



bottom trawling is felt in concrete ways. Palau has banned all bottom trawling within its waters and by any Palauan or Palauan company anywhere in the world. Palauan law also obligates Palau to seek an interim prohibition on unregulated bottom trawling in international waters. Much like the rationale behind the *bul* system, this law seeks to protect deep sea fish when they aggregate around seamounts for breeding and feeding, and are thus most vulnerable.

In Palau it is more than just a saying, “we do not inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children,” it is a deeply held belief. And the Pacific philosophy that the oceans unite us rather than divide us is one which we hope will be borne out in our interactions in the United Nations in the days to come as we seek real solutions for protecting this most precious of resources.