

**Republic of Palau**  
***Office of the President***

Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
*President*

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**PRESIDENTIAL DIRECTIVE 16-18**

*Adopting the Republic of Palau Exclusive Economic Zone; Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Strategy; The Next Five Years (2016-2021), as the official comprehensive five-year plan to enhance enforcement of the Republic of Palau's exclusive economic zone*

**WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau (ROP) is a “gateway to the Pacific”, shares maritime borders with three neighboring countries and two “high seas pockets” that present significant opportunities for illegal fishing and other transnational criminal activity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, as passed by the Ninth *Olbiil Era Kelulau* (Palau National Congress) on October 22, 2015 and signed into law on October 28, 2015, functions both as a refuge to help replenish Palau's pelagic fish stocks and a tool to aid in protecting Palau's sovereign waters from illegal fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary included an increase in the visitor fee to help fund additional monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, improved MCS will: aid in the deterrence, detection, interdiction, and prosecution of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing as well as illegal drug and human trafficking in Palau's exclusive economic zone (EEZ); strengthen search and rescue efforts, oil spill and disaster response, pollution detection, weather forecasting, and resilience to a changing climate; and enhance Palau's national security as well as regional security; and

**WHEREAS**, in April 2015, the ROP hosted a workshop with local and international surveillance and enforcement experts, including ROP ministry and law enforcement, partner countries, and academic and NGO partners, to develop a blueprint to guide the enhancement of Palau's EEZ surveillance and maritime enforcement capabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vision for the strategy as set by the Office of the President stated:

*By December 2021, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary will be fully established, incorporating robust monitoring and control measures that have sufficient financial and legal support to protect Palauan marine resources from man-made pollution, exploitation, and/or illegal activity; and*



**WHEREAS**, the Mission for the strategy as established by the Office of the President stated:

*Beginning in January 2020, Palau Marine Law Enforcement, in collaboration with local, state, national, partner nations, and nongovernmental and intergovernmental organizations, will conduct continuous monitoring and control operations to deter, detect, investigate, and/or interdict maritime violations of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary in order to protect Palauan natural resources from illegal fishing, criminal acts, or other activities that are detrimental to the natural environment of Palau and its international waters; and*

**WHEREAS**, the workshop produced 25 detailed recommendations for improved MCS of Palau's EEZ through advancements in internal and external communications, establishing more precisely the roles and responsibilities of the organizations involved in enforcing marine protection laws, and expanding the capacity into Palau's ocean monitoring and surveillance capabilities; and

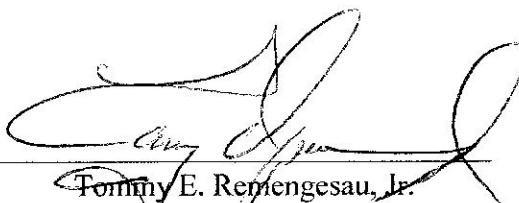
**WHEREAS**, success in the next five years will require a close working relationship with existing foreign government partnerships, NGOs, foundations, academic partners, and others as well as developing new partnerships;

**NOW THEREFORE**, pursuant to the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, I hereby direct as follows:

The action plan developed by the workshop participants, *The Republic of Palau Exclusive Economic Zone; Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance Strategy; The Next Five Years 2016–2021*, will serve as the official blueprint for improving Palau's surveillance and enforcement capabilities.

The Executive Director of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary and /or their designee will be the focal point for insuring that an implementation plan is developed by January 2017. The Executive Committee of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary will then provide a quarterly report to the President and Minister of Justice.

**SO DIRECTED**, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May 2016 in Koror, Republic of Palau.

  
Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau