



Western Pacific Regional
Fishery Management Council

Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro *Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram*

2021

JAN. 14, 2021-FEB. 1, 2022

Popular Fishing Grounds

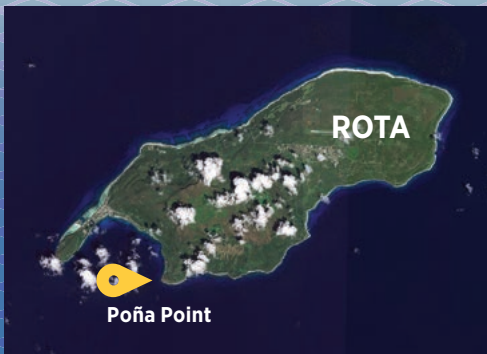




Poña Point

ROTA

Above: Poña Point, overlooking the bay. A popular cliff fishing spot for anglers. *Photo: Perry Mesngon.* **Upper right:** (front from left) Christian Alipuyu, Keoni Castro and Shawn Manglona proudly display their wahoo catch. Rear: Jazz Koshiro with his sailfish. *Photo: Alex Castro.* **Right:** Access road to Poña Point. *Photo: Perry Mesngon.*



Bordering the Sasanhaya Bay Fish Reserve, **Poña Point**, on the eastern tip of the bay, is the only area on Rota where volcanic rocks are present. Due to its underlying volcanic geology, this area, called Talakhaya, is the only area on Rota that has freshwater streams.

Extensive archaeological evidence found at Poña Point shows that it is the location of an ancient Chamorro village. Archaeological surveys conducted during the German and Japanese occupations of the Northern Mariana Islands (early 20th century) reveal evidence of subsistence from fish hooks,

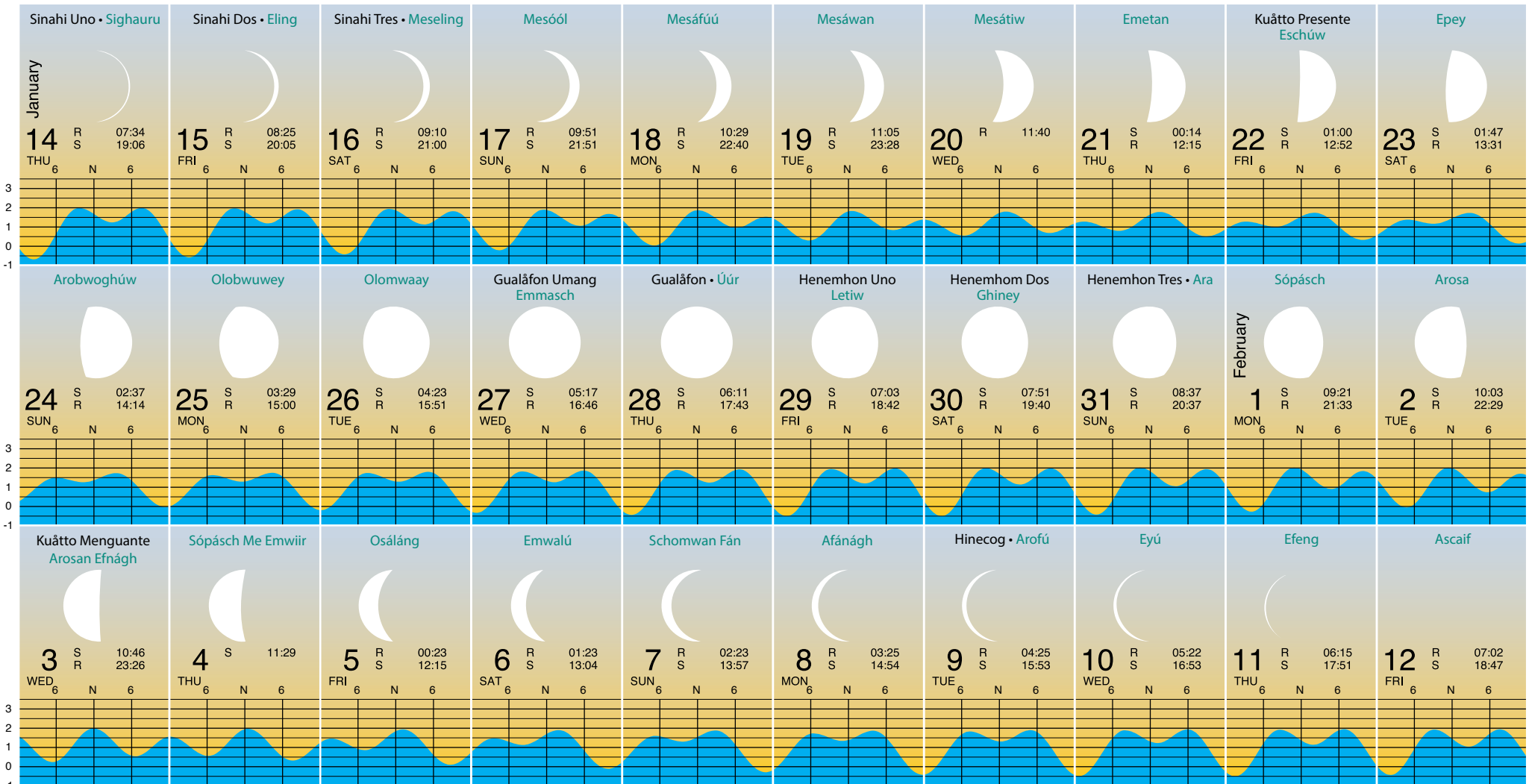
fish bones and shellfish remains. An archaeologist who studied early fishing techniques noted the native community's reliance on pelagic trolling with marlin, sailfish and mahimahi bones commonly appearing in early deposits along the north coast of Rota.

Beyond that, Poña Point is a popular cliff fishing location where the annual Rota Cliff Fishing Derby is held. Anglers may hook a large skipjack or orange fin emperor while enjoying the panoramic view of the southern coast of the island.

References: Micronesia Archaeological Survey Report No.33, Uyulan Region on Rota; Marianas Visitors Authority

Umayangan Schoow

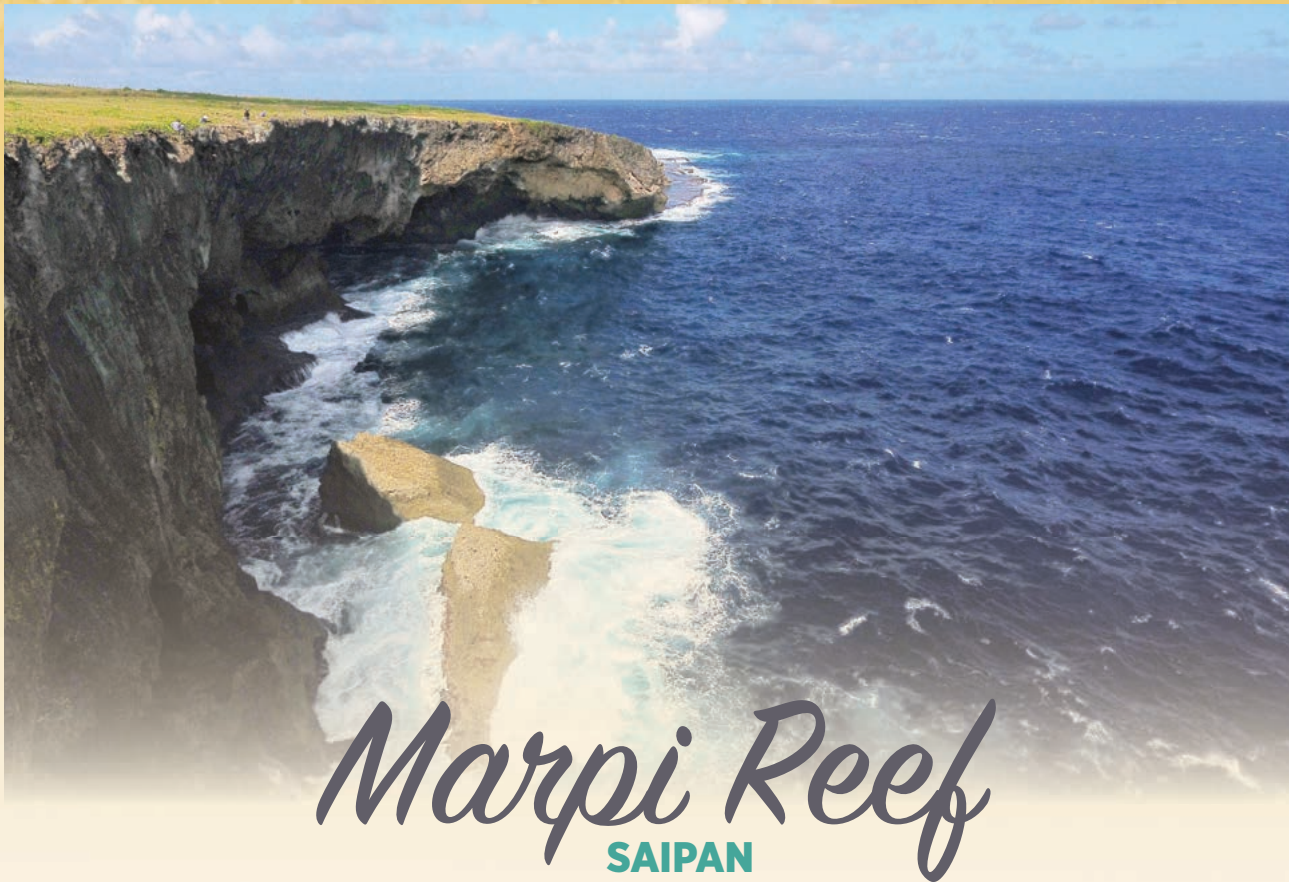
January 14 – February 12, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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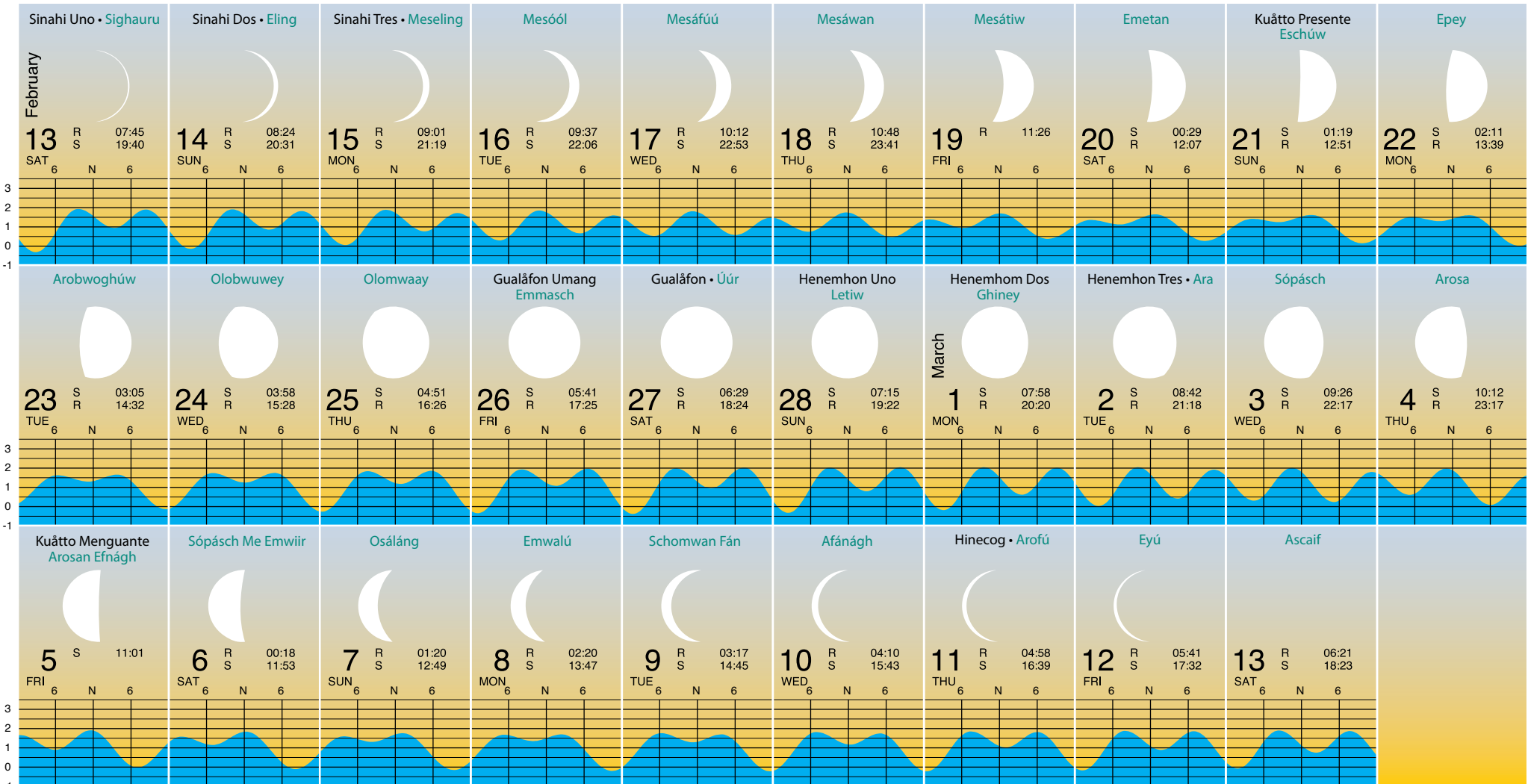
Above: Banzai Cliff looking towards Marpi Reef. *Photo: Cecilio Raiukiulipiy.* **Upper right:** Ken Salas holds up his wahoo. *Photo: Cecilio Raiukiulipiy.* **Right:** (L-R) JD Tenorio, Garret Weaver, Ray Salas Jr. and Gene Weaver with their marlin caught at Marpi Reef. *Photo: JD Tenorio.*



Marpi Reef, or **Marpi Bank**, is a narrow seamount (5.6 miles long by 2.5 miles wide) that lies 17 miles north of Saipan. The peak of the seamount is 156 feet below the ocean surface. It is a popular fishing spot for trolling and deep bottom fishing. Targeted species are *onaga* (long-tail red snapper), *gindai* (oblique-banded snapper), *opakapaka* (pink snapper) and groupers. Tip from local fishermen — be aware of shark depredation.

Tumaiguini Méél

February 13 – March 13, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



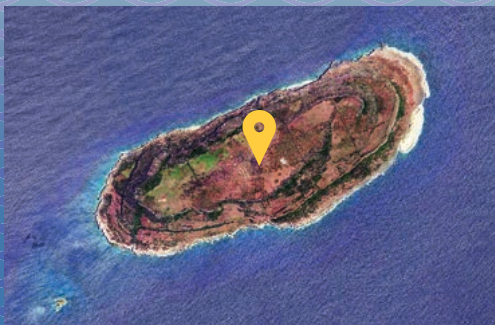
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Aguiguan

GOAT ISLAND

Above: (L-R) George Taguchi, Scott Shular and Diego Benavente proudly display their giant dogtooth tuna. *Photo: Scott Schular.* [1] Aerial view of Aguiguan. *Photo: George Moses.* [2] Tom Tudela with his wahoo. *Photo: Adrian Mendiola.* [3] Reef fish are plentiful in the waters around Goat Island. *Photo: Adrian Mendiola.*

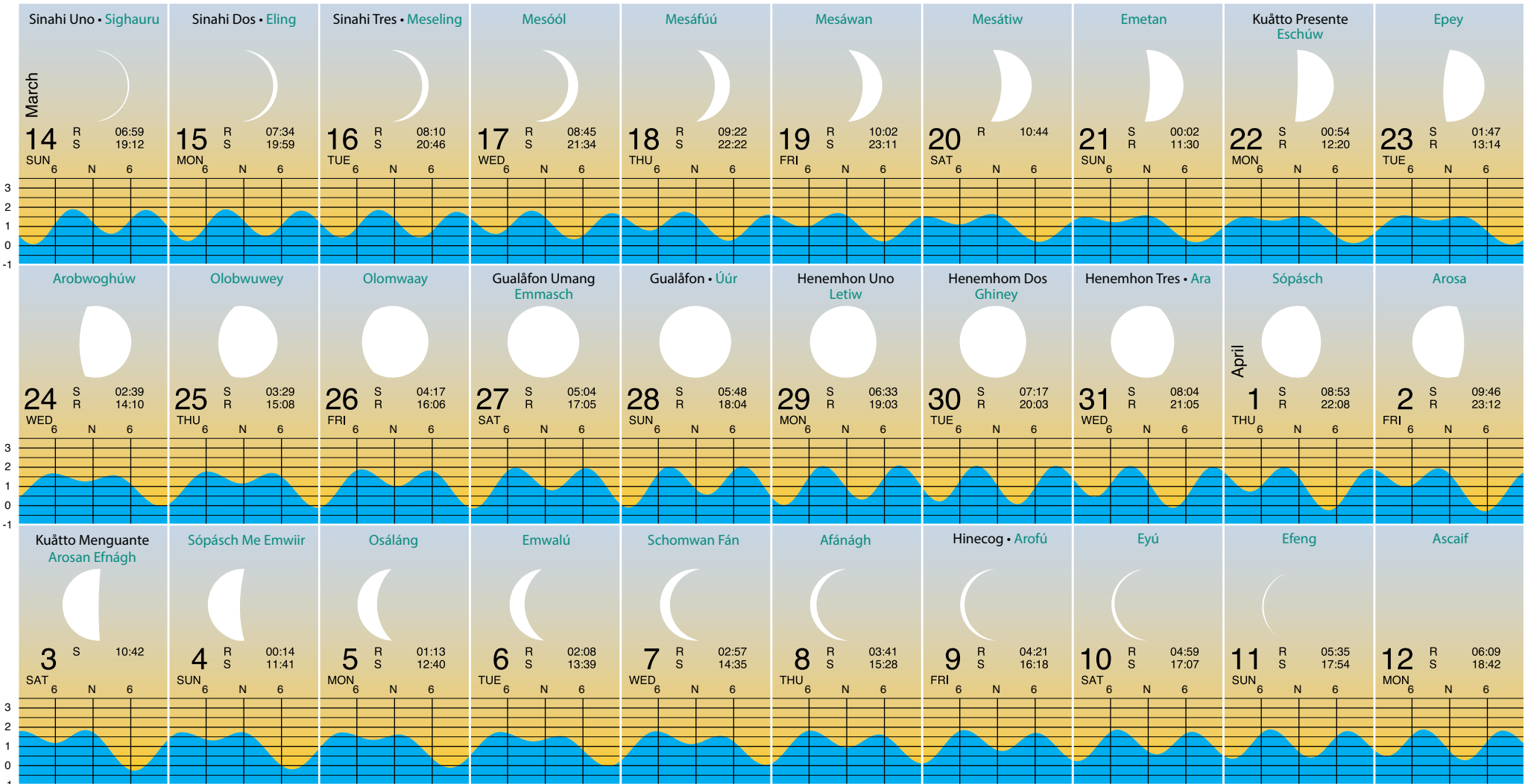


Aguiguan is a 2.74 square mile uninhabited island located 5 miles southwest of Tinian, separated by the Tinian Channel. It is nicknamed “Goat Island” due to the large number of feral goats present there. Goat Island has a long history of occupation, first by the Chamorros whose latte stones remain, then by the Japanese who grew sugar cane on the top-level plateau during the Japanese Era (early 20th century). The waters around Aguiguan are actively fished by trollers, bottomfishermen and spearfishermen.

Reference: Brainard, Russell E, et al. 2012. Coral Reef Ecosystem Monitoring Report of the Mariana Archipelago: 2003-2007.

Maimo Máilap

March 14 – April 12, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Chalan Kanoa (CK) Reef

(a.k.a. Double Reef or 6-Mile Reef) **SAIPAN**

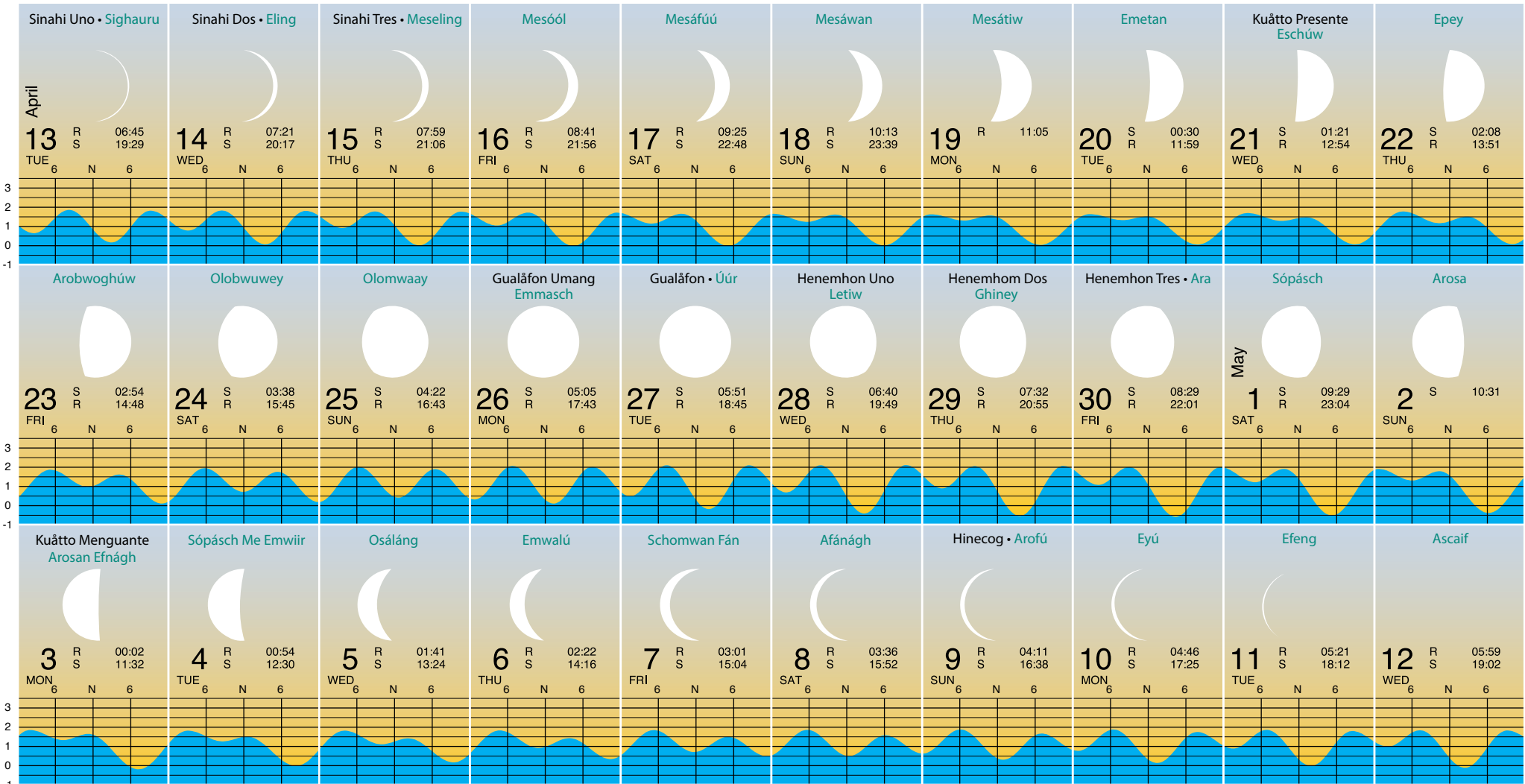
Above: Lino Tenorio with a giant *onaga* (long-tail red snapper) caught at CK Reef. *Photo: Lino Tenorio.* **[1]** JD Tenorio and Christopher Pangelinan with their yellowfin tuna. *Photo: JD Tenorio.* **[2]** (L-R) Jose (Ping), JD and Emma Tenorio show off their *mahimahi* (dolphinfish) after a fun day on the water. *Photo: JD Tenorio.* **[3]** Dennis Villagomez with his giant trevally. *Photo: Dennis Villagomez.*



Chalan Kanoa (CK) Reef is located 3–5 nautical miles west of Saipan, outside of Chalan Kanoa Village. The area is about 2 miles wide by about 3 miles long and actively used for shallow to deep bottomfishing.

Umatalaf Séétá

April 13 – May 12, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Wing Beach Drop-off

SAIPAN

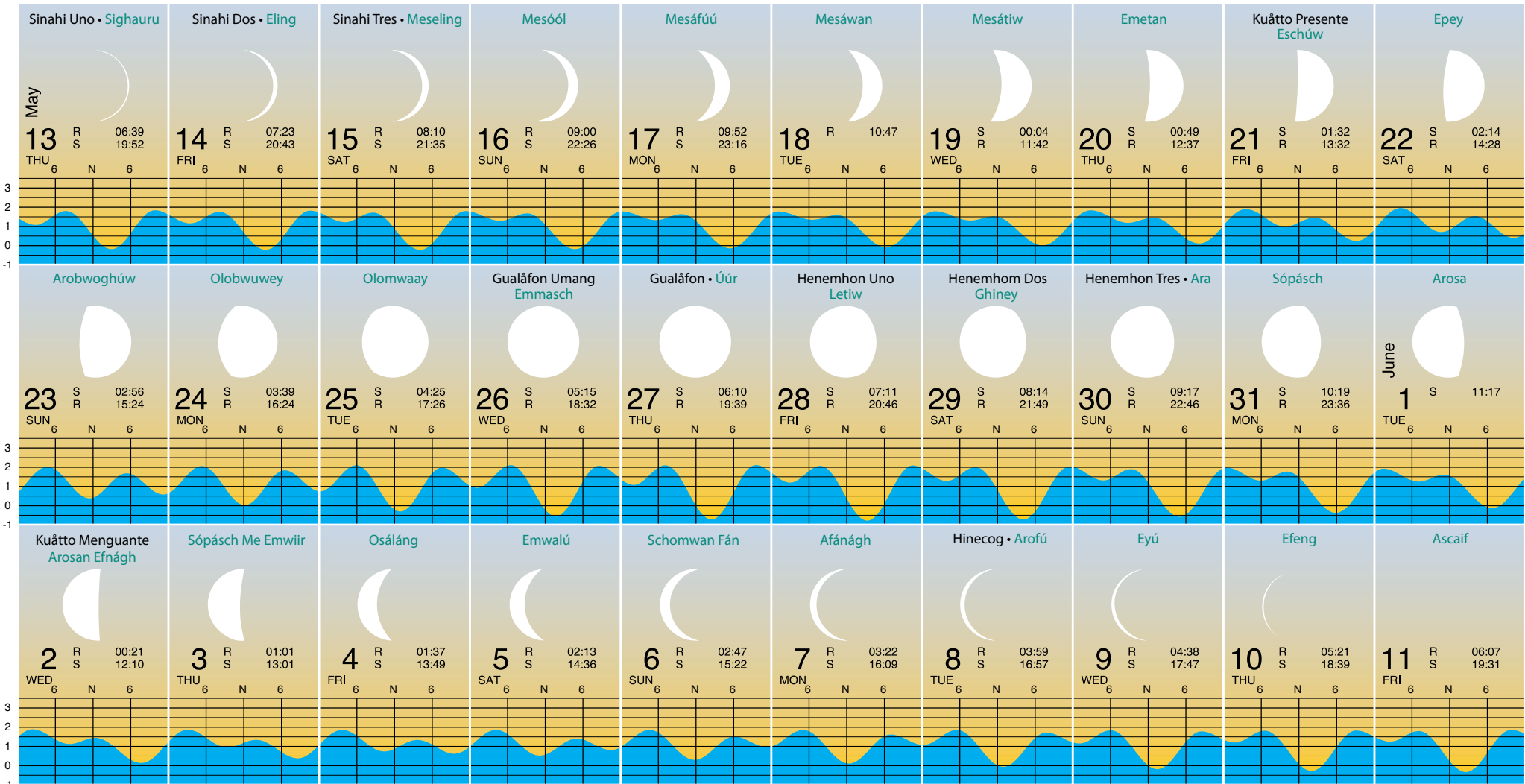
Above and right: Wing Beach is one of Saipan's hidden jewels. The generally calm, shallow, clear waters extend out to the coral reef. *Photos: Floyd Masga.* **Below right:** Fishing is a popular activity here. *Photo: William Hunter.*



On the north side of Saipan is Wing Beach, a secluded area for shoreline fishers and SCUBA divers. Just outside the reef lies the **Wing Beach Drop-off**, which is a site commonly used for shallow to deep bottom and *atulai* (scad mackerel) nighttime fishing.

Lumuhu ◊ Naa

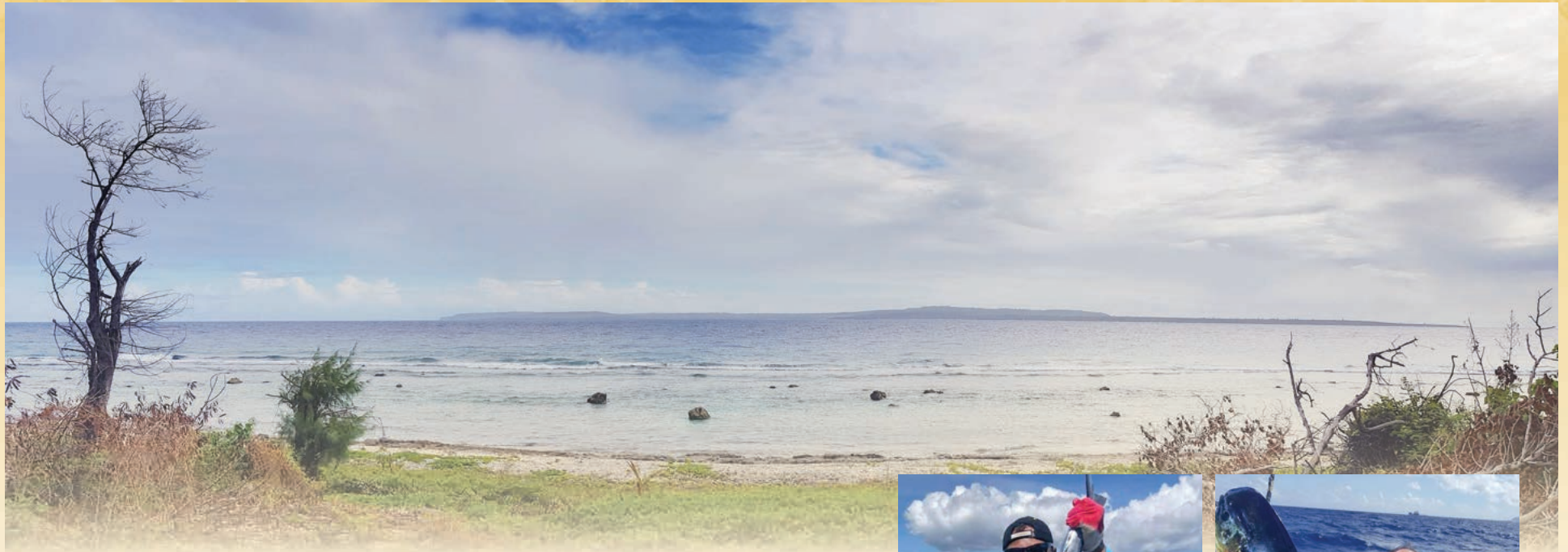
May 13 – June 11, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Tinian-Saipan Pinnacle

Above: The channel between Tinian and Saipan is about 5 miles across. *Photo: Floyd Masga.* [1] Wayne Pangelinan holds his wahoo caught near the Tinian-Saipan Pinnacle. *Photo: Wayne Pangelinan.* [2] Joe Itibus displays his mahimahi (dolphinfish) catch. *Photo: George Moses.* [3] Marcy Tenorio and her two onaga (long-tail red snapper). *Photo: Lino Tenorio.*

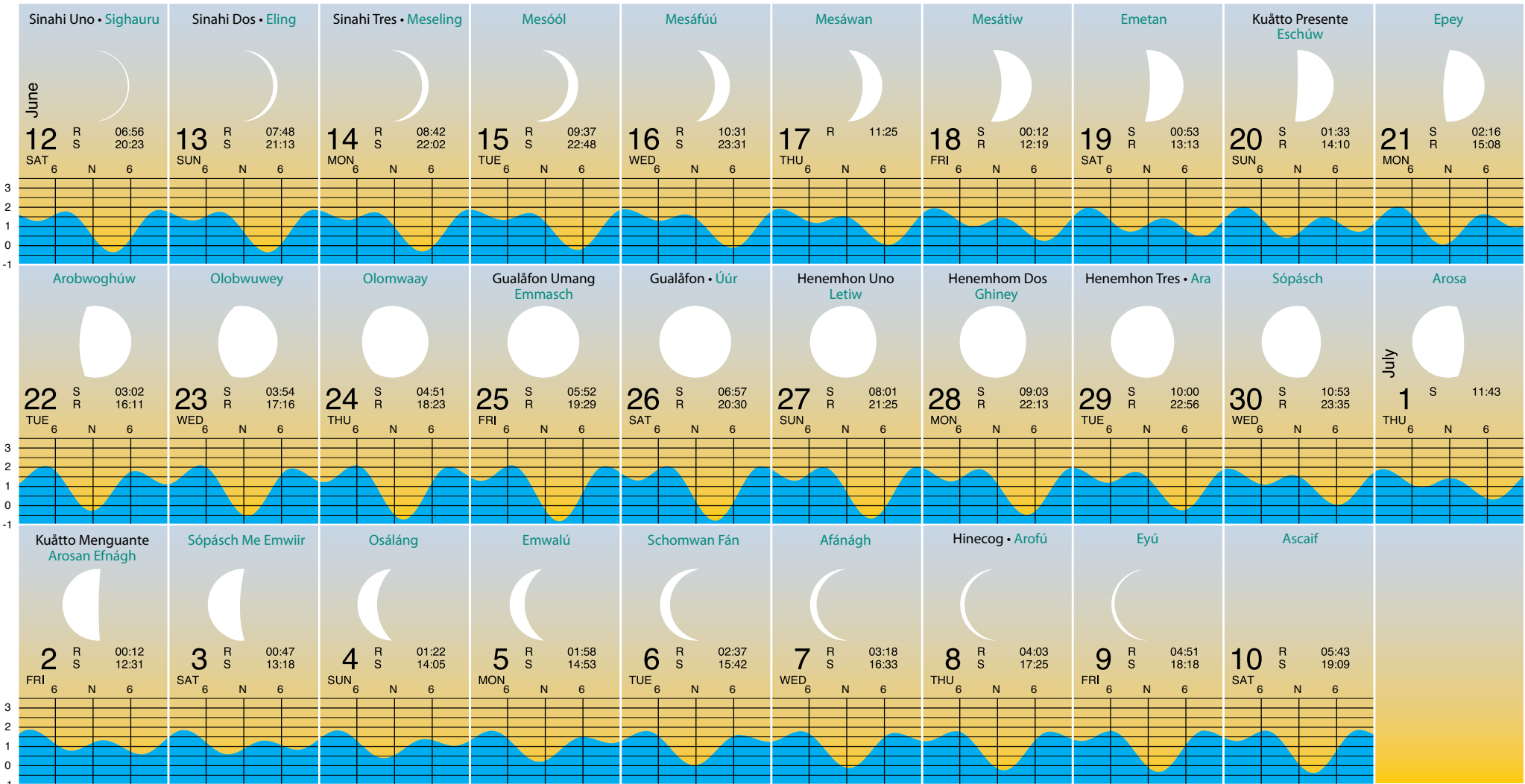


The pinnacle southwest of Tinian and Saipan is a popular fishing ground for bottomfish and trolling when seas are favorable.



Makmamao ◊ Ghúúw

June 12 – July 10, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



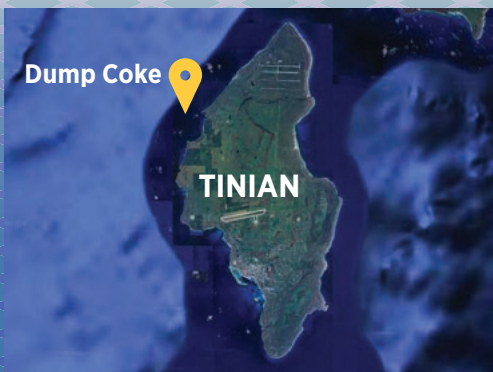
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Reef Coke

TINIAN

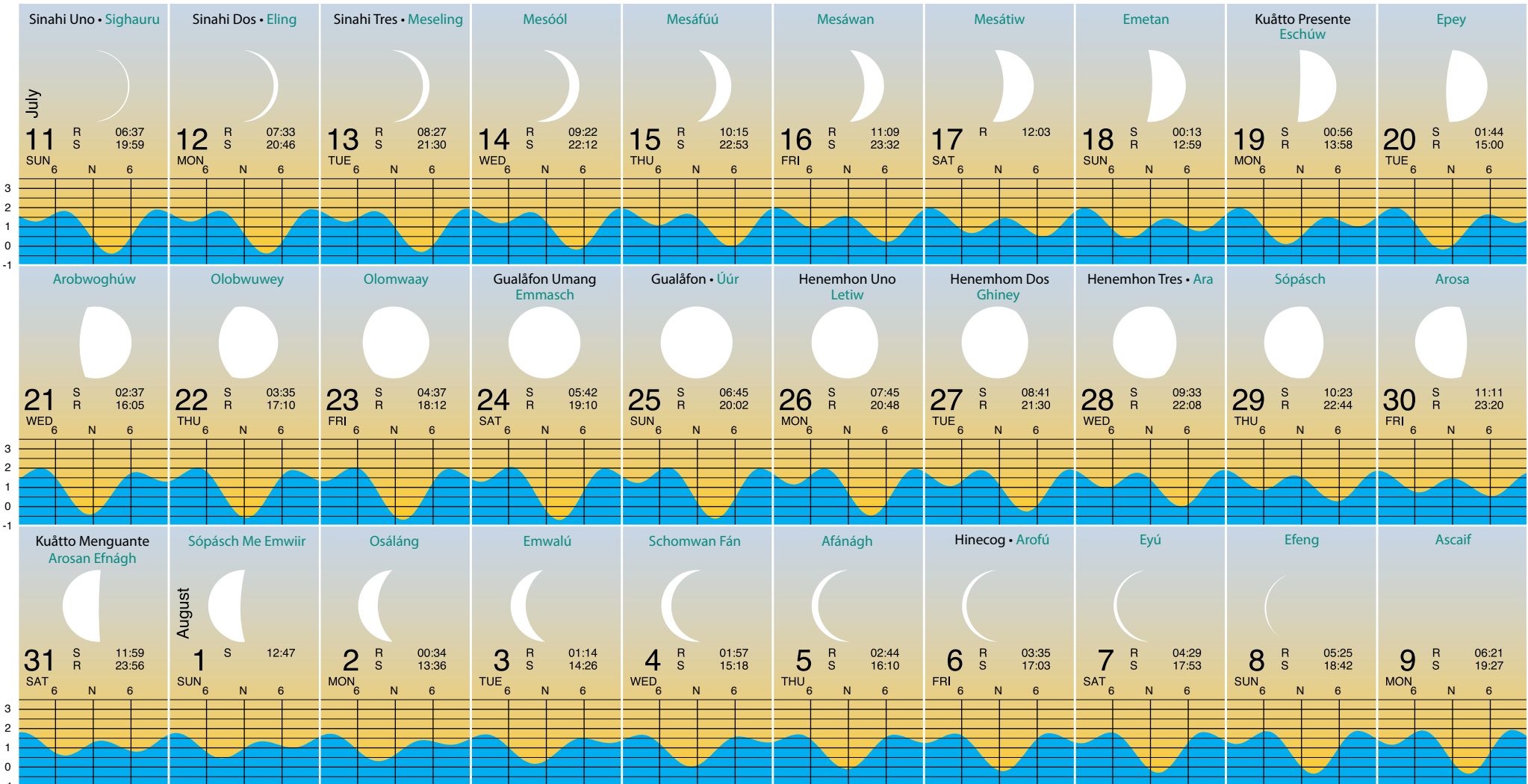
Above: Lino Tenorio, with his son Farjardo and wife Marcy, holding a dogtooth tuna caught at Reef Coke. *Photo: Lino Tenorio.* **[1]** Wayne Pangelinan lands a wahoo. *Photo: Wayne Pangelinan.* **[2]** (L) Tenorio and Takeda Nakazato catch two nice *onaga* (long-tail red snapper). *Photo: Lino Tenorio.* **[3]** (L) Joe Muña and Manny Degracia with two *mafuti* (red snout emperor) and one rainbow runner. *Photo: Joe Muña.*



The **Dump Coke**, or **Dump Cove**, is the site of a former canteen frequented by U.S. soldiers during World War II. Not only did they toss their empty Coca-Cola bottles into the lagoon, they left behind full cases of Coca-Cola, along with many other artifacts. Various war paraphanelia can still be seen, such as remains of jeeps and tanks, an aircraft and numerous bomb casings. However, abundant marine life can be found at the offshore reef, as well as a virtual underwater war museum. Anglers enjoy shallow to deep bottomfishing and trolling within the area. This spot is a favorite for locals to fish for target species such as wahoo, dogtooth tuna, *opakapaka* (pink snapper), *gindai* (oblique-banded snapper), *ehu* (ruby snapper) and *onaga* (long-tail red snapper).

Mananaf Uul

July 11 – August 9, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Tatsumi Reef

TINIAN

Above: (L-R) JD Tenorio, Gonzalo Pangelinan, George David and Chris (Toto) Pangelinan with their sailfish caught at Tatsumi Reef. *Photo: JD Tenorio.*
Right: (L-R) Alfred Muna, Chris Pangelinan, Jack Manglona and Oscar Sablan. *Photo: Floyd Masga.* **Below right:** Bonnie Reyes Pangelinan holds up her emperor catch. *Photo: Wayne Pangelinan.*

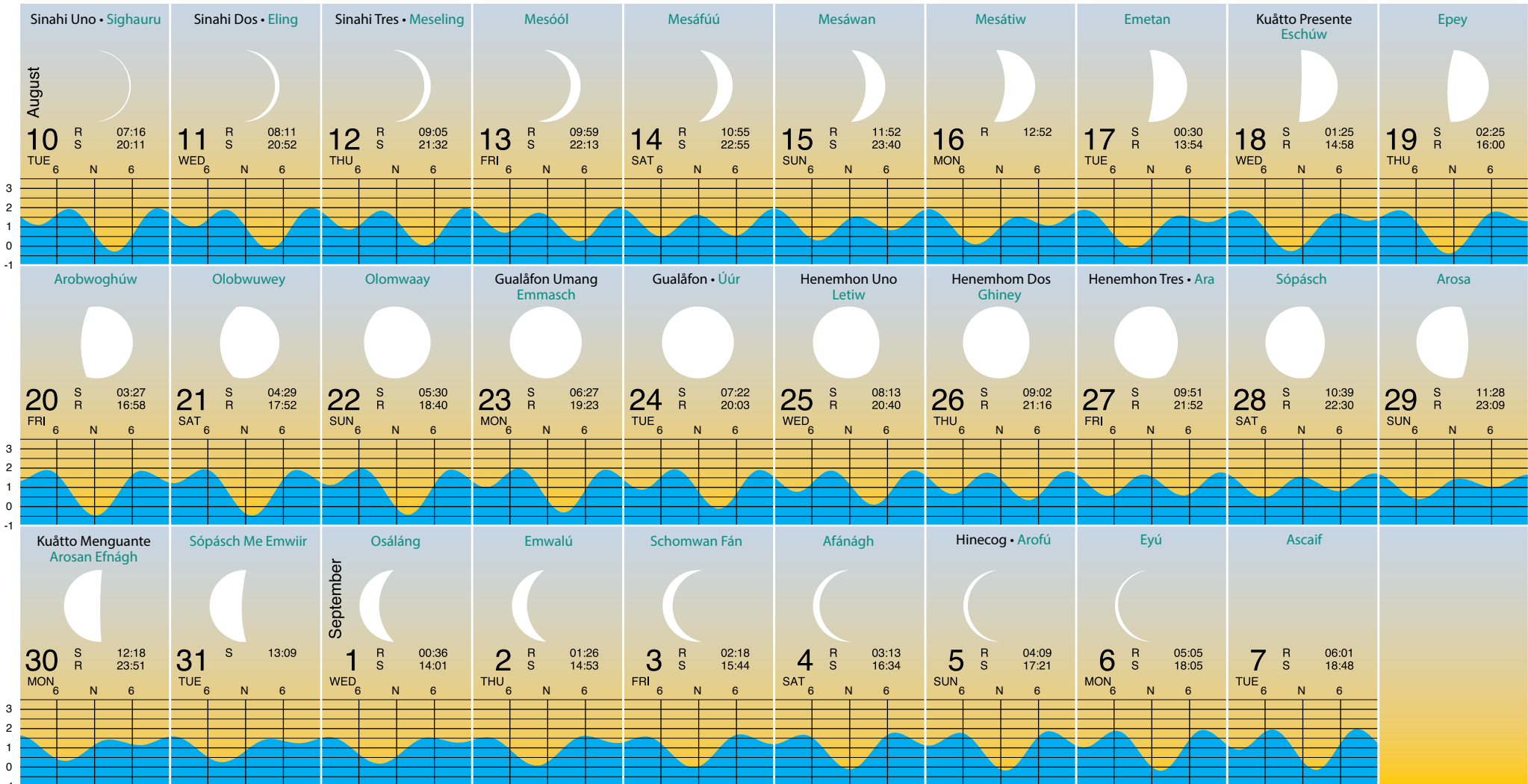


Tatsumi Reef, or **Tatsumi Bank**, is a popular fishing area that lies about 2 miles southeast of Tinian. It is heavily fished for pelagic species and shallow to deep-water bottomfish.



Semo Ehiyéł

August 10 – September 7, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



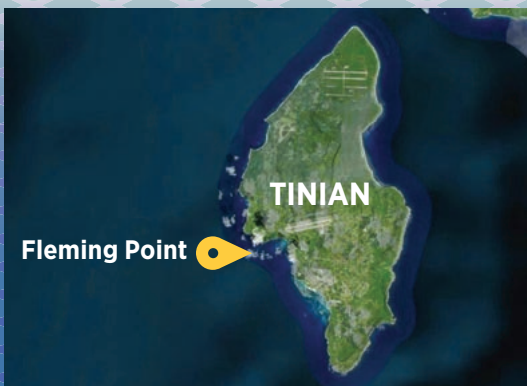
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Fleming Point

TINIAN

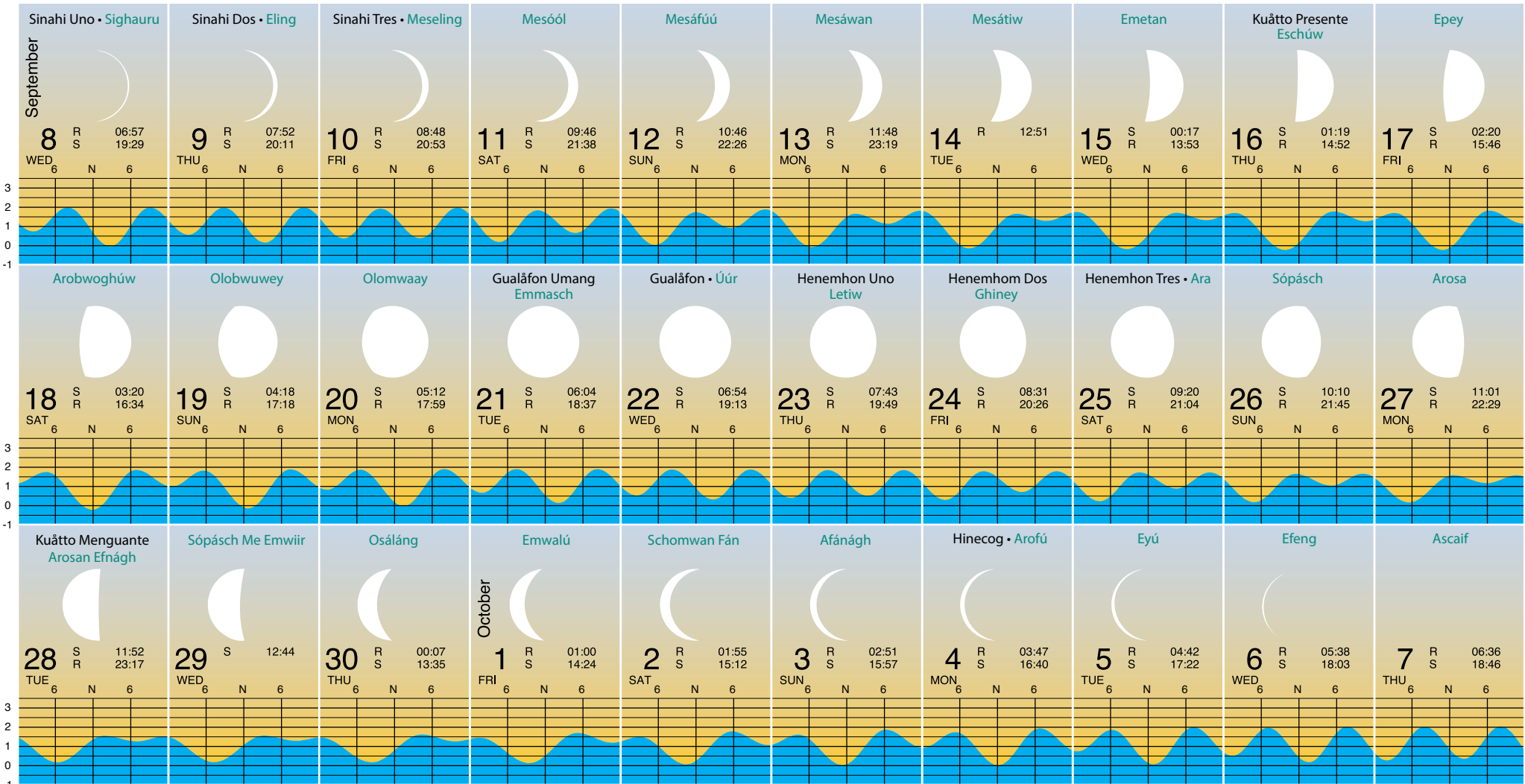
Left: Dennis John Moses had a great day of fishing at Fleming Point. *Photo: George Moses.* **Center:** Ray Delacruz displays his amberjack. *Photo: Ray Delacruz.* **Above:** Pete Ayuyu holds up his *gindai* (oblique-banded snapper). *Photo: Pete Ayuyu.*



Fleming Point is one of Tinian's fishing derby sites. Anglers try their hand at cliff fishing, trolling and shallow to deep bottomfishing and typically catch skipjack and dogtooth tuna, barracuda, *opakapaka* (pink snapper), *gindai* (oblique-banded snapper) and *onaga* (long-tail red snapper).

Tenhos Maal

September 8–October 7, 2021



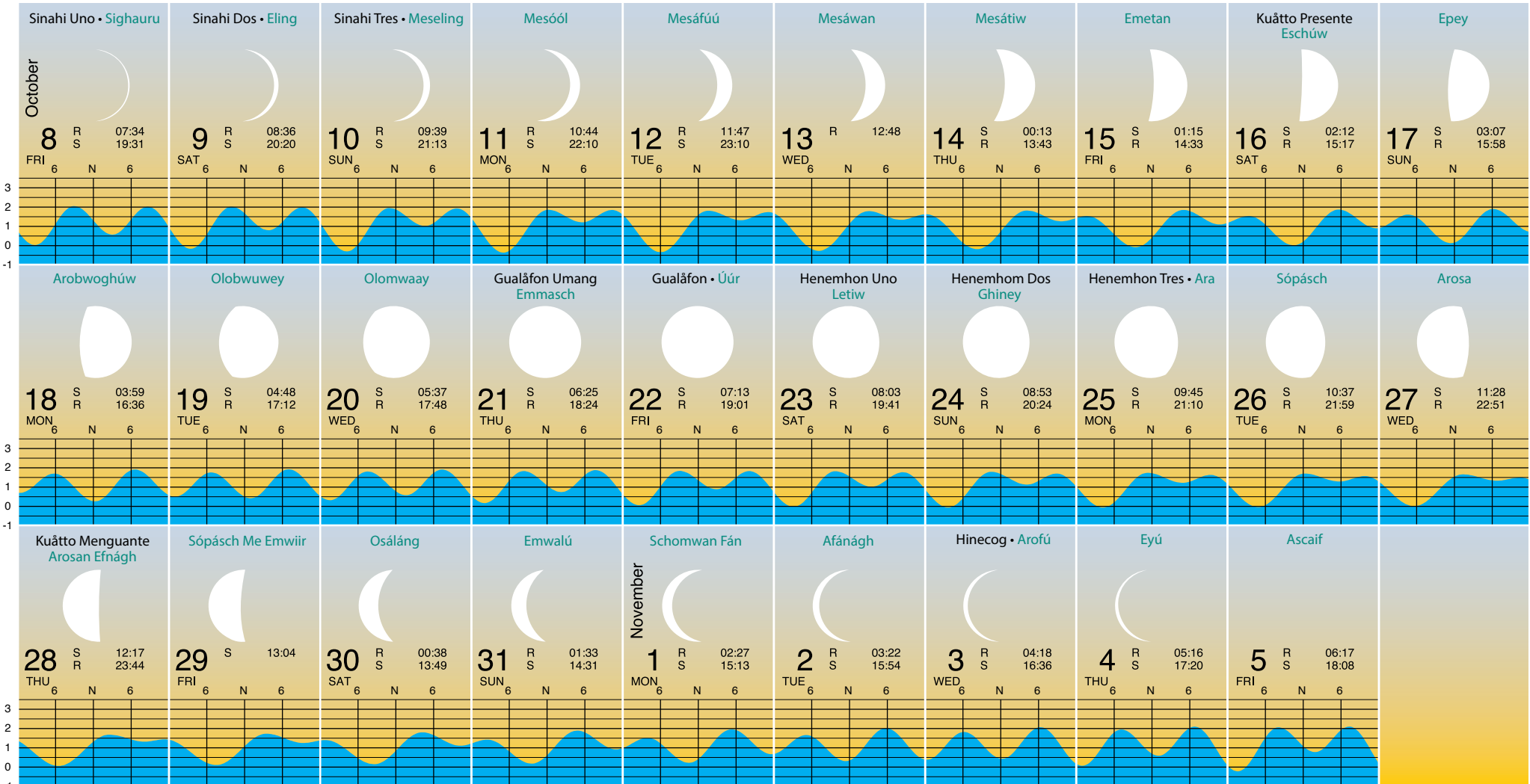
Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Lumamlam Itch

October 8 – November 5, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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As Matmos

ROTA



Left: Ton Roberts with his nice *monchong* (sickle pomfret) caught at As Matmos. Photo: Ton Roberts. [1] View of As Matmos cliffs, which can only be reached on foot from the road. The site is a good location to catch spiny lobsters [2] and parrotfish [3]. Photos: Perry Mesngon and Ray Roberto.

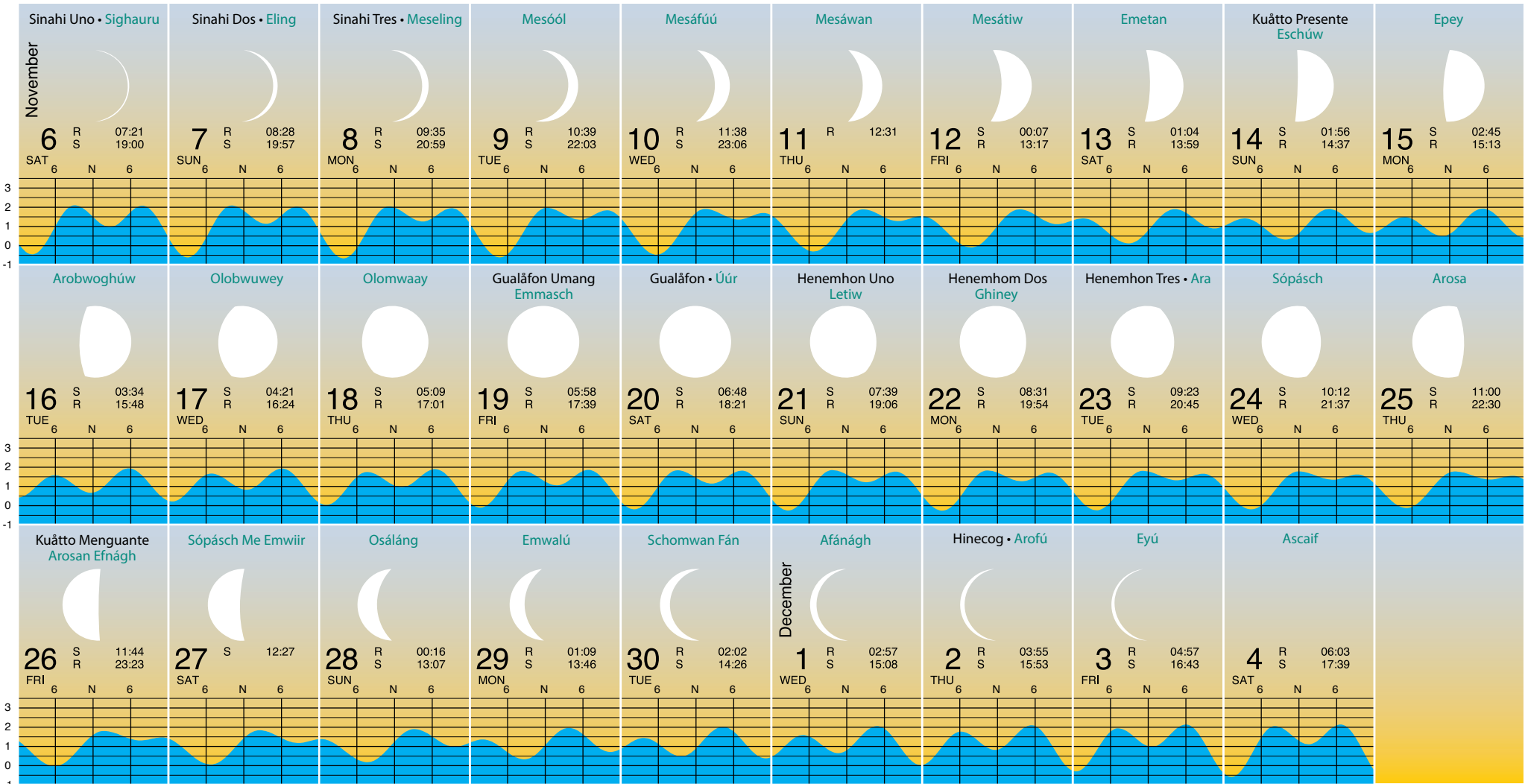


As Matmos (which means “at the place of drowning”) is located on the northeastern end of Rota. Low sea cliffs provide excellent access to offshore waters on calm days. As Matmos is also the venue for the annual Cliff Fishing Derby and a prime location for catching lobster. Large waves normally break against the shore, making it a very dangerous location.

Reference: Marianas Visitors Authority

Fanggualo' Sarobwél

November 6 – December 4, 2021



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Mañagaha Drop-off

SAIPAN

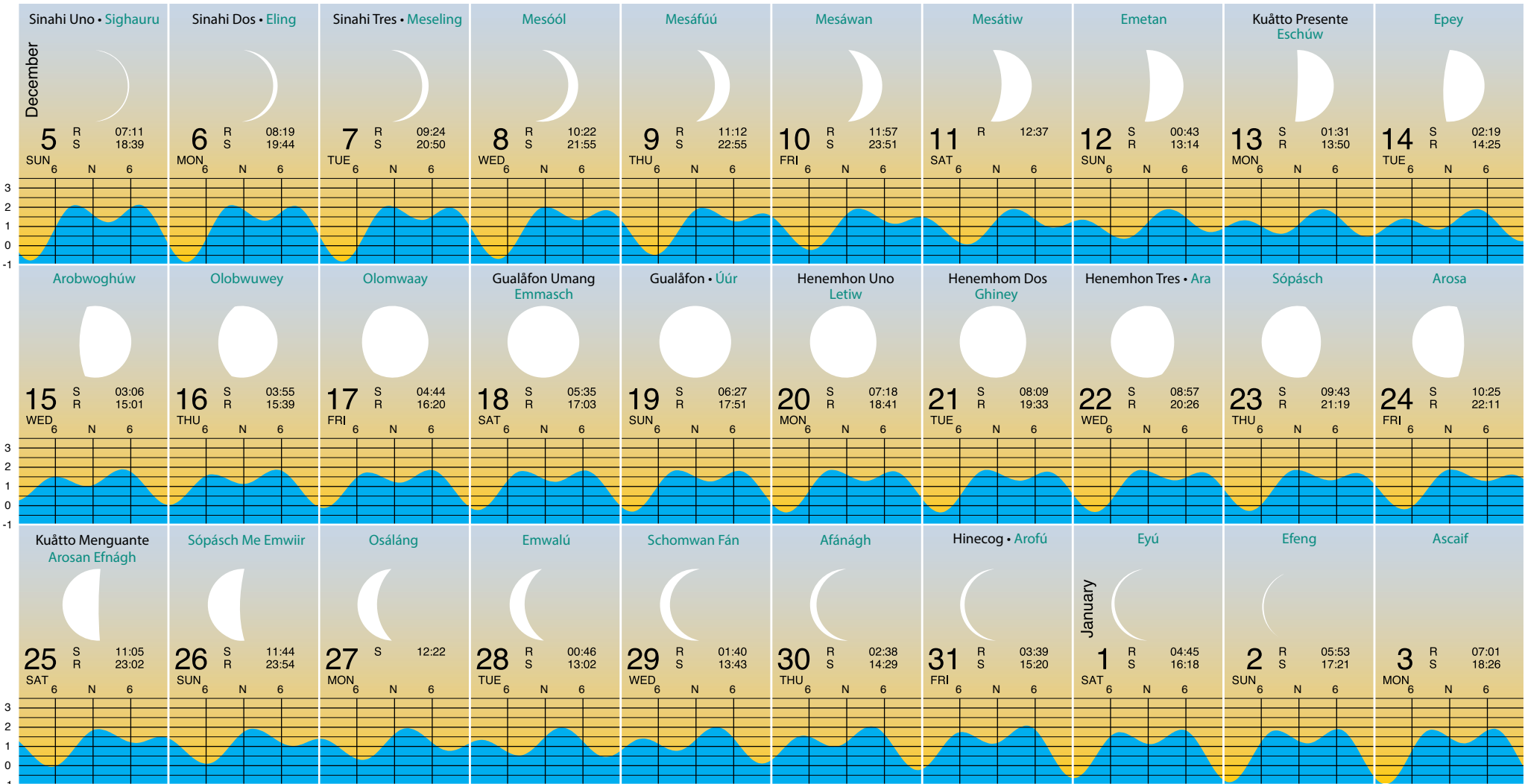
Above: Overlooking fishing grounds surrounding the small islet of Mañagaha. *Photo: William Hunter.* **Top right:** George and Candelaria Moses proudly display a big wahoo caught north of Mañagaha. *Photo: George Moses.* **Bottom right:** The *onaga* (long-tail red snapper) were biting for George Moses. *Photo: George Moses.*



Mañagaha is a small island 1.6 miles to the west coast of Saipan, within its lagoon. Another mile west of Mañagaha is a popular spot with a sharp change in the seafloor depth that is good for shallow to deep bottomfishing.

Sumongsong ◊ Oromoi

December 5, 2021–January 3, 2022



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Esmeralda Bank

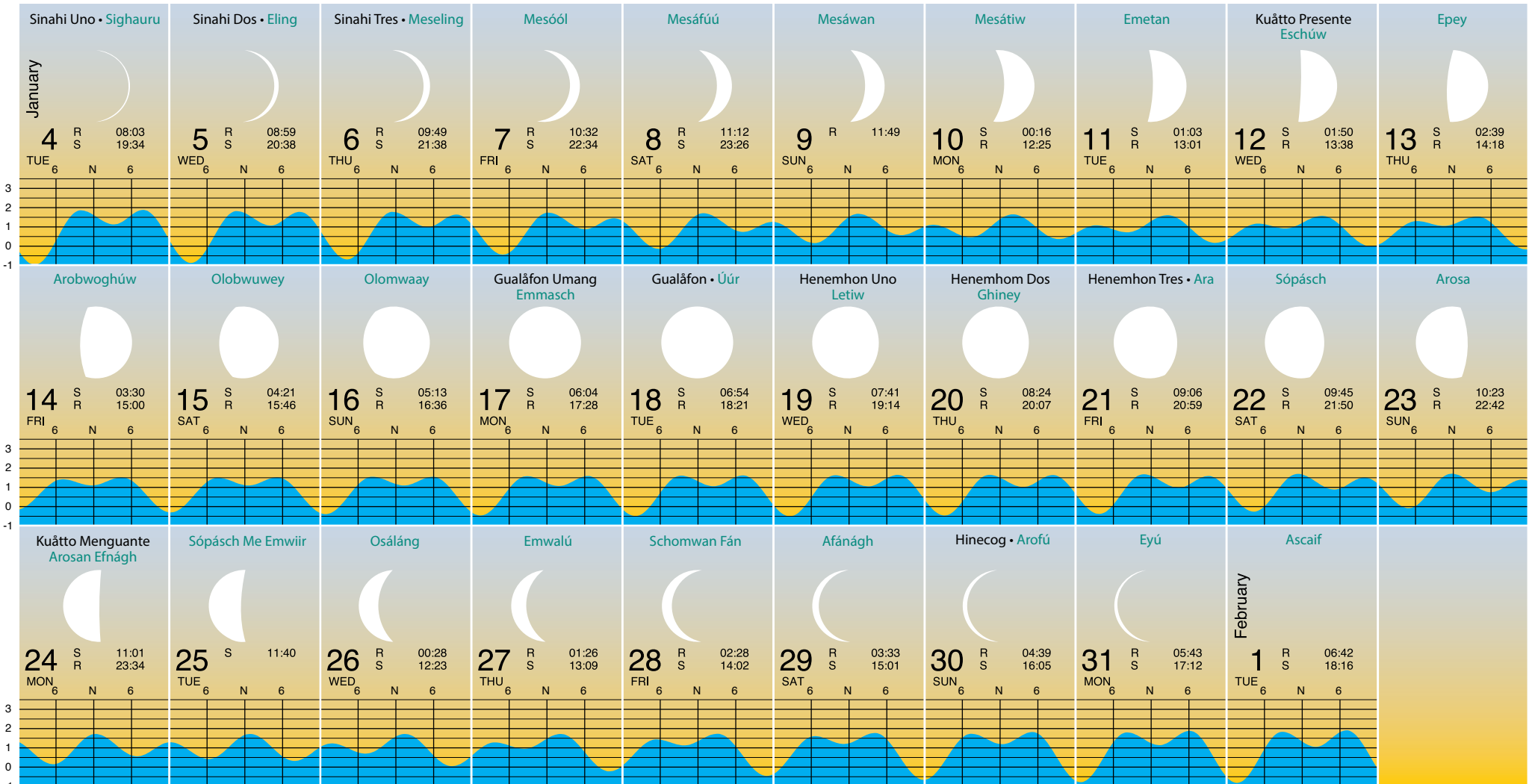
Above: The *onaga* fishing is good at Esmeralda Bank for Jesse Cabrera (left) and Takeda Nakazato. **Above right:** Anthony Deleon Guerrero with his beautiful *onaga*. **Right:** Lino Tenorio and Takeda Nakazato after a long day of fishing at Esmeralda. *Photos: Lino Tenorio.*



Esmeralda Bank is a submarine volcano about 25 miles southwest of Tinian that is a good location for bottomfishing and trolling when seas allow. *Onaga* (long-tail red snapper) are one of the popular target species.

Umayangan Schoow

January 4 – February 1, 2022



Moon-related Observations & Activities



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Overlooking the southwest side of Saipan, representing the range of fishing from casting onshore, to casting and spearfishing inside the lagoon, to gleaning, catching lobster and spearfishing on the reef, to trolling for pelagics and bottomfishing in the deep blue water. Photo: William Hunter.

About This Calendar

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has produced traditional lunar calendars for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) since 2007. The intent is to raise awareness about traditional ecological knowledge and enhance community involvement in fishery management.

The CNMI is a 300-mile archipelago consisting of 14 main islands, with a total land area of 1835 square miles. The principal inhabited islands are Saipan, Rota and Tinian, with the uninhabited Island of Aguiguan (Goat Island) located southeast of Tinian. The northern, largely uninhabited islands are Farallon de Medinilla, Anatahan, Sariguan, Guguan, Alamagan, Pagan, Agrihan, Asuncion, Maug Islands and Farallon de Pajaro (Uracas).

The CNMI's unique lagoons and shallow to deep underwater seamounts offer some of the best fishing in the Western Pacific for pelagic, reef and bottomfish. Anglers can troll for marlin, wahoo, *mabimabi* (dolphinfish) and yellowfin tuna in and around fish aggregating devices and underwater mounds, or drop their lines to go bottomfishing for shallow to deep water species, such as *onaga* (long-tail red snapper), giant groupers and many other types of snappers. Within

the reefs, anglers can catch lobsters and a variety of reef fish, including the prized blue parrotfish and unicornfish.

This 2021 *Eskaleran Pulan Chamorro/2021 Refaluwasch Pápáál Maram* highlights popular fishing grounds around the CNMI. Chamorro and Refaluwasch are the indigenous people of the Mariana Archipelago. Chamorro and Refaluwasch, along with English, are the official languages of the CNMI. The Chamorro names for the lunar months and moon phases are in black and the Refaluwasch names are in green.

The moon phases in this calendar are for Saipan 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 Saipan and were provided by OceanFun Publishing, NZ.

A special *un dangkulu na si yu'us ma'ase* and *ghilisou tumo'ogh* to calendar contributors noted for each month.

Front cover photo: An aerial view of Saipan island (looking south). Wing Beach Drop-off and Mañagaha Drop-off fishing grounds can be seen to the right of the reef edge.

PHOTO: WILLIAM HUNTER

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 CNMI, American Samoa, Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas. The fisheries in federal waters surrounding the CNMI 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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Teteto Beach Reef

ROTA



Left: Teteto Beach is a popular spot for islanders. *Photo: Perry Mesngon.*
[1] (L-R) Ray Yumal, Victor Hocog and Jesus (Gere) Guerrero caught *onaga* (long-tail red snapper) two miles off Teteto Beach. *Photo: Ray Roberto.* Spiny lobsters [2] and *menpachi* (soldierfish) [3] are found at this productive reef. *Photos: Floyd Masga and Ray Roberto.*



The reef off Teteto Beach is a popular spot for nighttime spearfishing for lobster and other bigger game. It is also known as the resting place for the *Iota*, a Spanish Galleon that sank in the 1500s. From the reef to 3 miles offshore, anglers go trolling and commonly catch a variety of pelagic species such as *mahimahi* (dolphinfish), yellowfin tuna and marlin. Bottomfishers find it is a good spot for *gindai* (oblique-banded snapper), *lehi* (silver mouth snapper), blackjack and *onaga* (long-tail red snapper).