

FACT SHEET:

Northern Palau Conservation Areas

Maintaining Healthy Reefs

Palau's northern reefs have always teemed with fish, sea-turtles, birds, and other marine life. These abundant resources are invaluable to the people of Kayangel and Ngarchelong. In an effort to maintain these vital resources, the leadership of these two northernmost states have taken measures to protect them.

Ngeruangel

Six miles north of Kayangel lies Ngeruangel Atoll, marked with only a small islet, desolate but for its resident seabirds and the occasional nesting turtle. Entry into Ngeruangel has been prohibited since 1996, to allow the preparation of a long-term management plan and allow recovery of the fish population. In February 2000, the Kayangel chiefs and governor adopted the management plan and the Atoll was opened for limited usage.

Restrictions: all activities, including visitation, harvest of any kind, sport fishing, diving and research, within one-half mile of the seaward edge of the reef, require a permit issued by the governor.

Northern Reef Channels

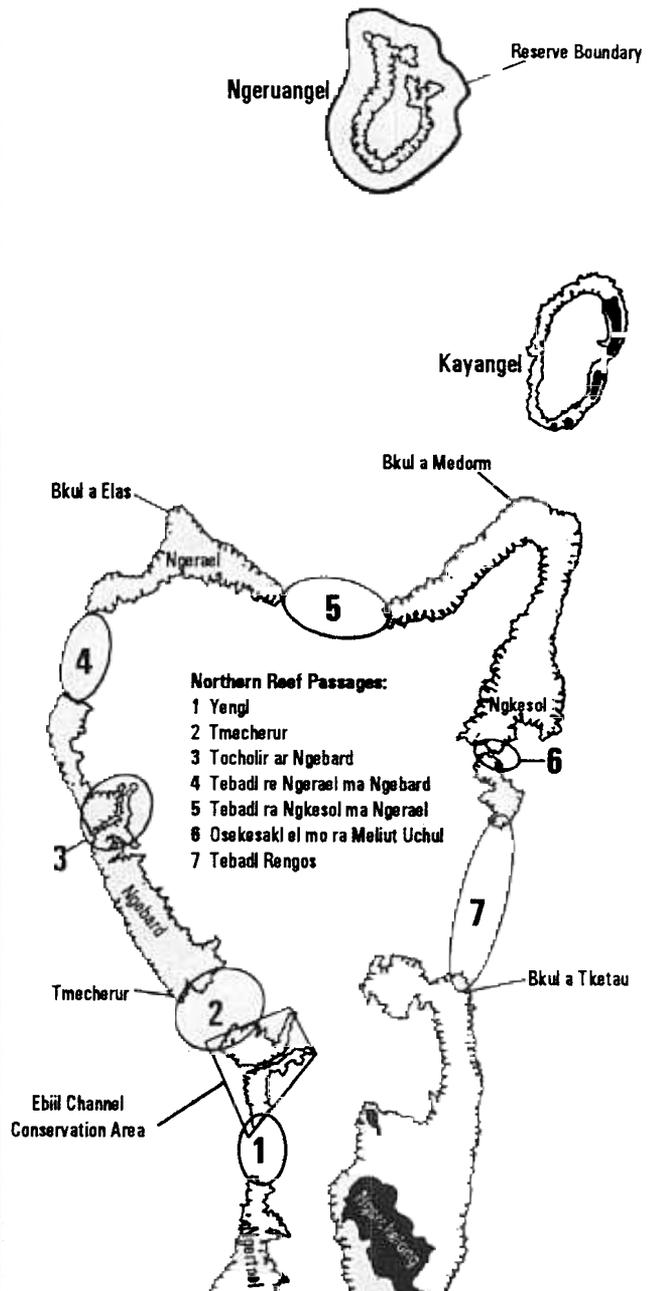
Situated along Palau's Northern barrier reef between Ngarchelong and Kayangel states are eight channels. Each summer these deep-water passages are abounding with spawning groupers and other fish. In order to protect these vulnerable fish from over-harvest, the traditional leaders of Ngarchelong and Kayangel have declared a traditional moratorium, called a *bul*, against fishing in these channels during summer months.

Restrictions: No fishing April 1 - July 31

Ebiil Channel

Ebiil Channel, only a few miles north of Ngarchelong, is one of the most prolific grouper spawning sites in Palau. The community of Ngarchelong has recognized the importance of Ebiil and has wisely chosen to make it a specially managed conservation area. Since February 2000, entry is prohibited for a period of three years. During this time the community will decide on the future uses of the area.

Restrictions: No entry, fishing, or boat traffic.



For more information, contact the State Offices:
Ngarchelong 488-2871 or 868-2887/9987 • Kayangel 488-2788

