

**ISLAND OF GUAM
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HAGÁTÑA, GUAM 96932
U.S.A.**

Executive Order No. 2019-12

**RELATIVE TO THE CREATION OF THE GUAM
AQUACULTURAL TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the United States imports a majority of its edible seafood supplies, creating an annual deficit exceeding \$12 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, Guam imports an estimated \$10 million dollars of seafood products annually; and

WHEREAS, worldwide aquaculture production (inclusive of aquatic plants) is estimated to be valued at \$250 billion dollars and in excess of 150 million tons; and

WHEREAS, Guam seeks to develop sustainable seafood products and strengthen the island's food security through further development of an aquaculture industry; and

WHEREAS, Guam first initiated an investigation into commercial aquaculture in 1973 by establishing experimental ponds in the village of Talofofu; and

WHEREAS, since the initial efforts, continuous leadership and support waned; and

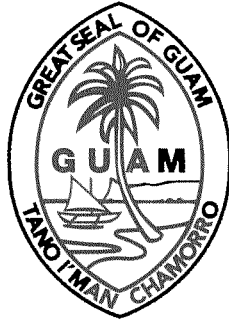
WHEREAS, in the 2000s, a resurgence of interest in aquaculture production occurred and a fledgling industry was established and was successful in delivering products to Guam's market and for limited export; and

WHEREAS, in the past decade, the University of Guam has developed Pathogen-Free Shrimp at its bio-secure facility and is poised, through a public-private partnership, to produce pathogen-free shrimp and other aquaculture products for local consumption and export; and

WHEREAS, the University of Guam's Sea Grant Program is eligible to seek federal funding to support aquaculture research, strategic planning, technology commercialization, and innovation for the island; and

WHEREAS, the Qualifying Certificate Program, created under Public Law 8-80 and amended under Public Law 20-178 and Public Law 22-159, which is administered by the Guam Economic Development Authority lists aquaculture as an eligible activity wherein investors are able to obtain incentives to invest in this industry; and

WHEREAS, there is increasing demand on-island for seafood that is sustainable, affordable, and meets high standards for safety, quality, and environmental stewardship with maximum opportunity for small business profitability and economic growth; and



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WHEREAS, Guam needs coordination to advance understanding of the interaction of aquaculture and the environment, improve production efficiency and well-being, increase supply of nutritious, safe, high-quality seafood and aquatic products, improve performance of production systems, create a skilled workforce and enhance technology transfer, develop, and use socioeconomic and business research to advance domestic aquaculture; and

WHEREAS, the aquaculture potential could benefit from additional leadership and coordination amongst educational institutions, government entities, and other stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO, *Maga'hågan Guåhan*, Governor of Guam, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Organic Act of Guam, as amended, and the laws of Guam, do hereby:

Establish the Guam Aquacultural Task Force, to be comprised of representatives from the Department of Agriculture and the Guam Economic Development Authority, who shall serve as Co-Chairs, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency, the University of Guam, the Guam Community College, the Guam Department of Education, and other stakeholders and partners necessary to establish a sustainable aquaculture industry in Guam.

Signed and Promulgated at *Hagåtña*, Guam, this 30th day of April, 2019.



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Attested by:

TINA ROSE MUNA BARNES
Åkto Sigundo Maga'hågan Guåhan
Acting Lieutenant Governor of Guam