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A BILL FOR AN ACT

To exempt, for a period of five years, the export of tuna and tuna-like species caught using the group purse seining or handline fishing method from Palau’s fish export tax, to allow for an alternate transshipment port for fish caught using the group purse seining or handline fishing method, and for other related purposes.

THE PEOPLE OF PALAU REPRESENTED IN THE OLBIIL ERA KELULAU DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1           **Section 1. Definitions.** For the purposes of this Act:

2           (a) “Group purse seining” is a fishing method utilizing a net with a series of rings at its  
3 bottom. A rope or cable passing through the rings draws the net closed to trap fish as they swim  
4 downward.

5           (b) “Handline fishing” is a fishing method utilizing a hook and line and passive fishing gear.  
6 A single vertical line carrying one hook is dropped into the water to catch fish. No rod or reel may  
7 be used.

8           **Section 2. Group purse seining and handline fishing agreements authorized.** The Minister  
9 of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism may negotiate, pursuant to Chapter 1 of Title 27  
10 of the Palau National Code, foreign fishing agreements that allow the use of the group purse seining  
11 or handline fishing method within Palau’s Exclusive Economic Zone. Provided that, any such  
12 foreign fishing agreement authorized pursuant to this Act shall not violate any provision of Chapter  
13 1 of Title 27 of the Palau National Code or any of Palau’s obligations to the Western and Central  
14 Fisheries Commission, the Pacific Islands Forum Fishing Agency, or any other international  
15 agreements, treaties or other governing bodies to which Palau is a party.

16           **Section 3. Alternative transshipment port for group purse seining and handline fishing**  
17 **operations authorized.**

18           (a) A foreign fishing agreement negotiated pursuant to Section 1 of this Act may designate  
19 landing ports in General Santos City, Republic of Philippines as a transshipment port for fish caught  
20 by a group purse seining or handline fishing operation.

21           (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this Section exempts the Minister of Natural Resources,  
22 Environment and Tourism from seeking the required foreign fishing agreement terms established

