



Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru



*Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council*

Popular Fishing Spots

2021

JAN. 14, 2021 - FEB. 1, 2022



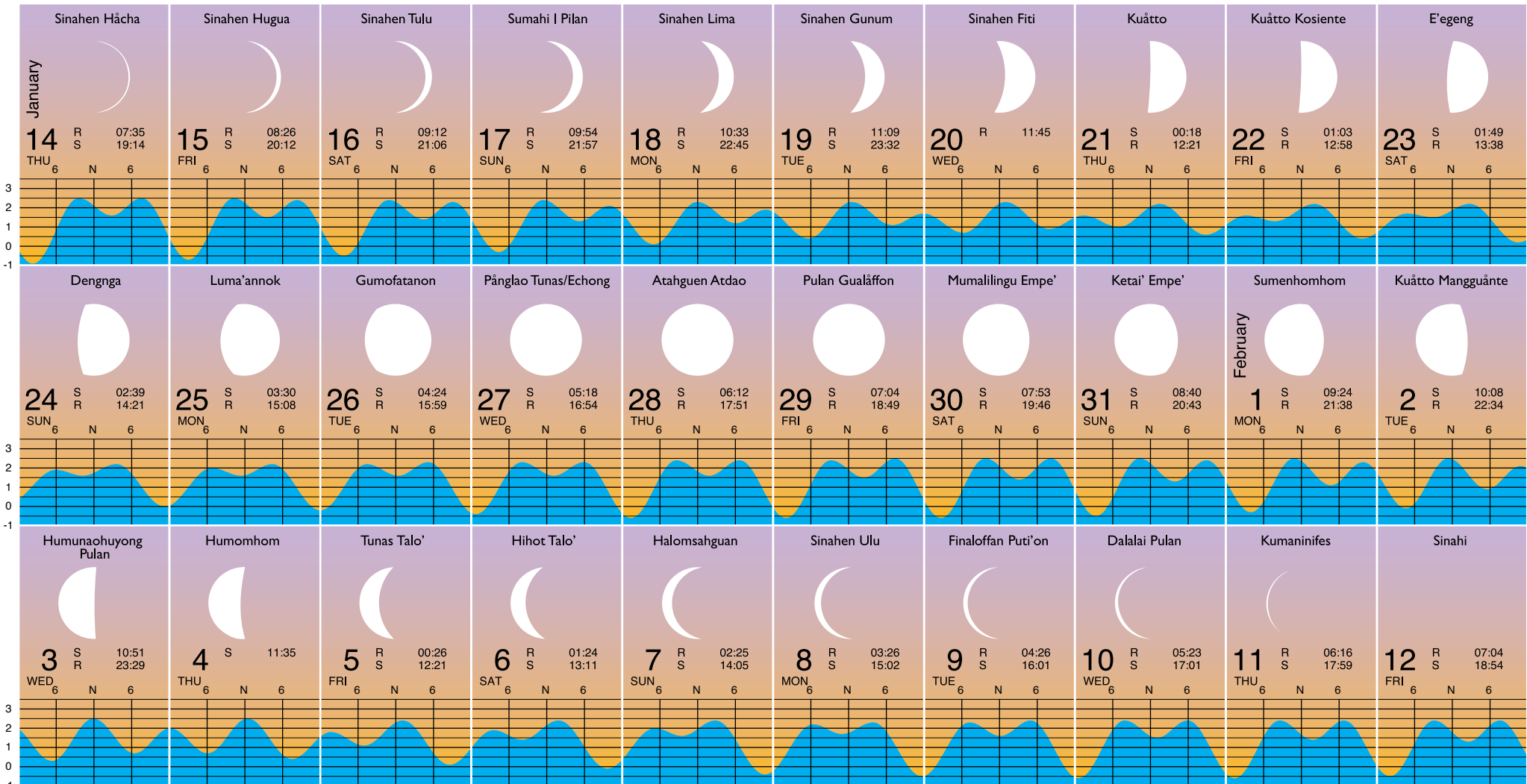
Above: Matthew Orot with a huge yellowfin tuna caught at Haputo FAD #2. It gave a good fight. *Photo: Matthew Orot.* **Upper right:** Being “armed to the teeth” is a must when trolling for the big one. *Photo: James Gumabon.* **Lower right:** Beautiful, calm seas around Haputo FAD #2. *Photo: Felix Reyes.*



When the weather turns rough on the northeast side of Guam this month, boaters visit **Haputo fish aggregating device (FAD) #2** for pelagic fish and safety reasons. The area around this FAD is one of the most productive for marlin and all tuna species. During the old days, buoys were unknown so the use of live bait was the preferred method to catch large fish.

Umayangan

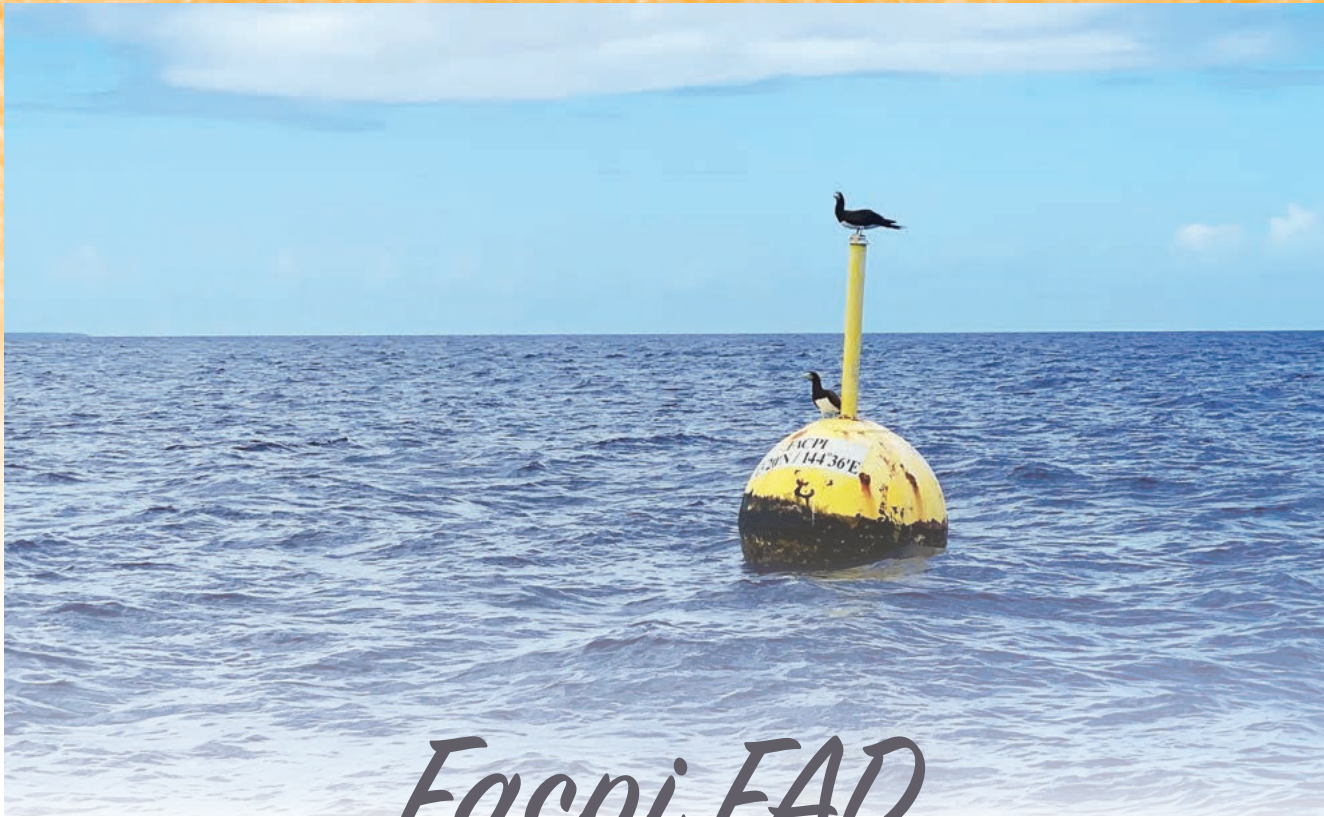
Ineru 14–Fibreru 12, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Facpi FAD



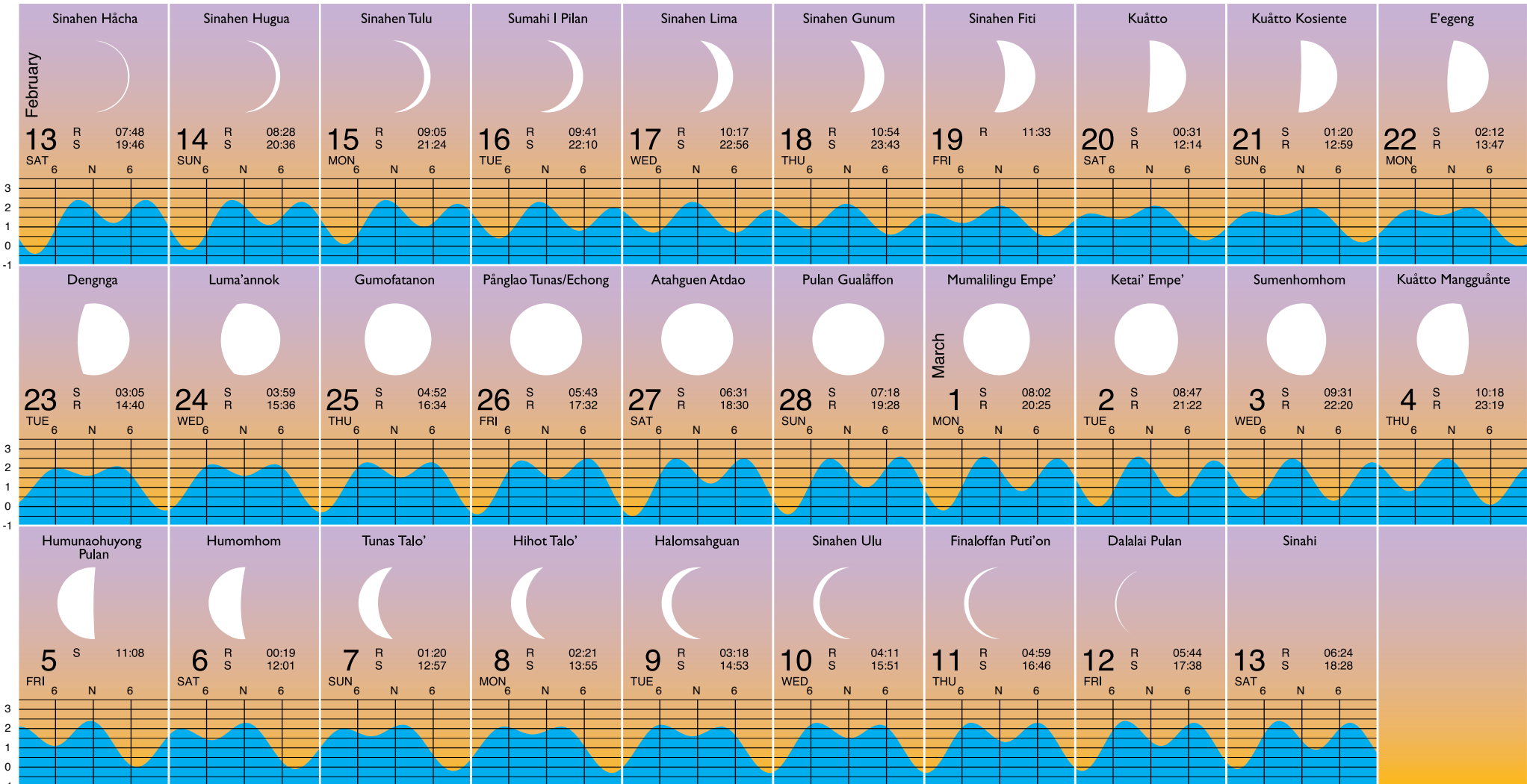
Above: When birds are sitting on the buoy, it means there are fish nearby. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* [1] Aerial view of Agat Marina. [2] Nice flat seas make for a good day of fishing. *Photo: Ken and James Borja.* [3] Bonito (skipjack tuna) is abundant in waters around Guam and the most commonly caught pelagic species since they are found year-round. *Photo: Felix Reyes.*



When the weather up north is sour, boaters go south. The closest **FAD (fish aggregating device)** to the Agat Marina is the **Facpi buoy**, a productive location for *mahimahi* (dolphinfish) and jigging for wahoo. Along the way, boaters drag lures for *bonito* (skipjack tuna) and yellowfin tuna. In the past, only the elite CHamoru classes had the privilege to fish the open sea. Today, a boat and modern fishing gear is all one needs.

Tumaiguini

Fibreru 13–Måtso 13, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Hospital Point



Above: Looking back while trolling the deep blue waters off Hospital Point. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* **Right:** Verne Lokeijak with his colorful mahimahi (dolphinfish) catch. *Photo: Matthew Orot.* **Below right:** Hospital Point in the 1960s. *Photo: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.*

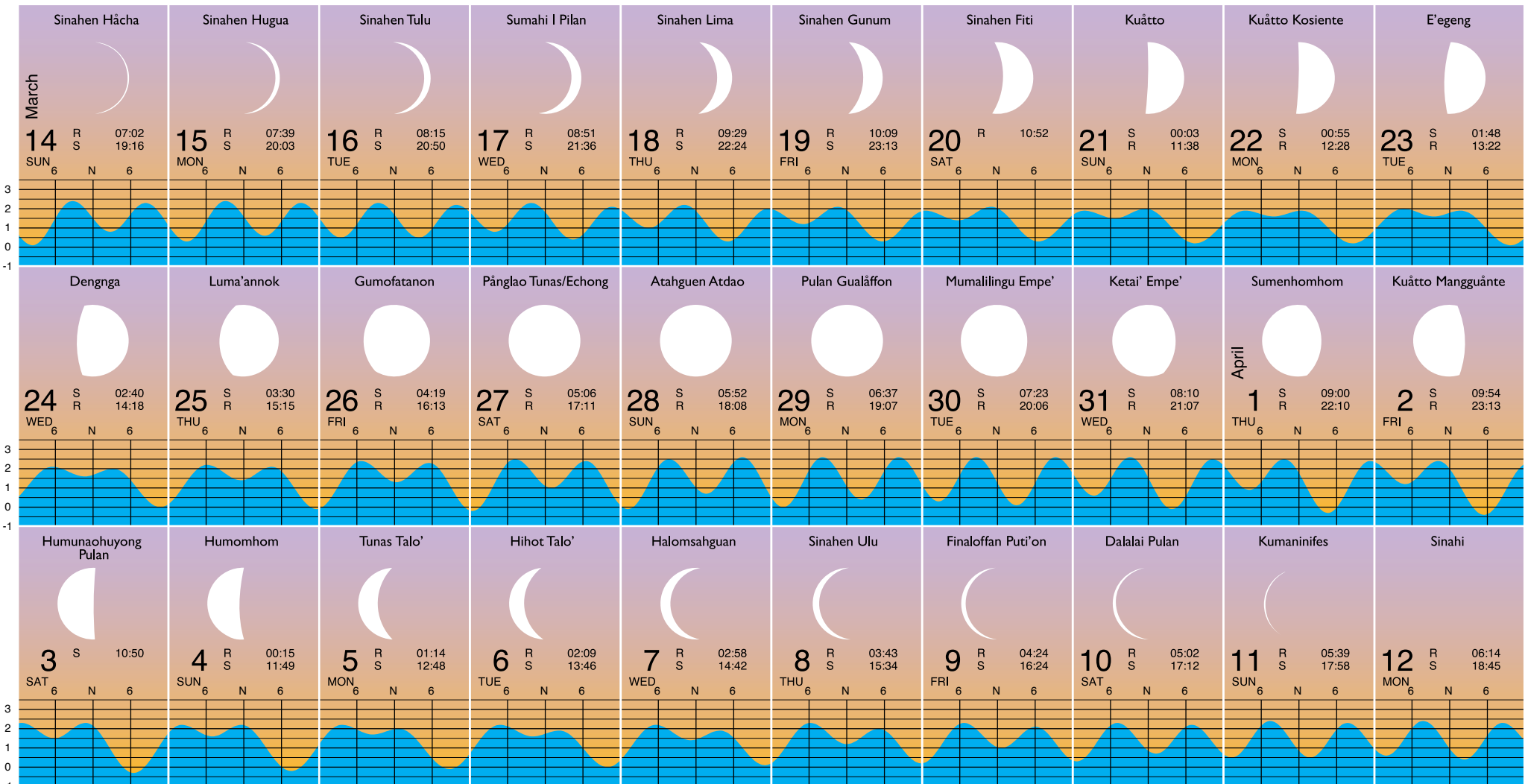


Fishermen trolling close to shore along **Hospital Point** catch wahoo and *bonito* (skipjack tuna), while those further offshore catch other pelagic species. Fishing from the cliffs of Hospital Point, anglers catch *bonito* and jacks. Stairs along the cliffside are a sign locals have been fishing here for generations.



Maimo

Måtso 14–Abrit 12, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Galvez Banks

[1] Frances Meno with a beautiful *mahimahi* (dolphinfish). [2] Carlos Herrera (L) and Stephen Meno with good-sized yellowfin tuna caught at Galvez Banks. [3] 13-year old Analea Meno proudly displays her nice catch of skipjack tuna and *mahimahi*. [4] Aaron (L) and Aliana Meno, ages 8 and 10, are all smiles coming home from Galvez Banks with skipjack tuna. *Photos: Steven Meno.*

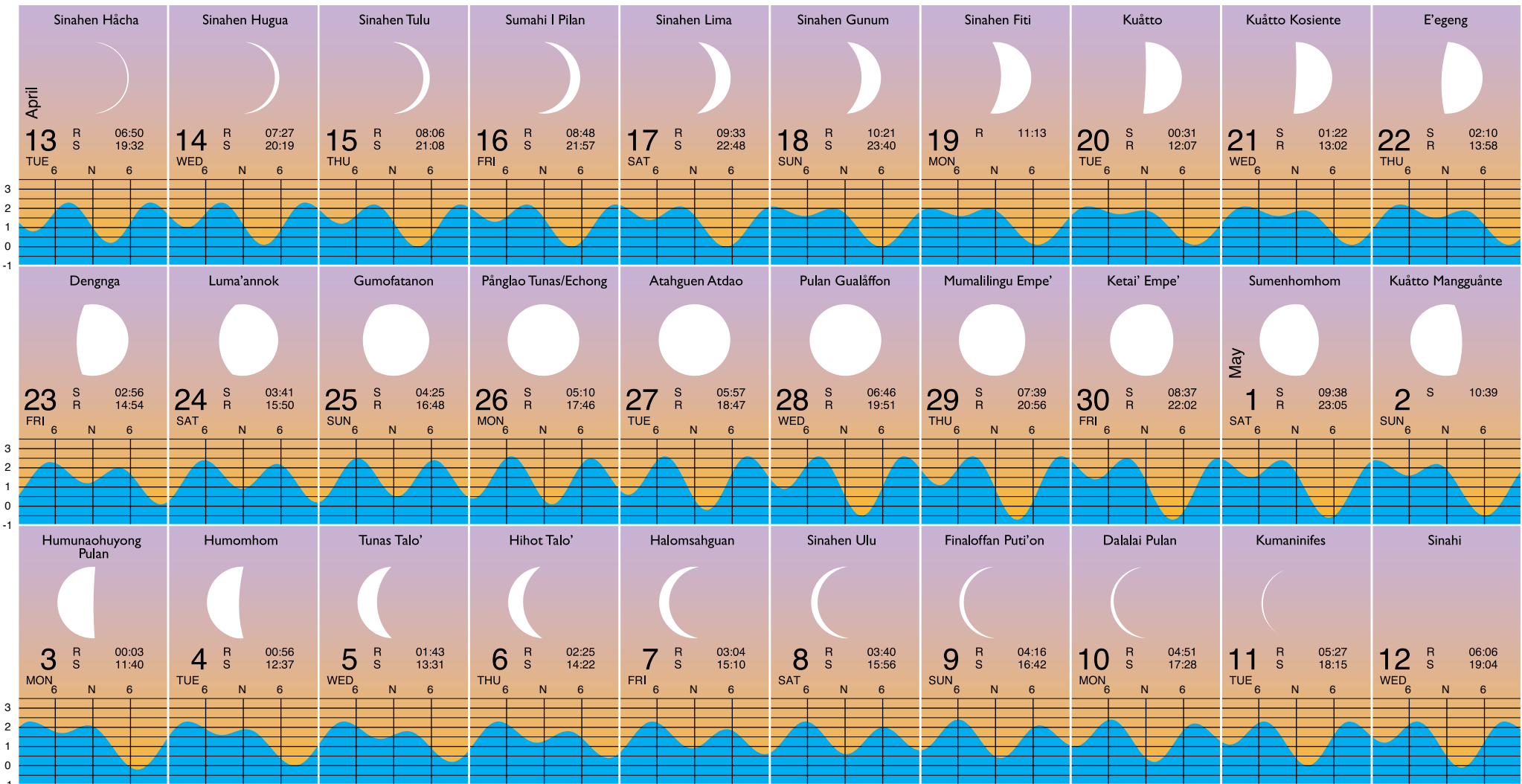


Guam's southern **Galvez Banks** is a favorite location for many boaters to troll and go bottomfishing. Many venture out while the water is flat, following schools of pelagic tunas.



Umatalaf

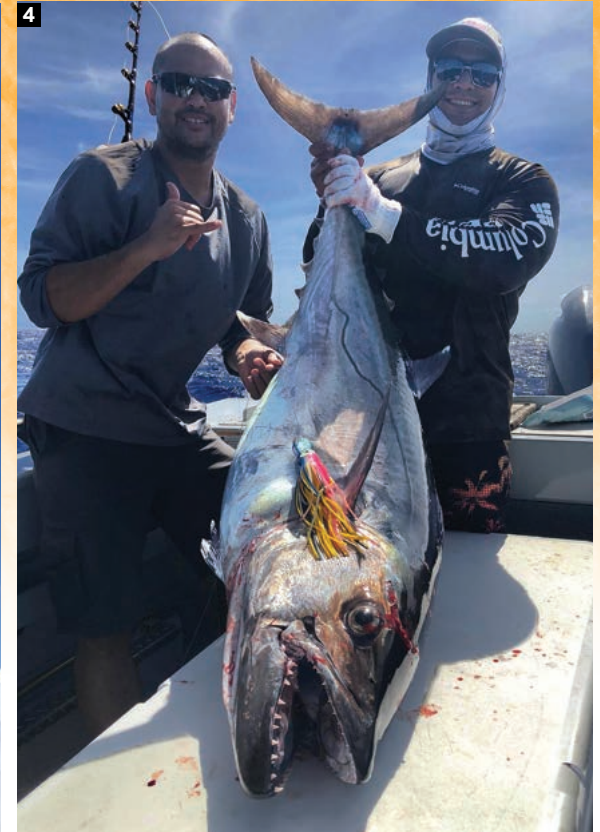
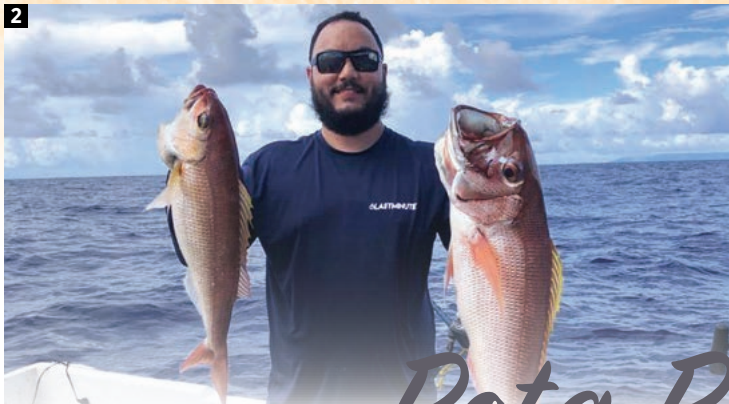
Abrit 13–Måyu 12, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Rota Banks

[1] Warren Monteverde with a large wahoo. *Photo: Solomon Monteverde.* [2] Andre Dueñas with his catch of *opakapaka* (pink snapper) and *lehi* (silver mouth snapper) at the northern banks. *Photo: Matthew Orot.* [3] Fishing can be tiring-even birds need rest. *Photo: Ken and James Borja.* [4] 87-pound dogtooth tuna was the catch of the day for Michael Dueñas (L) and crew. *Photo: Michael Dueñas.* [5] Solomon Monteverde with a grouper caught bottomfishing at Rota Banks. *Photo: Solomon Monteverde.*

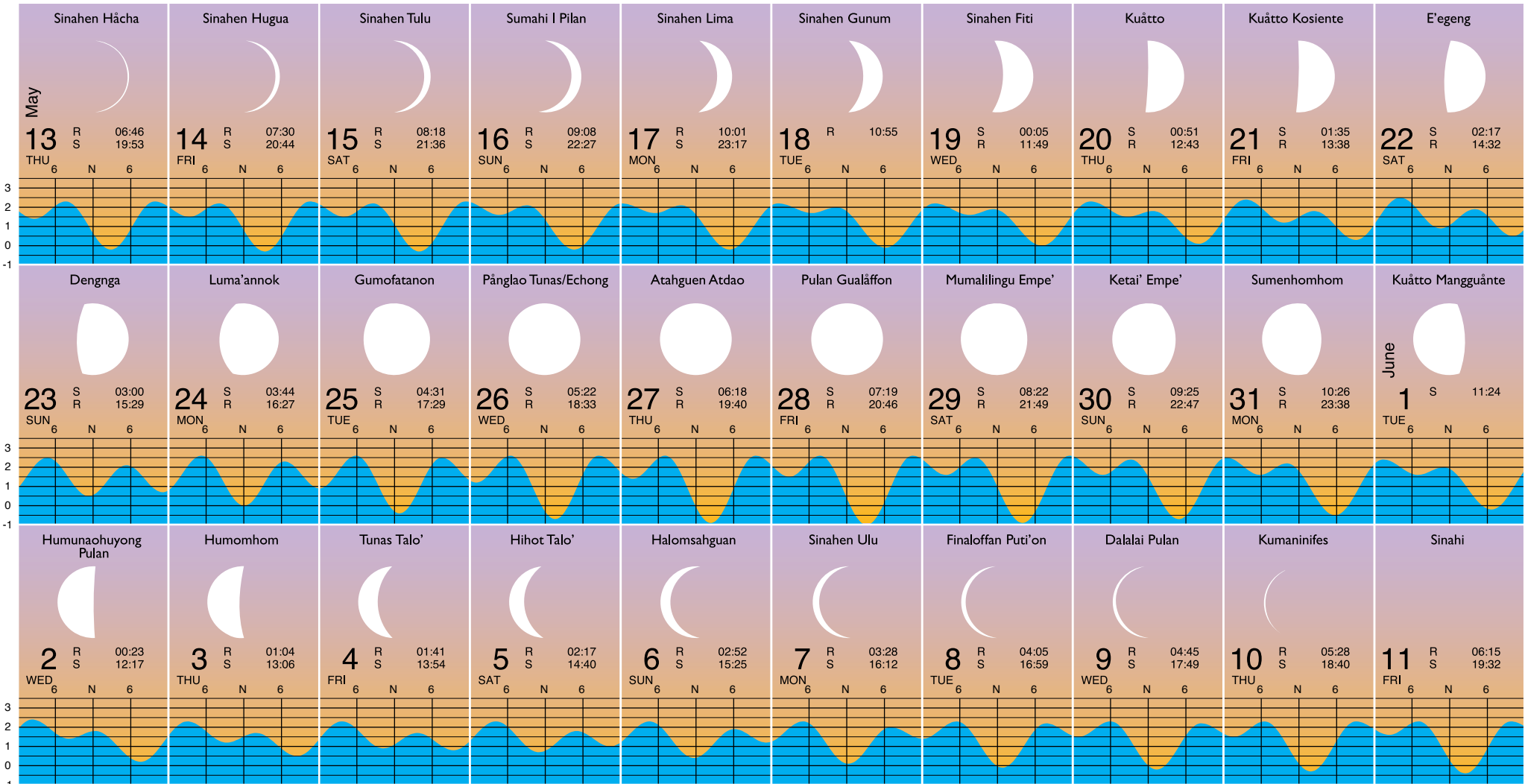


May brings calm seas north of Guam, excellent for deep bottomfishing at **Rota Banks**. Most follow the tradition of trolling to the spot, bottomfishing, then trolling back home. Fishermen today use modern electric reels and monofilament, but historical accounts and archeological evidence show our ancestors were skilled at catching all kinds of fish on the open ocean, including marlin, wahoo, tunas and *mahimahi* (dolphinfish), using handmade tools from shells and fish bone.



Lumuhu

Maýu 13 – Huniu 11, 2021



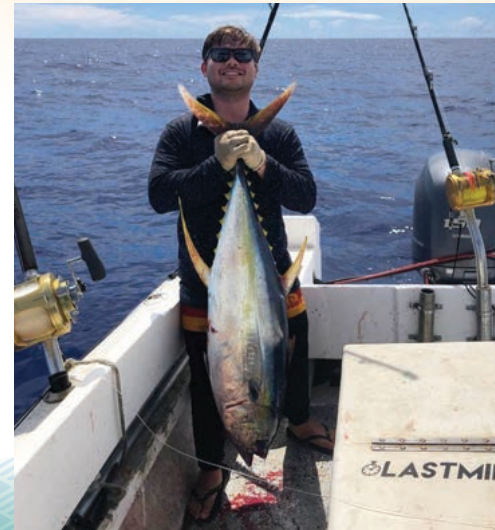
Moon-related Observations & Activities



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45 Degree Bank



Far left: Albert Aflague proudly shows his huge 37-pound wahoo caught at 45 Degree Bank.
Photo: Adam San Gil.

Above: Darrin Pangelinan (L) and Albert Aflague with a pair of nice mahimahi (dolphinfish). *Photo: Adam San Gil.*

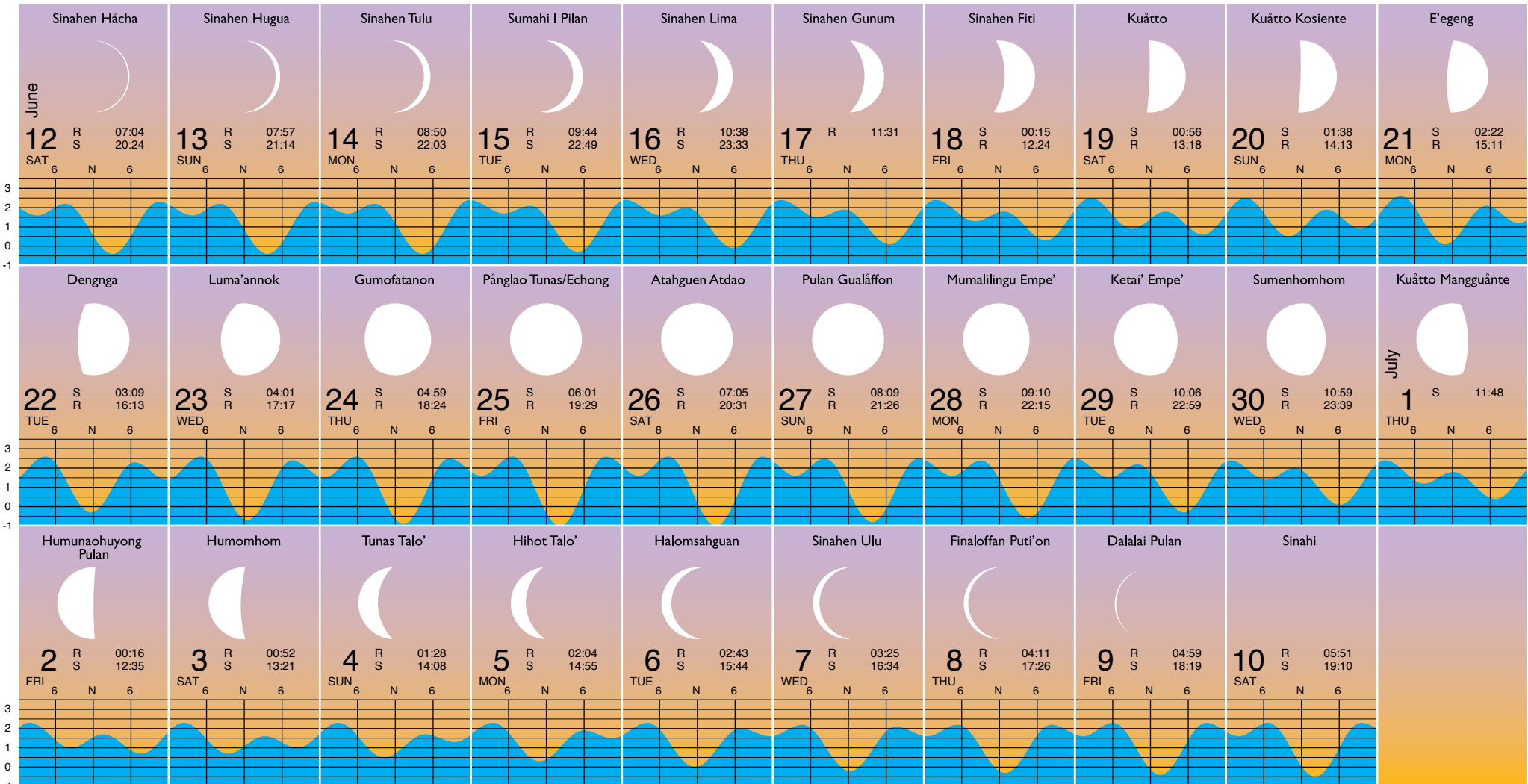
Left: John Camacho holds up his yellowfin tuna catch. *Photo: Matthew Orot.*



June is a transition month for trollers and deep bottomfishers. The water remains flat for most of the month, but the size of pelagic fish caught starts to increase, prompting fishers to brave the waters to **45 Degree Bank**—a distant fishing spot northeast of Guam. Compared with the ancient CHamoru’s canoes and fishing gear, today’s modern boats, navigation equipment and gear makes this spot relatively easy to reach and catch pelagic species.

Makmamao

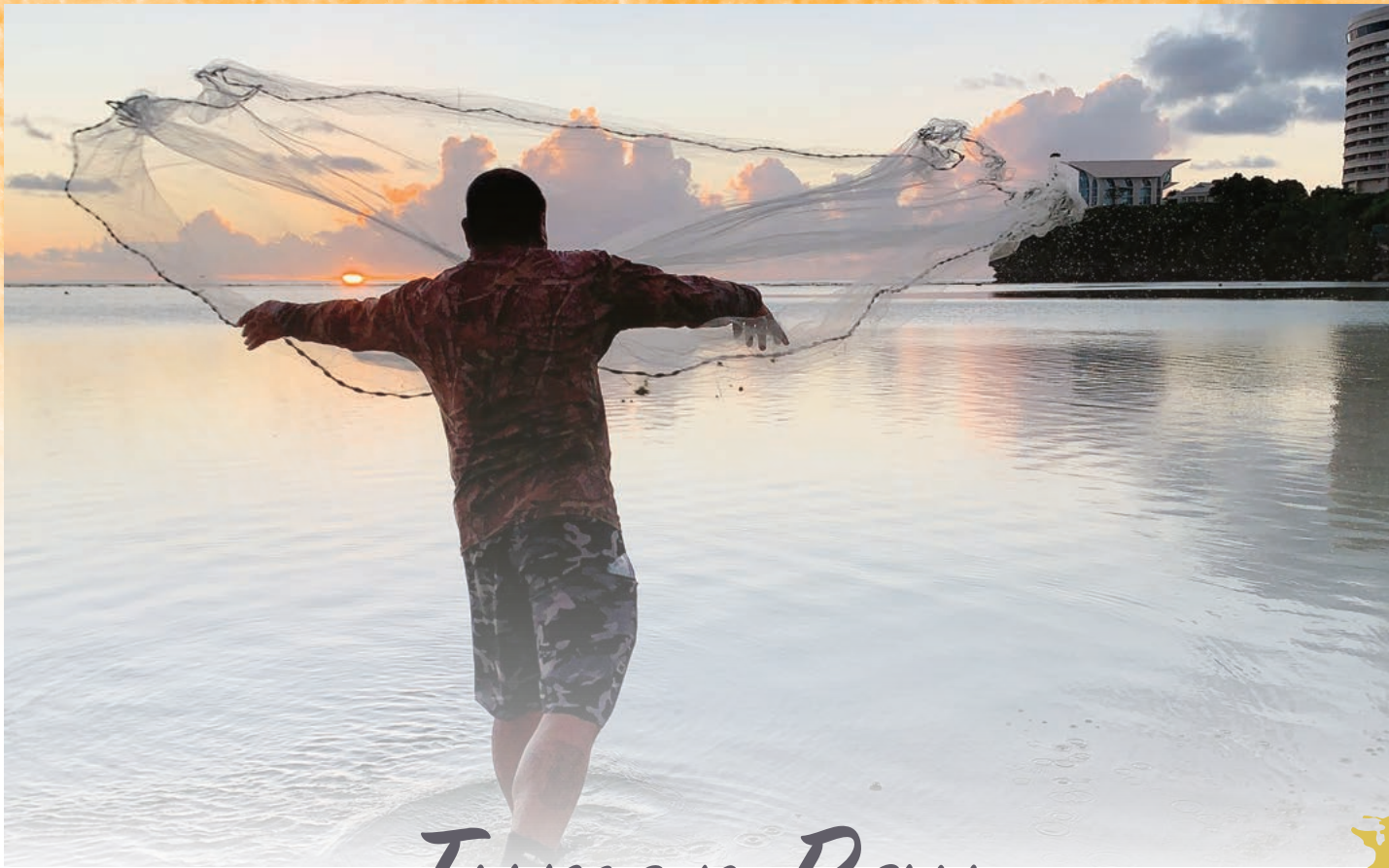
Huniu 12 – Huluiu 10, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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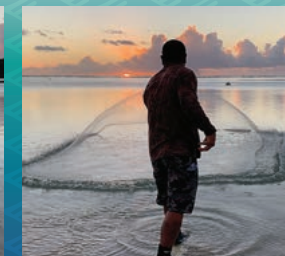
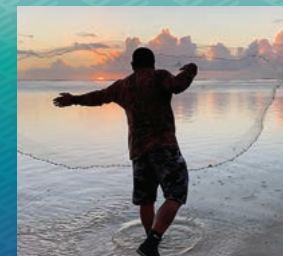


Left and bottom sequence: Carlos Quintanilla with a perfect *talâya* throw for the seasonal *mañahak* (juvenile rabbitfish) in Tumon Bay. **Above:** Quintanilla and son Blaise. *Photos: Carlos Quintanilla.*

Tumon Bay

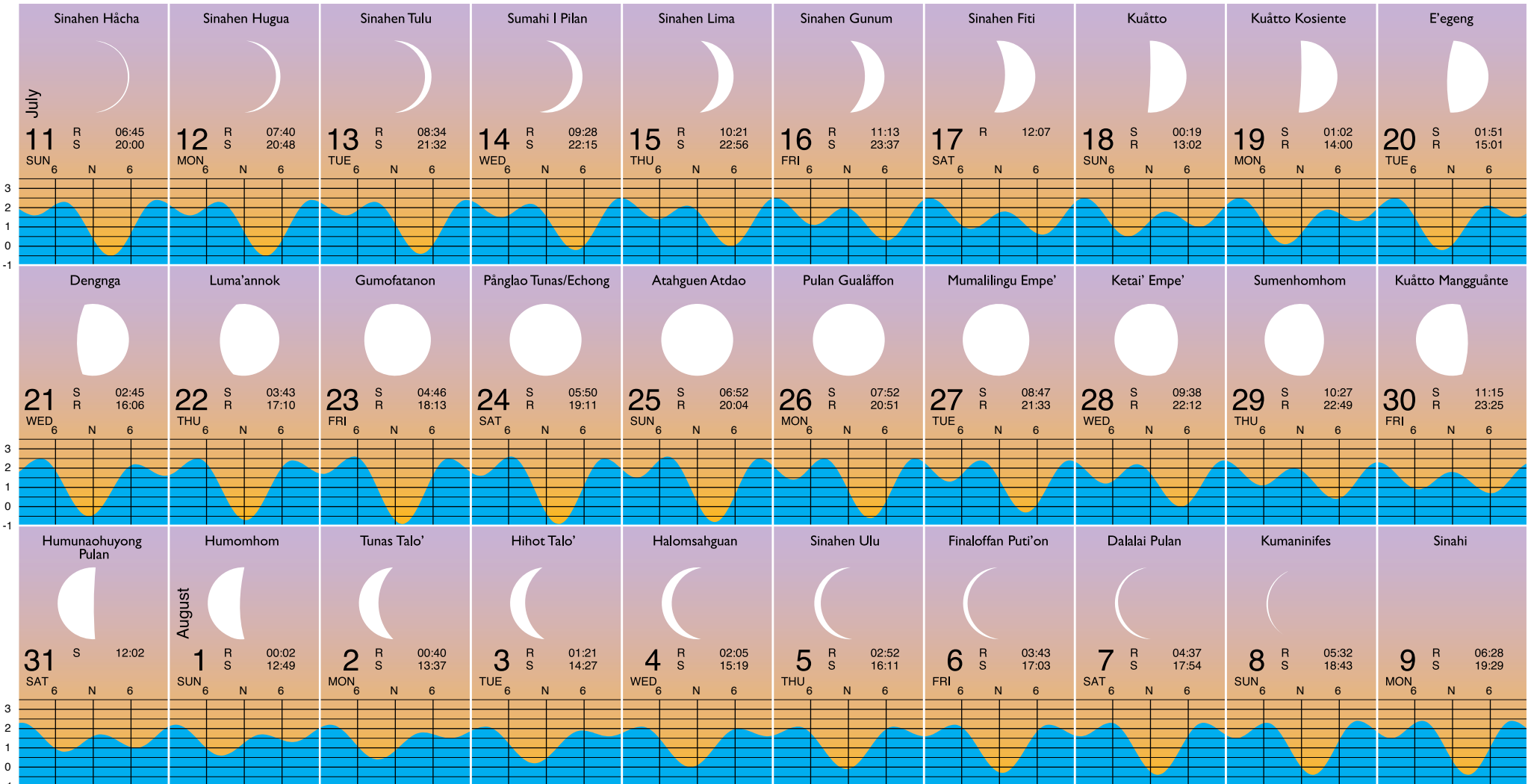


In the past, **Tumon Bay** was one of the most popular spots for using a *talâya* (throw net) and digging clams. Today, fishermen continue to throw *talâya*, but use plastic buckets instead of woven coconut or pandanus leaves to hold their catch, and rods and reels with modern lures from shore.



Mananaf

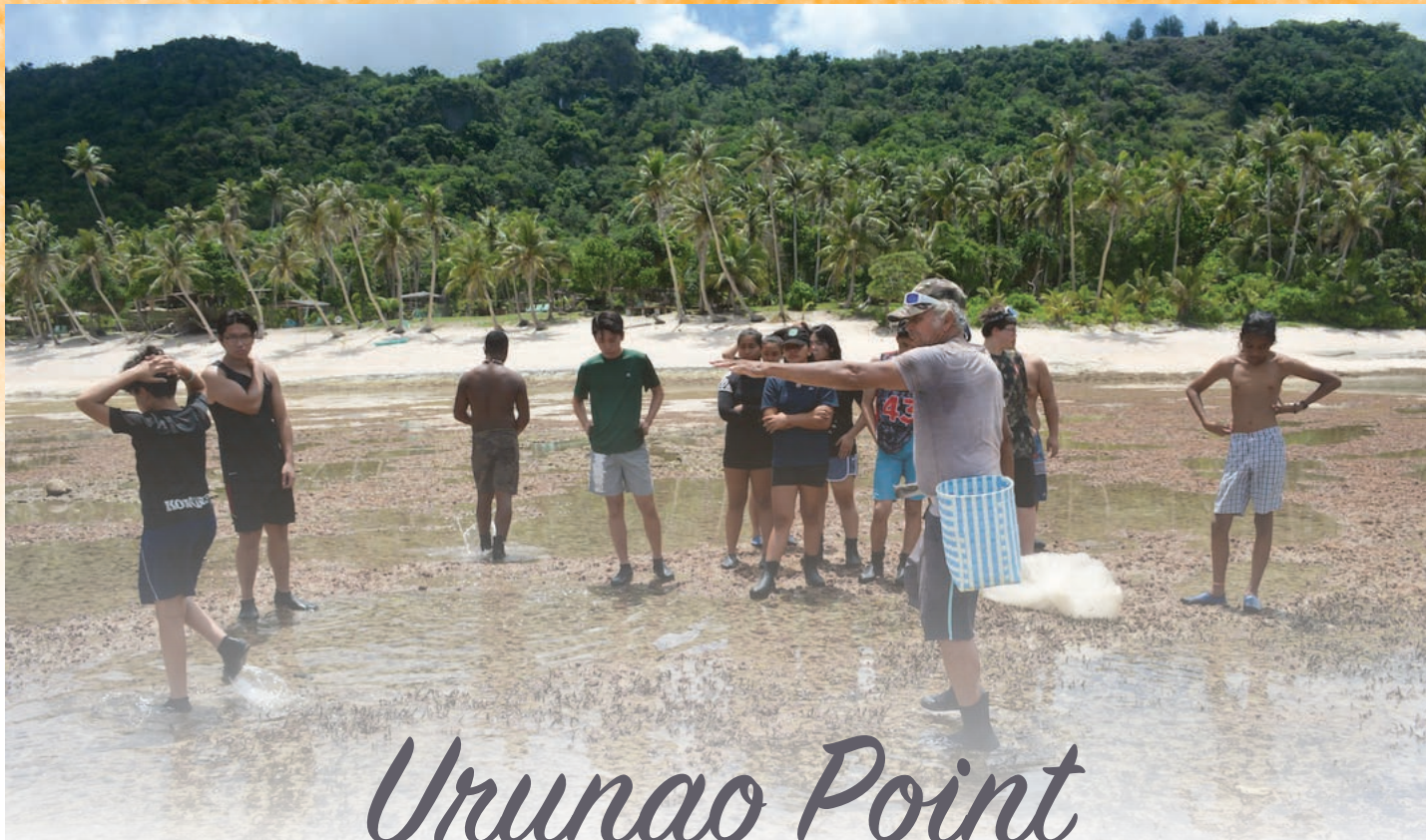
Huliu 11–Agosto 9, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Urunao Point



Above: Master *talayeru* (throw net fisherman) Dan Narcis shows high school students key reef features. **Right:** A pan-sized grouper is the catch of the day at Urunao Beach. *Photos: Felix Reyes.* **Below left:** CHamoru fathers taught their sons to fish as early as the age of 4 or 5. *Photo: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.*



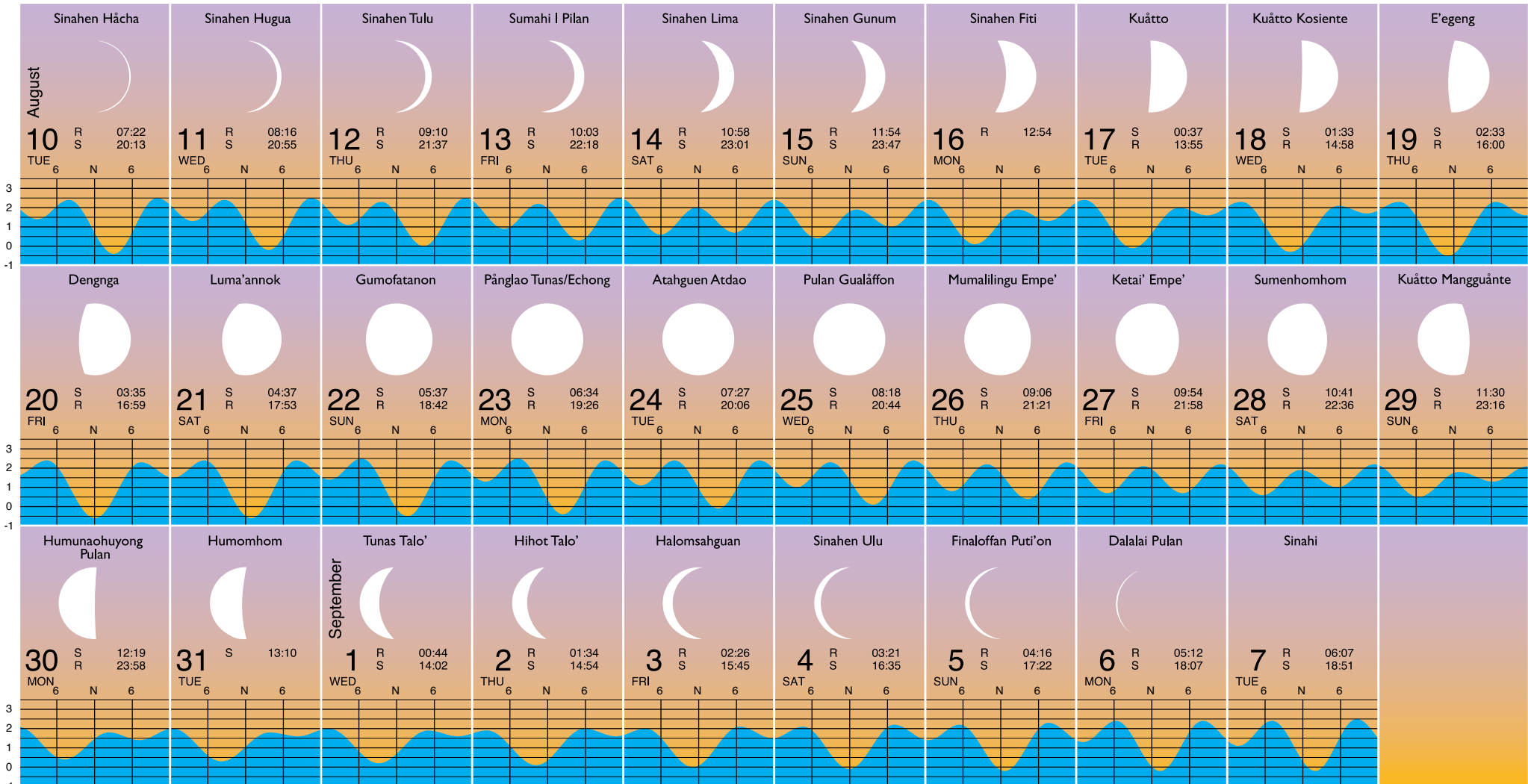
Near the northern tip of Guam and bearing the brunt of deep ocean currents, **Urunao Point** is almost always rough. However, beneath the waves, fishers catch shallow and deep-water bottomfish and pelagic species with the latest bottomfishing and trolling gear. From shore, fishermen catch reef fish and use barbed tools to coax *gamsun* (octopus) out of their holes.



Urunao Point

Semo

Agosto 10–Septembre 7, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Paseo de Susana and Fishing Platform



Above: Fishing along the rocks for *atulai* (scad mackerel). *Photo: Felix Reyes.* [1] Dan Narcis with multiple *atulai* on the line. *Photo: Dan Narcis.* [2] A couple fishing from the platform. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* [3] Fishing for *atulai* along the Agaña Channel. *Photo: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.*

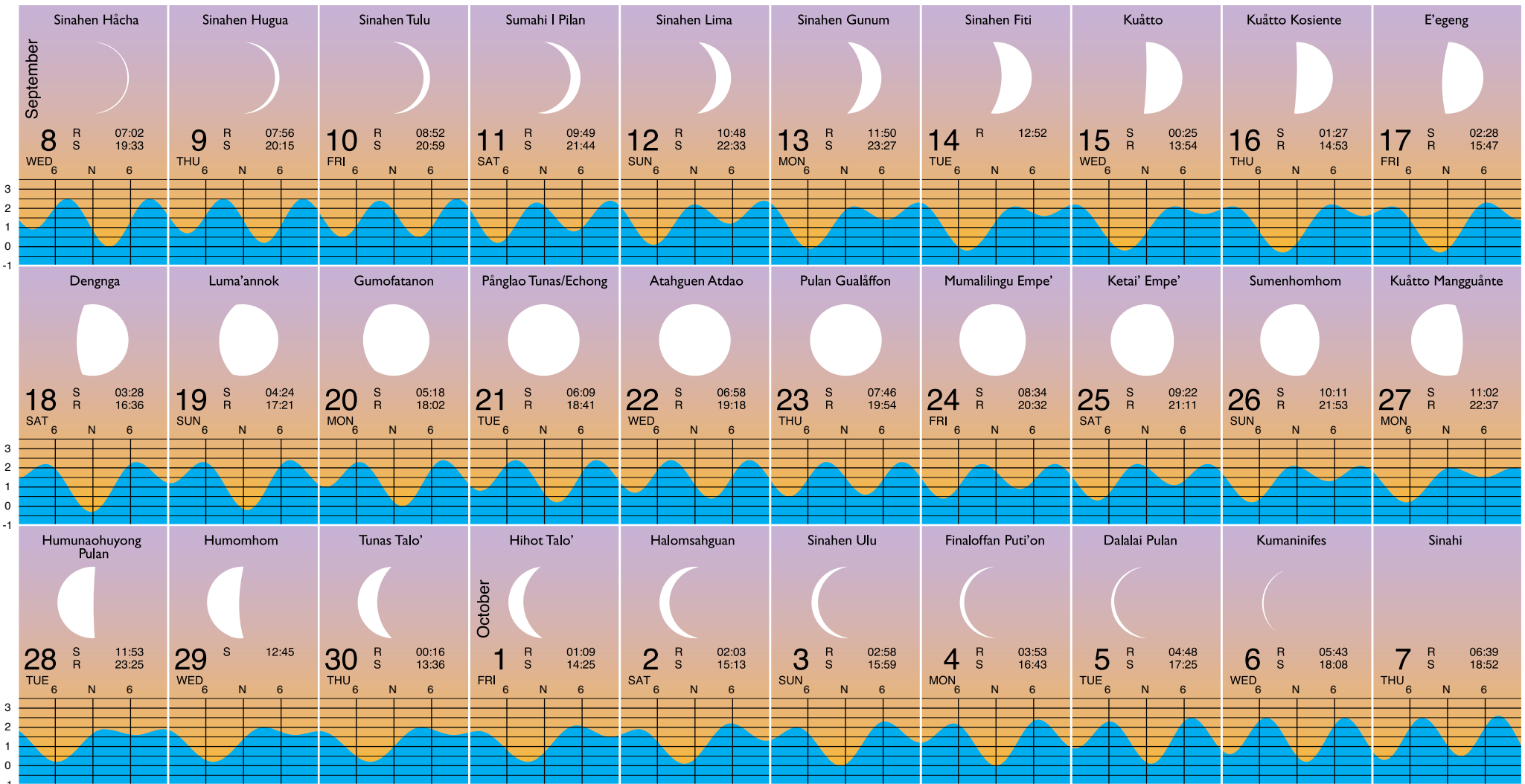


Paseo de Susana and its surrounding waters and reefs are very popular with fishermen. Near the tip of Paseo, the ADA-compliant fishing platform is a safe place to fish, providing a good, elevated vantage point. During *atulai* (scad mackerel) season, when the fish come into the Agaña Channel, fishermen are elbow to elbow casting for dinner.



Tenhos

Septembre 8–Oktubri 7, 2021



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Cocos Lagoon

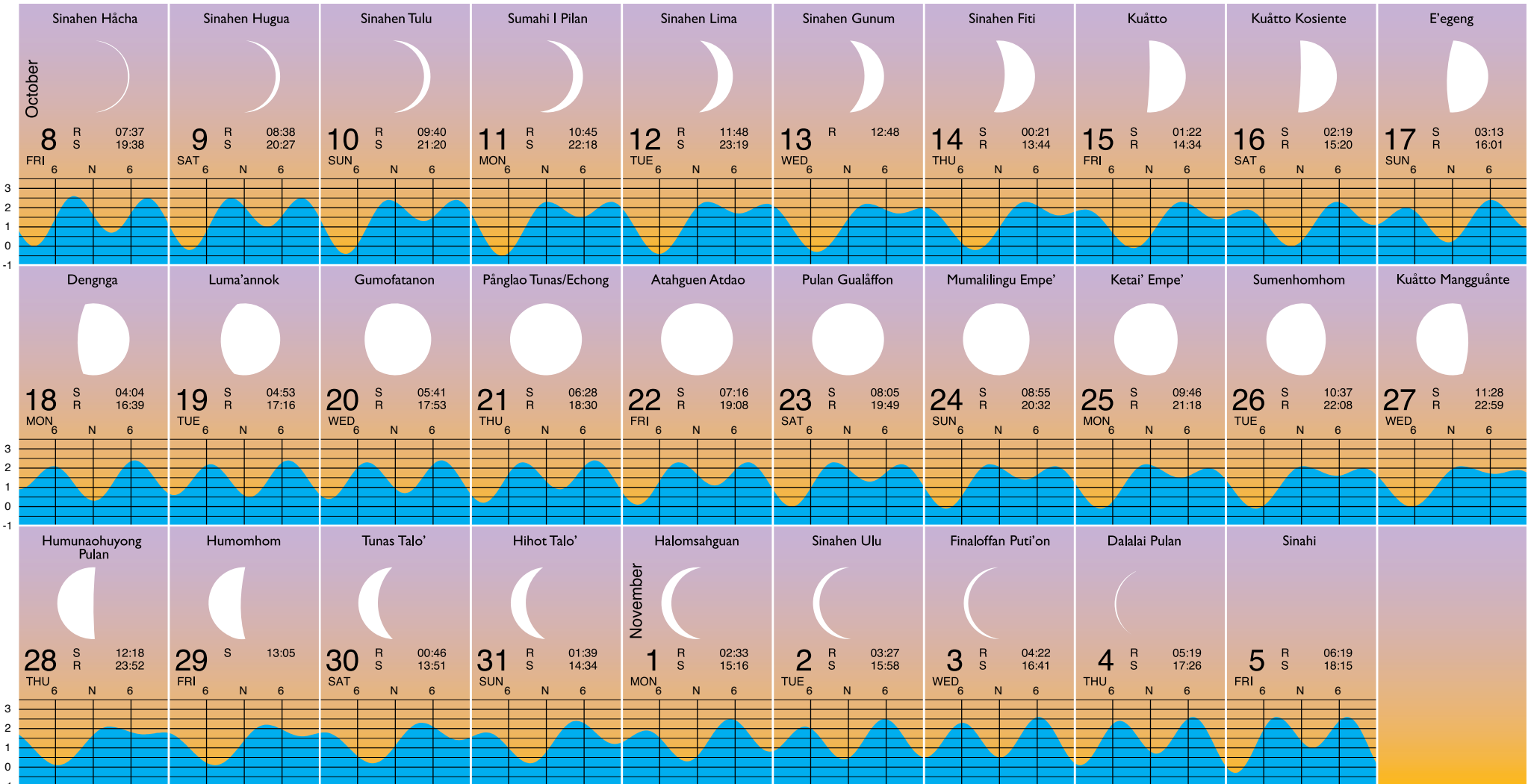
Above: A group of fishermen line the drop-off waiting for a bite. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* [1] Leilani Sablan with a colorful *laggua* (parrotfish). *Photo: Tatiana Talavera.* [2] Nepua Nelson (L) and Robert Quintanilla come ashore happy with a nice assortment of reef fish after free diving in Cocos Lagoon. *Photo: Tatiana Talavera.* [3] Family mending a *chenchulu* (surround net). Mending fishing gear often involves the entire family. *Photo: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.*



Fronting the Malesso Village, **Cocos Lagoon** is protected and relatively shallow, calm waters allow an assortment of fishing methods. Fishermen from Malesso and surrounding villages often fish from their small boats using a spear or rod and reel. In the past, it was common to see *gigao* (fish weirs or traps) scattered around the lagoon and close to shore.

Lumamlam

Oktubri 8–Nubembre 5, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Asan Cut



Above: Fishermen patiently wait for a bite at Asan Cut, a fishing spot popular for generations of fishermen. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* **Right:** A family of fishers splash the water to chase fish into their net. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* **Below right:** A *taläyeru* (throw net fisherman) casts his *taläya* (throw net) in days past. A *guagua* (basket for freshly caught fish traditionally woven from coconut leaves) is strapped to his waist. *Photo: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.*

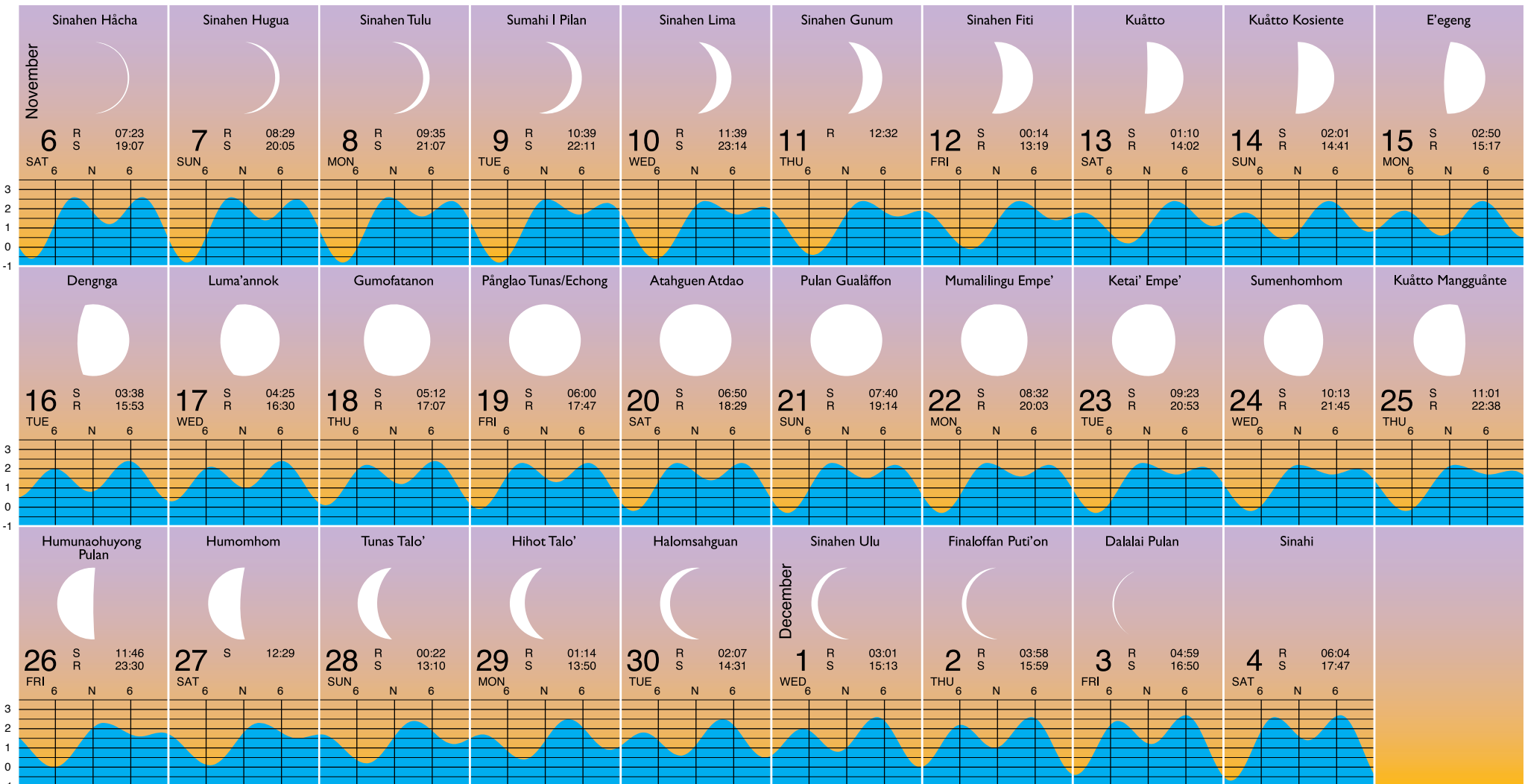


Asan Cut off the west coast of Guam is a natural and easily-accessible reef formation. Shore fishers have targeted *sesyun* (young adult rabbitfish), *kichu* (convict tangs) and other reef fish in this area using seaweed for generations. Asan Cut is also a popular spearfishing spot at night. Along the shallow inner lagoon, fishermen catch *gamsun* (octopus).



Fangualo'

Nubembre 6 – Disembre 4, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Agat Bay



Above: A lone fisher with a rod and reel at Agat Bay. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* **Right:** *Talåyeru* (throw net fishermen) recovering their net. **Below right:** Bird activity (indicated by arrow) is a sign of fish feeding on the surface. *Photos: Guam Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.*

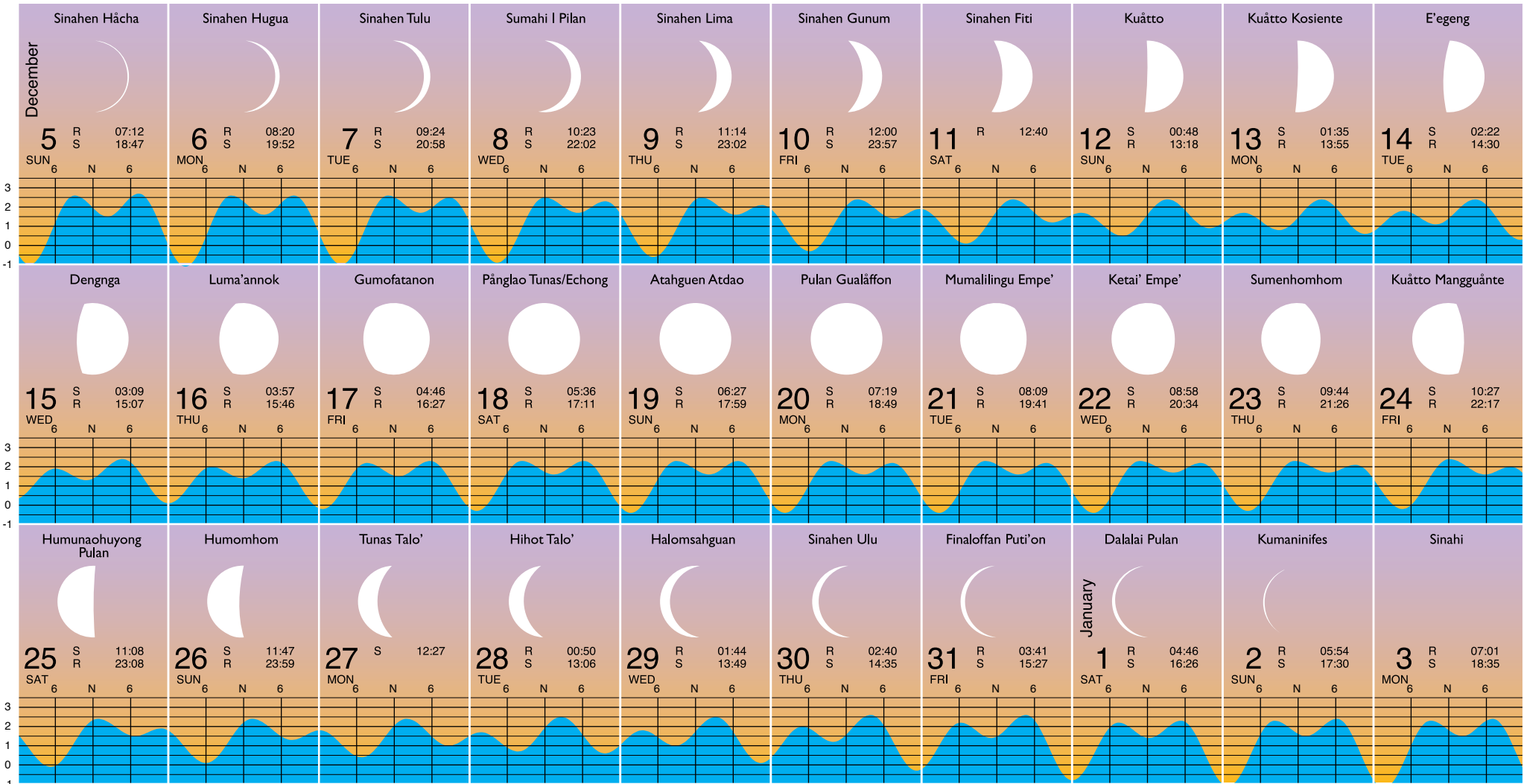


Fishers tend to stay close to shore this month due to rough ocean waters. They cast *talåya* (throw net) or the latest rod and reel for *atulai* (scad mackerel) when the fish enter **Agat Bay**. During slack tide, spearfisherman are commonly seen fishing along the reef line, just like the villagers of Old Agat did long ago.



Sumongsong

Disembre 5, 2021–Ineru 3, 2022



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Inarajan Seafront



Above: A lone fisherman picks up his net checking for fish. *Photo: Felix Reyes.* **Right:** Fisherman coming ashore with his *tekken* (gill net). *Photo: Felix Reyes.* **Below:** Ancient CHamorus used a *lagua'* (hand net) to catch seasonal fish that came into the bays and nearshore or to harvest reef fish abundant in lagoons. *Illustration: J.A. Pellion/Guam Public Library.*

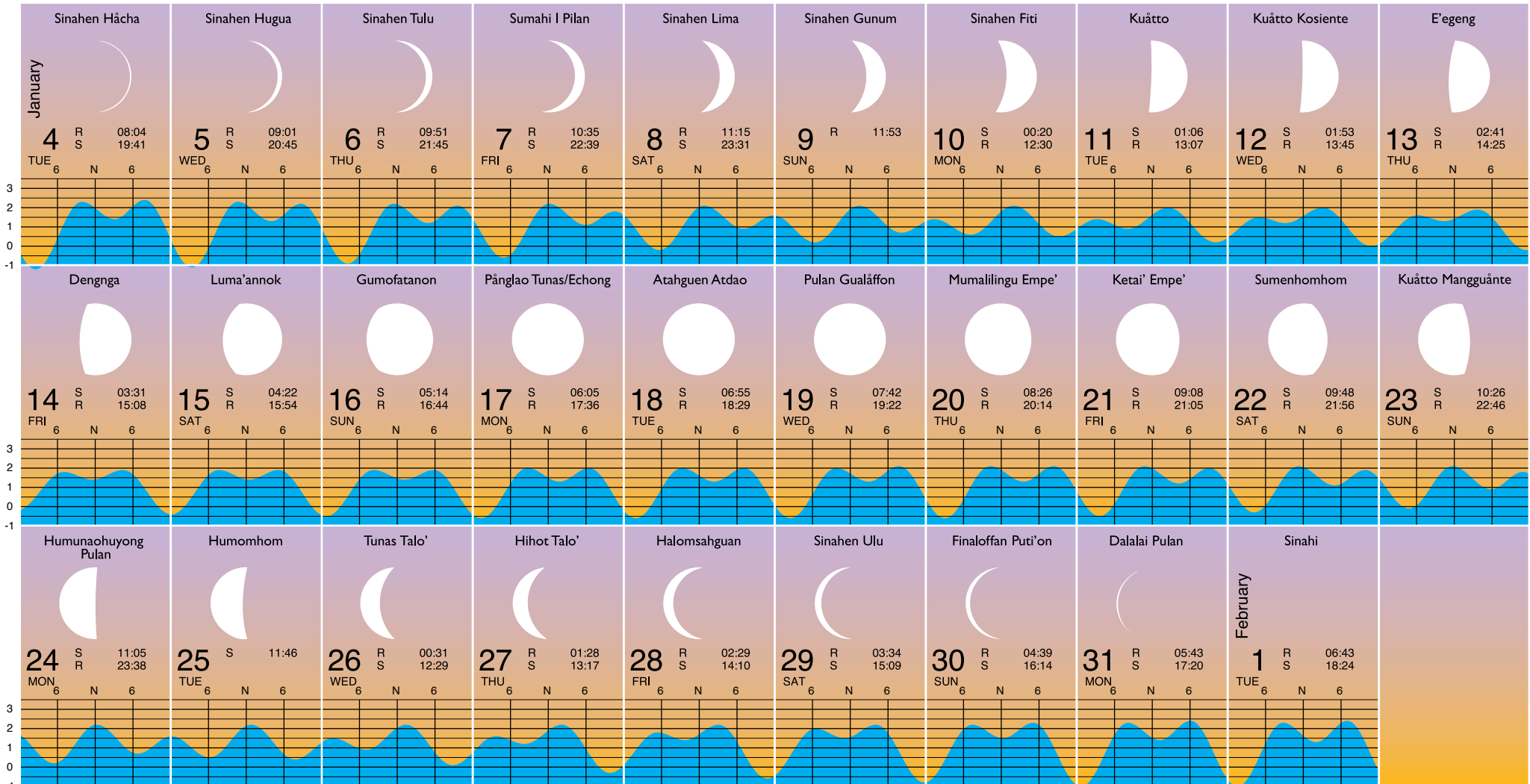


Facing windward (eastward), the waters off **Inarajan Village** are almost always choppy and fishers tend to stay nearshore and in the bays. Along the shoreline, ancient CHamoru used *gigao* (fish weirs or traps) to catch fish, which have been replaced today with modern nets. The *gigao* were made of natural materials (stones, mud or reeds) to channel fish from a larger area into the narrowing back of the trap from which they could not escape.



Umayangan

Ineru 4–Fibreru 1, 2022



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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About This Calendar

The **Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council** has produced traditional lunar calendars for Guam since 2007. The intent is to raise awareness about traditional ecological knowledge and enhance community involvement in fishery management.

The **2021 Fanha'aniyan Pulan CHamoru** (Chamorro Lunar Calendar) highlights fishing sites, spots and grounds around Guam, comparing historic and current species fished and fishing methods. The lunar months, moon phases, and traditional calendar months are given in Chamorro, the native language of the indigenous people of Guam. The moon phases in this calendar are for Hagåtña as calculated by the HM Nautical Almanac (astro.ukho.gov.uk/websurf). The tide charts with moon rise and set times are in Chamorro Time for Hagåtña and were provided by OceanFun Publishing, NZ.

Ancient CHamoru Cultural Aspects of Fishing

Fishing was one of the most important subsistence activities in ancient CHamoru society, but not everyone engaged in the same activities. The ancient CHamorus had strict rules about who could fish and where. Fishing from boats and deep sea fishing were men's activities. Fathers would teach their sons beginning around the age of four or five, taking them out to sea in smaller versions of the large outrigger canoes. By the time sons were young teenagers, they knew enough to be able to go out in their own boats and fish by themselves. Women and young children, on the other hand,

would gather crabs, shellfish and other food items from lagoons and sandy flats within the reef.

Only elite CHamoru classes had the privilege to fish in the open sea. The lower class *mangachang* was not allowed to touch the sea or canoes, as it was believed to bring bad luck; instead, the *mangachang* could fish with sticks for freshwater eels (*asuli*)—a fish that upper caste *chamorri* would not eat.

As populations grew, more sophisticated fishing methods emerged. Net fishing, hook-and-line fishing, and the use of fish weirs or traps known as *gigao* required the participation and coordination of both men and women.

Access to particular fishing grounds was regulated by clans. Different fishing grounds had names and ownership of the area of ocean and associated reefs was organized around matrilineal lines of descent (i.e., inheritance from the female or mother's side). Violation of these boundaries was punishable by death. Wars between clans would be fought to gain access to particular fishing grounds. Today, anyone with modern boats and gear ply the same areas, many marked by fish aggregating devices or buoys.

Reference: GuamPedia.com

Front cover photo: Carlos Quintanilla with a perfect *talàya* throw for the seasonal *mañabak* (juvenile rabbitfish) in Tumon Bay. PHOTO: CARLOS QUINTANILLA



An angler proudly holds up her catch at Cocos Island. Photo: Felix Reyes.

About the Council

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council was established by Congress in 1976 to manage fisheries in the offshore waters surrounding Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas. The fisheries in federal waters surrounding Guam are managed under the Mariana Archipelago and Pacific Pelagic Fishery Ecosystem Plans. Traditional knowledge and wide community involvement are integral parts of the ecosystem-based approach to fishery management.

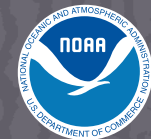
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