



**BUREAU OF MARINE TRANSPORTATION**  
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRIES  
P.O. BOX 1471 KOROR, REPUBLIC OF PALAU 96940  
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## **Public Notice**

### **Re: Foreign Water Vessel Tax**

Be advised, pursuant to the authority established under 40 PNCA § 1405(f) to promulgate regulations in my capacity as the Director of the Bureau of Marine Transportation under the Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Industries, it has been determined under the promulgated Water Vessel Tax Regulations of 2019 Section 2 (a)(2), that the period from March 2020 until June 30, 2022 is determined to be a “bona fide emergency” precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic. This designation is classified under Water Vessel Tax Regulations of 2019, Section 2 (a)(2).

From the period of March 2020 to June 30, 2022, the foreign water vessel tax obligations established by 40 PNCA § 1405 and Annex 1 of the Water Vessel Tax Regulations are waived. The waiver announced by this Public Notice is applicable to all vessels found in the Republic which are obligated to pay the Water Vessel Tax. The waiver is based on the inability for vessels to access other ports due to global COVID-19 restrictions and the reduction of services offered to vessels docked in the Republic of Palau. On July 1, 2022, the obligations of the foreign Water Vessel Tax will resume at the rate established by 40 PNCA § 1405 and Annex 1 of the Water Vessel Tax Regulations.

All foreign water vessels which arrived before September 17, 2019, the effective date of the governing law (RPPL no. 10-38), will be assessed per the rate established in the schedule in Annex 1 of the Water Vessel Tax Regulations based on the date the vessel last entered into Palau. Example: If S/Y Pasifika, a 40-foot private yacht, entered Palau on June 1, 2019, then it will be assessed a subsequent tax of \$125 for September 2019 as that would constitute its 3rd renewal.

Any foreign water vessels which remain in Palau after June 30, 2022, which fail to pay the applicable tax due will be subject to monetary penalties of up to \$50,000 and possible forfeiture if the foreign water vessel tax is not paid within 90 days as set forth in the Water Vessel Tax Regulations.

This Public Notice shall be effective on June 6, 2022, by signature of the Director.

Hayes Moses

Director

Bureau of Marine Transportation