

From: <Kashieka_Minor@ios.doi.gov>
To: Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DCN: EST-00002879 - Information concerning the Marine National Monument designations/Antiquities Act
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 2:09:22 PM
Attachments: [IN-2879.pdf](#)

For processing.



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

May 09, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross
Secretary of Commerce
US Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

We understand from the Department of the Interior May 5th press release concerning Presidential Executive Orders 13792 and 13795, on the review of Monument designations under the Antiquities Act, that the Department of Commerce will lead the review of the Marine National Monuments in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior.

The designations of the Marine National Monuments in the Western Pacific Region impact the long-term continuity of key US tuna fisheries by removing over 50 percent of the US EEZ to commercial fishing. Monument designations displace the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the nation's primary fishery management law which mandates the prevention of overfishing and the achievement of optimal yield for the benefit of the Nation. Attached is a record of our communications that convey our concerns with Marine National Monuments and information regarding their socio-economic impacts on US fisheries and fishing communities, lack of scientific evidence, and regulatory duplication.

The bottom-line is that Marine National Monument designations in the Western Pacific Region are unnecessary for the conservation and management of fishery resources and their fishing provisions should be vacated. This would not leave these waters void of management controls, as there exists a comprehensive suite of fishing regulations developed over the past several decades under the MSA that remain in the Code of Federal Regulations.

We are available to discuss these important matters with you should it facilitate your review of the Marine National Monuments.

Sincerely,

Edwin Ebisui Jr.
Council Chair

Kitty M. Simonds
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL
OFFICE OF THE
Cc: Honorable President Donald J. Trump
Honorable Secretary Ryan Zinke

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Attachments

List of Attachments

Number	Document	Date
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPRFMC analysis of Pew Charitable Trusts supported "Pu'uhonua a Place of Sanctuary: The Cultural and Biological Significance of the Proposed Expansion for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument". The WPRFMC analysis was reviewed for accuracy by the National Marine Fisheries Service Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and rebuts the scientific claims made in the Pew document. 	July 14, 2016
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke communicating impacts Marine Monument designations and expansion within the Western Pacific Region Attached to letter is an overview of Marine National Monuments in the Western Pacific Region corresponding to the seven categories listed in Executive Order 13792. Also included are maps of the Western Pacific Region showing monuments and other fishery regulations established by the WPRFMC under the authority of the Magnuson Steven Act. 	April 26, 2017
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Trump requesting removal of the monument fishing provisions in the Marine National Monuments and summarizing monument impacts. Attachments include letters supporting the removal of the monument fishing provisions from the Governors of Guam, CNMI and American Samoa, and Congressman Bishop, Chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources and Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen. 	April 14, 2017
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Obama expressing concern about the impacts of expanding the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument 	December 1, 2016
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Obama expressing concern about the inadequate implementation of the Marianas Trench, Rose Atoll and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments. 	December 1, 2016
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Obama providing options for the expansion of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, that would not involve closing the entire US EEZ waters around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands 	August 17, 2016
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Obama communicating a WPRFMC resolution on the proposed expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. 	August 12, 2016
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Obama communicating concerns over Hawaii Senator Brian Schatz proposal to expanded monument around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands 	July 14, 2016
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Obama expressing concerns about expanding the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, which included an information paper from the Council on the lack of fisheries conservation benefits of an expanded monument 	April 8, 2016
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter to President Bush from the WPRFMC expressing concerns that the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument would contain an islands unit comprising the top three islands of the Mariana Archipelago (Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion) that are already protected under federal and commonwealth law. 	November 10, 2008



**WESTERN
PACIFIC
REGIONAL
FISHERY
MANAGEMENT
COUNCIL**

1164 BISHOP STREET
SUITE 1400
HONOLULU, HAWAII
96813
U.S.A.

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240