

## SHORT STORIES FROM NAMOLUK

### Story of the Flying Fish

In the whole Mortlock region, no one can surpass the men of Namoluk in catching flying fish. Only Namolukese men use nets and poles to catch flying fish. The nets and poles are attached together. The men scoop the fish out of the ocean surface with the net while holding the pole firmly in both hands. At the present time, motorboats and flashlights are replacing sailing canoes and dried coconut leaves to catch flying fish. Taboos that apply for catching flying fish in the past still exist today. Choosing to disobey these taboos will give you black eye, broken bloody nose, swollen mouth with broken or loss teeth, or a stab in the belly from swordfish. You will also encounter bad weather even though at daytime the weather is fair.

### Alangen Mwáán

It is a name given to a coral reef which extends from the coastline to the barrier reef of Namoluk Island in Chuuk State. It got its name from what happened in the past. A sailing canoe from Moch Island carrying an unknown number of magicians arrived at the reef of Namoluk Atoll. The magicians diffused their magic upon the able and brave men of Namoluk. The power of their magic settled upon the men of Namoluk and suddenly, they all rushed toward the coral reef and died there.

Why such thing happened? It started out of jealousy for a son of Namoluk born of a marriage between a man of Namoluk and a woman of Moch. The son had unusual power which allowed him to walk under the ocean without getting wet or to be able to catch big fish. The men from Moch were jealous and tried to obtain this super knowledge through the wife but the man from Namoluk refused. The men from Moch realized that this knowledge will never be theirs, so they devised a plan to kill the man from Namoluk. Someone informed the man of Namoluk about the plot, and he was able to flee to his home island. He did this by walking on the seafloor to his home island.

