

**From:** Michael Weiss - NOAA Federal  
**To:** [Bowman, Randal](#)  
**Subject:** Re: comments on marine monuments  
**Date:** Friday, June 23, 2017 7:15:16 AM

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On Fri, Jun 23, 2017 at 8:14 AM, Bowman, Randal <[randal\\_bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

OK, good luck with that.

On Fri, Jun 23, 2017 at 8:12 AM, Michael Weiss - NOAA Federal  
<[michael.weiss@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.weiss@noaa.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Randy.

FYI. Our FRN requesting public notice under 13795 is filing today and I believe will be published on Monday.

On Thu, Jun 22, 2017 at 4:23 PM, Bowman, Randal <[randal\\_bowman@ios.doi.gov](mailto:randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

The most recent set of approximately 10,000 comments had 10 near-duplicate ones focused on marine monuments. Here is one of those FYI -

The country's marine national monuments, which are home to a tremendous diversity and richness of ocean life, are of significant scientific, historic, and cultural value. Designated under the Antiquities Act, the Papahnaumokuakea, Pacific Remote Islands, Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments constitute the first generation of blue parks bestowed on our nation.

An attempt to roll back protections on any one of these monuments imperils our country's cultural and scientific legacy, and we strongly urge you to maintain the current protections for all marine national monuments.

The Antiquities Act, signed by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906, safeguards and preserves U.S. public lands and waters that contain objects of historic or scientific interest. Sixteen past presidents - eight Republicans and eight Democrats - have used this authority to designate over 150 monuments, thereby preserving our special places at sea and on land for future generations of Americans.

Although two-thirds of the planet's surface is water, we have been slow to recognize the importance of protecting the marine environment. This is changing, thanks to U.S. leadership. Our diverse U.S. marine monuments protect a rich array of ocean species and their habitats, provide nursery and spawning habitats for commercially-valuable fish and crustacean populations, and offer sought-after recreational angling opportunities. Deep-sea ecosystems in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts are home to sperm whales, Atlantic puffins, and lush deep sea coral gardens, including one of the planet's oldest organisms, black corals, and other species that may contain chemical compounds of biomedical importance. The expansion of Papahnaumokuakea prevents sharks, sea turtles, sea birds, and marine mammals from being caught by longline fishing and helps

safeguard the traditional culture of the Native Hawaiian community.

I am confident that your reviews pursuant to President Trump's executive orders will find each marine national monument was created or expanded squarely within the authority of the Antiquities Act, and each was established with broad public support and significant input from the local community.

I write to add my voice, to show that there is a strong desire from the public that the U.S. recognize the value of its diverse marine ecosystems, and not alter or eliminate any of the protections for the marine national monuments.

I urge you to support the following list of National Monuments and recommend that our current national monuments remain as they are today. Please accept this letter as an official public comment for Docket No. DOI-2017-0002.

AMERICAN SAMOA Rose Atoll

HAWAII Papahnaumokuakea

NEW ENGLAND Northeast Canyons and Seamounts

PACIFIC OCEAN Marianas Trench Pacific Remote Islands

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