



TO: PALAU VISITORS AUTHORITY AND BELAU TOURISM ASSOCIATION
FROM: ADALBERT ELEDUI, DIRECTOR
DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Announcement: Increased Rock Island Use Permit Fees and Jellyfish Lake Restrictions

New legislation (K8-180-2007) has been passed to establish a higher Rock Islands Use Fee in the amount of \$25.00, to remove the Ongeim'l Tketau Jellyfish Lake on Mecherechar Island (hereafter referred to as "Jellyfish Lake") from the Tourist Activity Areas and create a separate Jellyfish Lake Permit in the amount of \$35.00 which would include all the areas covered by the Rock Island Use Permit, to establish restrictions on the use of Jellyfish Lake and prohibitions on the use of other Rock Islands lakes that contain jellyfish, and to establish penalties for violations. This law would amend KSPL No. K6-113-2000 ("Year 2000 Rock Islands Management and Conservation Act") as already amended by K6-126-2001.

SUMMARY OF KEY PROVISIONS:

Beginning April 1, 2007, the fee for a "Rock Island Use Permit" will increase to \$25.00. Jellyfish Lake will no longer be included in the areas open to tourists covered by this permit. If tourists wish to visit Jellyfish Lake they must purchase a "Jellyfish Lake Permit" for \$35.00. The Jellyfish Lake Permit includes all areas covered by the Rock Island Use Permit, plus Jellyfish Lake. Permits are valid for ten days from the date of purchase and are not transferable. No permit is necessary for children under the age of six. Palauans and resident aliens may continue to enjoy the Rock Islands and Jellyfish Lake just as they do now.

The appropriate permit must be in the possession of the tourist at all times while in the Rock Islands and must be presented upon demand to Koror State law enforcement personnel. Koror State will post a person at or near Jellyfish Lake to inspect the Jellyfish Lake permit and to ensure compliance with this law. The boat or tour operator may hold the permits while the tourists are visiting Jellyfish Lake.

Tour operators and their employees (as well as Palauan citizens and resident aliens) are prohibited from accompanying or transporting any tourist to a non-Tourist Activity Area and from accompanying or transporting any tourist, without the appropriate permit, to a Tourist Activity Area or Jellyfish Lake. It is unlawful to forge or alter a permit. Any person found violating this Act will be charged with a misdemeanor and may be sentenced, upon conviction, to a fine of up to \$100.00 and/or ninety days in jail. Each person without a valid permit will be considered a separate offense. The Governor may refuse to sell permits to any person or tour operator who has violated the provisions of this Act.



Tour Operators are required to post a notice at their operating site that contains the following language:

"NOTICE: ALL TOURISTS ARE REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A PERMIT AND PAY A USER FEE OF \$25.00 BEFORE THEY WILL BE PERMITTED TO ENJOY THE WATERS AND ISLANDS OF KOROR. A SEPARATE PERMIT AND THE PAYMENT OF A \$35.00 FEE IS REQUIRED TO ENTER JELLYFISH LAKE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE BEEN ISSUED A VALID PERMIT FROM YOUR TOUR OPERATOR. THE PERMIT MUST BE IN YOUR POSSESSION OR CONTROL AT ALL TIMES."

{The intent is that the Jellyfish Lake Permit will cover all areas and no additional permit is needed. Therefore, A person must decide before departure on excursion/trip which permit to purchase. Consequently, If a person has purchased a Rock Island Permit for \$25.00, and has spent a few days in the Rock Islands and then later decides that they want to visit Jellyfish Lake, then they must pay \$35.00 for a Jellyfish Lake permit}

The new permits and fee requirements take effect April 1, 2007. The following prohibitions are in effect now:

Jellyfish Lake Prohibitions:

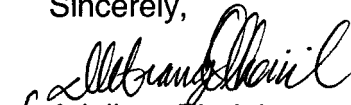
It is unlawful to remove, capture, or possess any marine life, to wear gloves, or to bring in any living or non-living organisms.

Prohibition Against Entry to Other Marine Lakes that Contain Jellyfish:

It is unlawful to come within 200 feet of any other marine lake that contains jellyfish. This applies to all persons, including Palauans.

We ask for your continued patience and cooperation as we work toward April 1, 2007. Let us work together to ensure that all can enjoy the Rock Islands and Jellyfish Lake in a responsible and environmentally sound way.

Sincerely,


for Adalbert Eledui
Director

For further information or if you any questions, contact Ilebrang Olkeriil, Rock Islands Development Officer at the Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement, Koror State Capitol Building, Tel: 488-4001/8738, email: rica@kororstate.org