessels under the flag of the Republic, is hereby amended as follows:

13 “§ 107. Fees.

14 There shall be paid to the President or his duly authorized representative
15 for the original registration of a vessel the sum of ~~\$10.00~~, and for each registration
16 ~~the sum of \$5.00~~ \$500.00 per gross ton of the vessel. All such fees collected by
17 the President or his representative shall be remitted to the National Treasury.”

18 **Section 3.** Amendment. 27 PNC §169, addressing fees and compensation for the
19 permitting of foreign fishing vessels authorized to operate in the Republic’s Exclusive
20 Economic Zone pursuant to a foreign fishing agreement, is hereby amended as follows:

21 “§ 169. Same; fees and compensation.

1 Fees and other forms of compensation for the right to exploit living resources within the
2 exclusive economic zone of the Republic shall be established in the foreign fishing
3 agreement, provided that the agreement shall establish fees in an amount no less than
4 \$500.00 per gross ton of each fishing vessel operating in the Republic's Exclusive
5 Economic Zone."

6 **Section 4. Effective Date.**

7 This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the President of the Republic of
8 Palau, or upon it becoming law without such approval.

Date: 1-28-09

Introduced by: /s/
Surangel S. Whipps, Jr., Senator