

# Palauans Seize Japan Trawler

SAIPAN (MNS) — A Japanese fishing vessel, the Koto Maru 8, was seized by Palau District authorities Friday.

The ship and her nine crewmen were taken into custody after being observed for several days by the people of Angaur municipality, apparently fishing within territorial waters.

The ship's master, Hisahiro Yotsuya and Fishing Master Atsushi Yotsuya, have been charged with illegal entry and taking of marine resources. Authorities reportedly found evidence on board the ship to indicate the crew had been illegally taking marine resources from within the territorial waters of the TT. Both men are now awaiting trial before TT High Court. They have been released on bail.

The Koto Maru 8 is owned by Sakae Yotsuya of Nagasaki prefecture. The honorary counsel on Guam, James Shintaku, has been informed of the seizure of the ship.