

AN ACT

To further amend title 24 of the Code of the Federated States of Micronesia, as amended by Public Laws Nos. 5-20, 5-37, 5-72, 6-1, 6-11 and 6-37, by amending section 111, as established by Public Law No. 6-11, to prohibit the Micronesian Maritime Authority from issuing fishing permits to domestic or foreign vessels fishing by means of drift net, gill net, or other substantially similar methods of catching fish, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

1 Section 1. Section 111 of title 24 of the Code of the  
2 Federated States of Micronesia, as established by Public Law No.  
3 6-11, is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 "Section 111. Application for permit - Issuance and denial.

5 (1) The Authority shall notify the applicant of the  
6 decision to issue or deny a permit within 30 days of the  
7 date of receipt of the application. If no such  
8 notification is given within 30 days, the request for a  
9 permit is deemed granted.

10 (2) The Authority may approve the application on such  
11 terms and conditions and with such restrictions as it deems  
12 appropriate.

13 (3) A permit may be denied:

14 (a) Where the application is not in accordance  
15 with the requirements of this title;

16 (b) Where the application is made in respect of  
17 a foreign fishing vessel, and such vessel does not have  
18 good standing on the Regional Register of Foreign Fishing  
19 Vessels maintained by the South Pacific Forum Fisheries  
20 Agency;

21 (c) Where the owner or charterer is the subject  
22 of proceedings under the bankruptcy laws of any



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1 jurisdiction and reasonable financial assurances have not  
2 been provided;

3 (d) Where there has been a failure to satisfy a  
4 judgment or other determination for breach of this title or  
5 an agreement entered into pursuant to this title by the  
6 operator of the vessel in respect to which application for  
7 a permit has been made, until such time as the judgment or  
8 other determination is satisfied;

9 (e) Where an operator of the vessel has  
10 contravened, or the vessel has been used for contravention  
11 of a fishing agreement, or has committed an offense against  
12 the laws of the Federated States of Micronesia; or

13 (f) Where the Authority determines that the  
14 issuance of a permit would not be in the best interests of  
15 the Federated States of Micronesia.

16 (4) A permit shall be denied:

17 (a) Where the Authority determines that the  
18 permit would authorize foreign fishing or domestic-based  
19 fishing on, over, or within one nautical mile of the edge of  
20 a coral reef that is wholly submerged at mean high tide  
21 within the exclusive economic zone; or

22 (b) Where the Authority determines that the  
23 permit would authorize fishing on, over, or within one  
24 nautical mile of the edge of a coral reef that is wholly  
25 submerged at mean high tide within the exclusive economic

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1 zone, and that subsection (a) of this section does not  
2 apply to the permit application; and

3 (i) The Authority has submitted a copy of  
4 the application to the State, to the customary inhabitants  
5 of which, the authority to control the fishing over such  
6 reef has been traditionally ascribed. The Authority shall  
7 have the power to prescribe by regulation the ascription of  
8 such reefs to each of the States. For the purposes of this  
9 subsection (b), the State shall mean the Governor thereof,  
10 and the councils of traditional leaders established by law  
11 having the constitutional authority to affect the enactment  
12 of State legislation; and

13 (ii) Within 30 days of such submission, the  
14 State, or any constituent part thereof, has communicated in  
15 writing to the Authority its objection to the issuance of  
16 the permit with respect to the reef or reefs traditionally  
17 ascribed to its customary inhabitants.

18 (c) Where the Authority determines that the  
19 permit would authorize fishing with or by means of the use  
20 of a drift net or gill net or other substantially similar  
21 method of catching fish.

22 (5) If the Authority denies an application submitted  
23 by an applicant, the Authority shall notify such applicant  
24 of the disapproval and the reasons therefore. The  
25 applicant may then submit a revised application taking into



1 consideration the reasons for disapproval."

2 Section 2. This act shall become law upon approval by the  
3 President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming  
4 law without such approval.

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November 27, 1991

Bailey Olter  
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President  
Federated States of Micronesia

