

AMENDMENT NO. 14

AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 14: NATURAL RESOURCES

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES
PROPOSED BY THE
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

AMENDED CONSTITUTION AS PROPOSED
BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

ARTICLE XIV: NATURAL RESOURCES

Section 1: Delete reference to United States law as defining jurisdiction over which the Commonwealth asserts its claim to marine resources.

Section 2: Delete reference to Managaha. That is now covered under Article 11, Section 6(b) which covers permanent preserves on or adjacent to inhabited islands that are set aside for public uses. This section covers uninhabited islands.

Section 3: None

Section 4: Allocates 5% of royalties and fees from natural resources on or beneath public lands to local governments. This is new.

Section 1: Marine Resources.

The marine resources in waters off the coast of the Commonwealth over which the Commonwealth now or hereafter may have any jurisdiction shall be managed, controlled, protected and preserved by the legislature for the benefit of the people.

Section 2: Uninhabited Islands.

The islands of Maug, Uracas, Asuncion, Guguan and other islands specified by law shall be maintained as uninhabited places and used only for the preservation and protection of natural resources, including but not limited to bird, wildlife and plant species.

Section 3: Places and Things of Cultural and Historical Significance.

Places of importance to the culture, traditions and history of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands shall be protected and preserved and public access to these places shall be maintained as provided by law. Artifacts and other things of cultural or historical significance shall be protected, preserved and maintained in the Commonwealth as provided by law.

Section 4: Natural Resources.

The mineral, water and other natural resources located on or beneath public lands shall be managed, controlled, protected and preserved by the legislature for the benefit of the people.

Section 5: Royalties and Fees.

Royalties and other fees paid to the Commonwealth with respect to resources protected by this article shall be shared with the municipalities at the rate of five percent.