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COVID-19 CARES Act \$1M for Guam Fishers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 06, Mangilao, GU---Your Department of Agriculture (DOAG) Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR) is in communication with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regarding the process for Guam fishers to receive money from the COVID-19 CARES Act. Guam was apportioned \$1 million from the \$300 million allocated for fisheries around the United States and its territories. NOAA is developing precise guidelines that will provide requirements for how the money will be distributed to fishers. Once the guidelines are developed, the money will be given to a fisheries commission that will oversee the dispersal of the money to individual fishers on Guam. The commission will be tasked to work with DOAG DAWR to develop a plan for Guam. In anticipation of this, DOAG DAWR has already written a draft plan based on general guidelines already provided, and will submit this for approval once the guidelines are ready.

The first step in this entire process is to have all Guam fishers register with DOAG DAWR. Fishers can find the registration form on doag.guam.gov under Resources then Forms. The registration form is also being distributed via Whatsapp through fishers' chat groups. Hard copies of the forms are also available in the DAWR office. For those with digital access, DOAG DAWR recommends downloading the free Adobe Acrobat app, or something similar, to fill out the form, sign it digitally, and then email the form to fisheries@doag.guam.gov.

Chelsa Muña-Brecht, Director of DOAG urges fishers to register. "Our goal is to have every Guam fisher benefit from this program. In order to make that happen we need to first establish how many fishers we have, both commercial and sustenance. DOAG DAWR worked with the WestPac Guam Fisheries Advisory Panel and the Fishermens Co-Op to ensure that the registration form and draft plan considers each type of fisher fairly. We are here to help our community benefit and thrive," emphasized Ms. Muña-Brecht.

If you have questions or concerns, please email fisheries@doag.guam.gov or call 735-0294. The fisher registration form is included with this release.