

Guam Seashore Reserve Plan (Pamphlet)

Prepared by: Guam Coastal Management
Program, Bureau of Statistics and Plans

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Guam Seashore Reserve Plan Draft Proposal

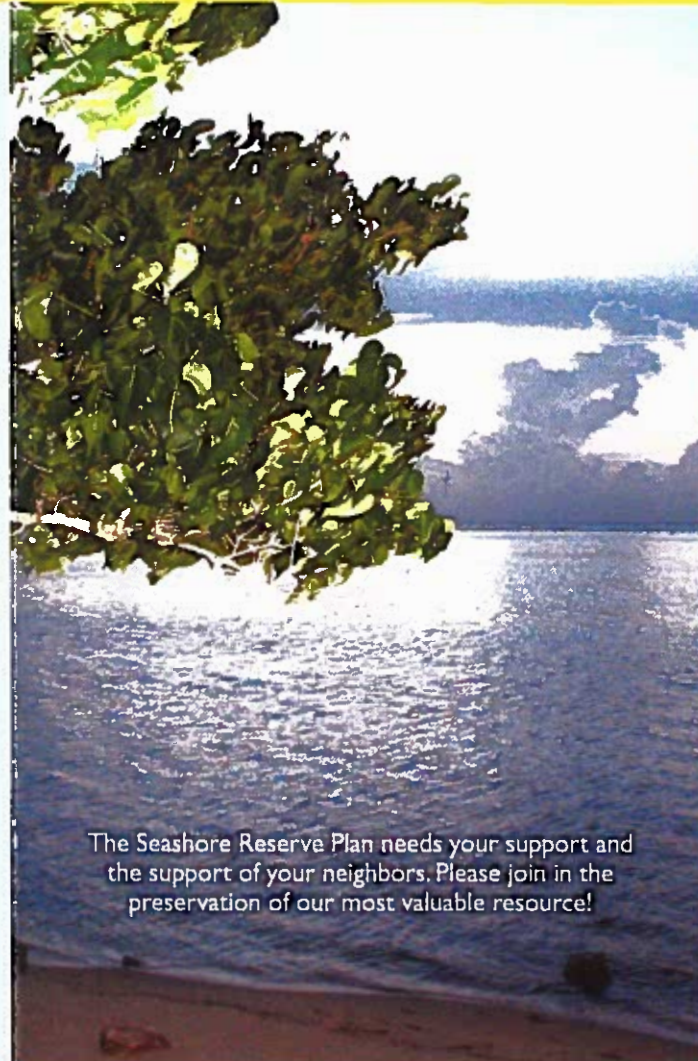


Philippine Sea



Pacific Ocean

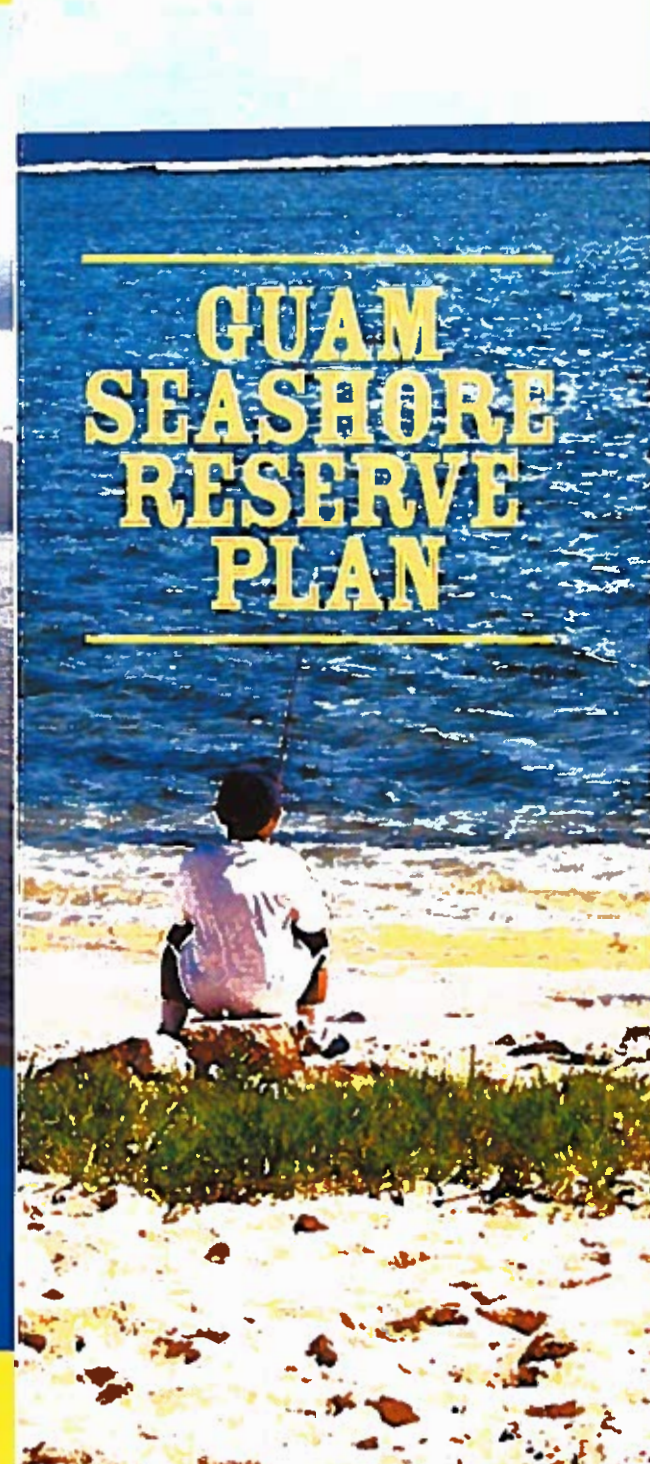
Figure 1



The Seashore Reserve Plan needs your support and the support of your neighbors. Please join in the preservation of our most valuable resource!

This brochure is developed by the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP). Funded by a grant from the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Coastal Management Act of 1972, as amended, administered by the Office of the Ocean and Coastal Resources Management Program (OCRM) and the Guam Coastal Management Program (GCMP) of the Bureau of Statistics and Plans (BSP), Government of Guam, through Grant Number NAO3N054190081.

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"Protecting Guam's most valuable resource for today and the future."

If you enjoy visiting Guam's beautiful shoreline, you should find out more about the island's Seashore Reserve Plan. A 1974 law requires the Government of Guam to create this plan to make sure our island's beaches and reefs are protected for years to come.



Whether you just want to swim with your children, or you are searching for fresh fish to eat, everyone can appreciate something about our beaches. In fact, the beach has been listed as one of the top reasons that tourists visit Guam.

All this attention and activity can harm this precious resource. Competing interests such as public access, hotel and business development, fishing, and numerous other activities are all vying for the same limited resource. The Seashore Reserve was created to protect our shores by balancing different uses. This way both businesses and beachgoers may enjoy this natural resource that we all love and enjoy.

The boundaries of the Seashore Reserve extend on a horizontal plane inland 10 meters (~33 ft.) from the mean high tide mark, as defined by the USGS, and seaward to the 10 fathom (60 ft.) contour. While the Seashore Reserve encompasses both land and marine environments, it is essential that shore and ocean portions of the Reserve be considered one unit. Changes or damages to one will almost certainly affect the other.



This plan has created two categories within the Seashore Reserve, preservation and conservation, with guidelines for management of development within each category. All sites contained in both categories will be delineated on an official map by the Bureau of Statistics and Plans' Land Use Planning Program. See Map (Figure 1).

The Seashore Reserve Preservation Category (SRP) is reserved for those portions of the seashore which are either:

1. Marine protected areas such as the marine preserves of Achang Bay, Pati Point, Sasa Bay, Piti Bomb Holes & Tumon Bay, the Haputo and Orote Peninsula Ecological Reserves and Territorial Seashore Park.



2. Important habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered species.
3. Mangrove forests.
4. Luminao Reef and Cocos Lagoon.
5. Undeveloped and/or unplanned government property (as of this Plan's adoption date). This includes lands owned, managed, and/or otherwise administered by autonomous and non-autonomous agencies of the Government of Guam, and the Chamorro Land Trust.



The Seashore Reserve Conservation Category (SRC) includes all portions of the Seashore Reserve that are not designated as Preservation Category (SRP). (See Map, Figure 1). Physical uses within both categories allowable without a permit are casual, recreational activities.

The goals of the Plan are derived directly from the Territorial Seashore Protection Act of 1974, which clearly intended to preserve resources for the use of all the people of Guam. The Act declares:

1. The Guam Territorial Seashore Reserve is a distinct and valuable natural resource belonging to the people of Guam.
2. The protection of the natural, scenic and historical resources of the Seashore Reserve is a concern to present and future residents of Guam.
3. It is necessary to preserve the ecological balance of the Seashore Reserve and prevent its deterioration and destruction.
4. It is policy of the territory to preserve and protect the resources of the Seashore Reserve for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

In order to achieve the above goals, activities within the reserve must be consistent with the following objectives:

1. The maintenance, restoration and enhancement of the overall quality of the Seashore Reserve environment including aesthetic values.
2. The continued existence of optimum populations of all species of living organisms.
3. The balanced utilization and preservation of all living and nonliving Seashore Reserve resources.
4. Avoidance of irreversible and irretrievable commitments of Seashore Reserve resources.
5. Public access to the Seashore Reserve.

