

FACT SHEET:

Ebiil Conservation Area

Channel of Life

Ebiil Channel is one of the most important fish aggregation sites in Palau. Many species of groupers including tiau, temekai, ksau and meteungerel migrate from surrounding waters to this channel to reproduce in large numbers. Many other fish species use the channel as a spawning area as well as a primary habitat.

Recently, the Channel has been under increasing pressure from fishermen targeting the vulnerable grouper species. The extensive knowledge of the Palauan fisherman in addition to the modern arsenal of fishing equipment has proven to be extremely effective in reducing our marine resources. As a result, the community, especially the fishermen of Ngarchelong, decided to close Ebiil to any fishing activity. The closure will help ensure that there will be adequate resources in Ebiil in the future to supply the needs of the community of Ngarchelong as well as Palau.

Protecting Ngarchelong's Fisheries

The Ebiil Conservation Area was established on February 11, 2000, by Ngarchelong State Government Public Law No. 87. Investigations conducted by scientists and local fishermen revealed the need for special management of Ebiil channel in order to preserve the aggregation site. Historical data have shown that once aggregation sites are severely over-harvested, the fish never return. The approximate size of the conservation area is 15 square kilometers (about 4 square miles) which include the two adjacent reefs, Erengoll and Ochimer.

Ebiil joins the growing number of conservation areas that have been established in Palau in the past few years. The establishment of such conservation areas should help restore and preserve our nation's valuable and vulnerable natural resources.

The following rules will apply to the Ebiil Conservation Area for three years, after which the community will decide the future use of the area.

Regulations for the Ebiil Conservation Area:

- No entry
- No boat traffic
- No fishing

For more information contact the Governor's office at 488-2871

