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**Subject:** Marine National Monument Executive Summary  
**Date:** Monday, July 24, 2017 4:12:40 PM  
**Attachments:** [PMNM\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_Final.docx](#)  
[PRIMNM\\_Executive\\_summary\\_final.docx](#)  
[RAMNM\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_Final.docx](#)  
[MTMNM\\_Executive\\_Summary\\_Final.docx](#)

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Good Evening -

Attached are the 4 Executive Summaries for the Pacific Marine National Monuments. I have also uploaded these to the Google Drive folder. Thank you for the time extension, and please let Jeff or I know if you have any questions about these summaries.

Best,  
Samantha

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## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about Marianas Trench Marine National Monument**

On January 6, 2009, the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument (MTMNM) was established by President George W. Bush through Presidential Proclamation 8335 encompassing three units: the waters and submerged lands of the three northernmost Mariana Islands (the “Islands Unit”), and the submerged lands of designated volcanic sites (the “Volcanic Unit”) and the Mariana Trench (the “Trench Unit”), totaling approximately 61,000,000 acres within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone. Located in the Marianas Archipelago, east of the Philippine Islands and southeast of Japan, the Mariana Trench is approximately 940 nautical miles (nmi) long and 38 nmi wide and contains the deepest known points in the global ocean. . The purpose for the designation was to protect the unique and scientifically significant underwater features within the Marianas Archipelago and the greater marine ecosystems that depend on the submerged lands and waters identified.

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

A press release from Washington, DC was published on September 30, 2008, to invite the public to participate in roundtable conversations about the scientific, historical and cultural resources, and the potential for protection and coordinated management of marine areas in the Pacific. Information and comments received at these open houses were taken into consideration for the final Monument designation. Public meetings were held in Guam and Saipan by James Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality and his Federal representatives in October 2008. The public was given the opportunity to learn about the proposal to designate a marine protected area, ask questions, and provide their comments. Public comments were solicited for 60 days from August 25, 2008 to October 25, 2008, and were to be sent to: James Connaughton at 722 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC, 20503. Mr. Connaughton met with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Governor and other elected officials to discuss the proposal, followed by two more meetings between his staff and the Governor’s staff prior to the MTMNM designation, in the summer of 2008. More than 100 non-federally hosted meetings and forums were held by the CNMI Council for the Humanities, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Northern Marianas College, and the Friends of the Monument prior to the Monument designation on January 6, 2009. Additionally, a community outreach campaign by the Friends of the Monument reached almost every citizen in the CNMI. They published more than 100 letters to the editor and collected more than 6,000 petition signatures. Also, Mr. Connaughton and/or his representatives held several meetings in Washington, DC that were attended by various agency representatives to discuss potential marine protected area, sanctuary, or Marine National Monument designation in the Pacific.

### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

2010 - A NOI to conduct management planning was issued and public comment was accepted on

potential uses for the Monument area

2012 - Public comment on draft management plan components solicited in public meetings in CNMI & Guam.

2013 - Public comment on science planning were solicited through extensive meetings & workshops held in CNMI & Guam. Public comments were also accepted on management planning at the end of an MTMAC meeting (see MTMNM Planning Update #3, March 2013).

2017 - A Draft Management Plan has been developed and is currently undergoing internal review. Public review will follow and the plan is currently scheduled to be finalized in the last quarter of FY 2018.

### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

Since the Monument was designated, NOAA Fisheries established eight full-time (four Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and four Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)) staff positions and four part-time staff positions (one PIRO and three PIFSC) to provide for the management and research within the four Pacific Marine National Monuments. Duties are shared among the personnel who work with the local governments in American Samoa, CNMI, and Hawai‘i. The USFWS has restructured one permanent position to manage the MTMNM and plans to fill a temporary position to assist with outreach and education in the near future. Enforcement is primarily conducted by United States Coast Guard (USCG).

The USFWS and NOAA have also convened the Marianas Trench Monument Advisory Council (MTMAC), as called for under the Monument’s Presidential Proclamation. The MTMAC was established to provide advice and recommendations on the development of the MTMNM management plans and management of the MTMNM. The Presidential Proclamation 8335 that designated the MTMNM in 2009 calls for an advisory council that is comprised of three officials from the Government of the CNMI and one representative each from the Department of Defense (DOD) and the USCG. The MTMAC held an initial business meeting in February 2012, its inaugural meeting in Saipan on June 5, 2012, and quarterly meetings through 2014. Following governmental change in CNMI, the MTMAC went on hiatus through 2016. The USFWS is currently collecting nominations from USCG, DOD (Navy), and CNMI to update council membership (appointments expired in September 2016) and reactivate the MTMAC. Nominations from USCG and DOD have been received; USFWS is awaiting the nominations from CNMI before forwarding the nominations packages to DOI for finalization.

No external grants have been obtained for work in the MTMNM by USFWS. The NOAA has issued 6 grants on subjects included outreach and education, invasive species, and real-time monitoring using remotely operated vehicles.

Research: Since the MTMNM has been designated, research interest and collaboration activity has increased significantly due to the MTMNM status, and to seek answers to the drivers of subduction zones, earthquakes, tsunamis, chemosynthesis, carbon sequestration, climate change, ocean acidification, and the very origins of life. A Special Use Permit (SUP) is required by the USFWS and is coordinated with

NOAA, CNMI, USCG, and State Department as necessary. The NOAA is not required to have a SUP for their research, but they also coordinate the research with the same agencies. Significant funding from the Coral Reef Conservation Program and the PIFSC center has been used to monitor and explore the shallow coral reef areas in the Pacific Islands region including all of the monuments. An extensive deep-sea research cruise by NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research took place in 2016, and the NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory conducts regular studies of the region's submarine volcanoes. Several research cruises have also been conducted by academic and private institutions (such as Schmidt Ocean Institute, and James Cameron) since the MTMNM's establishment. In addition to activities by US researchers, since establishment 22 MTMNM research permits have been granted to foreign researchers from institutions in Korea, Japan, and China.

The waters above the MTMNM's Volcanic Unit and Trench Unit are not part of the area designated as MTMNM, therefore fishing activities in this area continue as they did pre-designation. Fishing in the Islands Unit of the MTMNM is regulated through a NOAA permit process for recreational and traditional use; no permit requests for fishing in the MTMNM area have been received to date. Commercial fishing in the Islands Unit is prohibited.

#### **Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation**

The human uses that took place in the MTMNM before it was designated include primarily non-commercial fishing activity and limited research and monitoring. Fishing was not a primary economic activity in the MTMNM; noncommercial fishing in the Islands Unit was rare but culturally significant. Prior to Monument designation, limited research was conducted in the three units by primarily NOAA Fisheries, PIFSC, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, and the University of Hawai'i in collaboration with national partners to include; Hawai'i Undersea Research Laboratory, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Oregon State University, University of Victoria (Canada), and Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology.

#### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

We are not aware of any publically available economic information regarding the MTMNM since designation.

#### **Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

No changes to the boundary have been made since designation, however; in 2016, the submerged lands and waters of the Monuments' Islands Unit extending 3 nmi seaward from Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion, were transferred to the CNMI, as directed by Presidential Proclamation 9077 (January 2014). Under the terms of the transfer Memorandum of Agreement (signed by the CNMI Government, DOI, and the Department of Commerce (DOC), on September 22, 2016), the USFWS and NOAA are managing the conveyed submerged lands for the benefit of the CNMI people and in consultation with the CNMI Government.

## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**

On June 15, 2006, President George W. Bush designated Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) by Presidential Proclamation 8031 under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906 (16 U.S.C. 431). The PMNM lies northwest of the principal Hawaiian Islands and was initially made up of a 1,200 nautical mile (nmi) stretch that encompasses coral islands, seamounts, banks, and shoals and extends 50 nmi seaward of these areas. This area also encompasses a number of Federal conservation areas, including the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, the Battle of Midway National Memorial, the Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, and the Proposed Hawaiian Islands Wilderness Area.

On August 26, 2016, President Barack Obama expanded the Monument by Presidential Proclamation 9478. The PMNM Monument Expansion Area (“MEA”) includes the waters and submerged lands to the extent of the seaward limit of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) west of 163° West Longitude adjacent to PMNM. The PMNM was expanded to encompass the MEA because the area contains objects of historic and scientific interest as well as geological and biological resources that are part of a highly pristine deep sea and open ocean ecosystem with unique biodiversity that constitutes a sacred cultural, physical, and spiritual place for the Native Hawaiian community.

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

#### *Prior to Monument Designation:*

- Between 2000 and 2005, NOAA conducted an extensive scoping process, including over 100 meetings with jurisdictional agency partners, the Reserve Advisory Council, the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, non-governmental organizations, fishing and other stakeholder groups, and the public. The aim was to identify concerns related to sanctuary designation and development of the range of alternatives considered. This process included nearly 52,000 public comments received, most supporting strong protection of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI).
- In May 2000, President Clinton tasked the Departments of Commerce and Interior with holding visioning sessions so that the public could articulate their vision for the development of strong and lasting protections for this vast and remote place. Between July and August of 2000, 7 meetings were held: a total of 435 people attended. The public vision sessions accomplished three main objectives by communicating the intent of the President’s directive regarding the coral reef ecosystems of the NWHI, providing

excellent opportunities for public participation, dialog, discussion, and interaction, and producing a Visioning Summary Document that details a substantial amount of information for the Secretaries of the Interior and Commerce to use in making their recommendation to the President.

- Based on this public input, on December 4, 2000, President Clinton issued Executive Order 13178 establishing the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, which includes the marine waters and submerged lands of the NWHI, extending approximately 1200 nmi long and 100 nmi wide. As part of the creation of the Reserve, the President established certain conservation measures that restrict activities throughout the Reserve and created Reserve Preservation Areas around various islands, atolls, and banks within the Reserve where consumptive or extractive uses were prohibited. The President initiated a 30-day period during which the public had the opportunity to submit comments on the conservation measures and his proposal to make the Reserve Preservation Areas (RPA) permanent. On behalf of the President, the Secretary of Commerce held seven public hearings to accept written and oral comment. Comments were also accepted through email, faxes, and postal mail and compiled by NOAA. Approximately 8,400 comments were received and were a mix of original and form letter comments from around the country with a wide range of opinions. Approximately 500 were unique comments while the overwhelming majority was generated via several form letters.
- The public comment overwhelmingly supported the proposed protections, which were then made final via Executive Order 13196. These Executive Orders also tasked the Department of Commerce to initiate the process of sanctuary designation for the NWHI. In 2002, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries began holding public scoping meetings for the development of a Sanctuary Management Plan and EIS. Over 14,000 comments were received during this public scoping process at 7 locations in Hawaii and in Washington DC.
- In June 2006, just days prior to the release of the draft Sanctuary Management Plan, President Bush used his powers under the Antiquities Act to designate the NWHI as a Marine National Monument. The information contained in Proclamation 8031, which created the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument, as based on the draft Sanctuary Management Plan and prior public input. Later that same year the name of the Monument was changed to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument via Proclamation 8112.

*After Monument designation: Monument Expansion Area*

- In May 2016, a delegation from Washington, DC, which included representatives from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Department of Commerce through NOAA, the Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Navy met with a series of key

constituents in Hawai‘i on the proposed expansion of PMNM. Meetings were held with the Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Hawai‘i State Senate President, members of the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives, the fishing community, the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, representatives of the Native Hawaiian community, researchers, and local and national non-governmental organizations to hear input from each of these organizations on the potential pros and cons of expansion. Approximately 400 people were involved in these various meetings.

- On August 1 and 2, 2016, two public meetings were held in Honolulu and Kaua‘i to hear additional public input on a proposed plan for expansion that had been proposed by U.S. Senator Brian Schatz. A total of 118 public comments were received at meetings that were attended by approximately 450 people. In addition, 6,061 petitions were submitted in support as well as 696 written comments. The majority of the comments were pro expansion.

### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

- After establishment of the original Monument in 2006, public information meetings were held on all main Hawaiian Islands (with the exception of not Ni‘ihau, a private island) to inform the public of the establishment of the Monument and regulations. A total of 471 people attended meetings.
- Between April and June 2007, the Departments of Commerce and the Interior held public scoping meetings for the development of a draft Monument Management Plan. During this process 298 letters were received and a summary report of these comments was created, which identified issues that had not been raised throughout the previous public input processes.
- Public hearings on the draft PMNM Management Plan and associated Environmental Assessment were held between April and July 2008. A total of 231 attended the meetings and an additional 6,347 written comments were received during this process. The summary of all public and agency comments to the Management Plan are found in Volume 5 of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Management Plan at: [http://www.Papahānaumokuākea.gov/management/mp/vol5pt1\\_resp\\_mmp08.pdf](http://www.Papahānaumokuākea.gov/management/mp/vol5pt1_resp_mmp08.pdf) AND [http://www.Papahānaumokuākea.gov/management/mp/vol5pt2\\_resp\\_mmp08.pdf](http://www.Papahānaumokuākea.gov/management/mp/vol5pt2_resp_mmp08.pdf)
- By the end of the public process and the final issuance of the Management Plan in December 2008, over 57,000 public comments had been received.
- Resource management planning for the MEA began shortly after the 2016 Proclamation, but no public meetings have been held to date.

### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

The PMNM relies on a joint permitting process between the seven co-managing agencies. All

activities, regardless of location within PMNM, are either prohibited (not allowed), exempted (no permit is needed), or regulated (must be considered through the joint-permitting process). The following activities are regulated through the PMNM permitting process: Further the understanding of PMNM resources and qualities through research; Further the educational value of the PMNM; Assist in the conservation and management of PMNM; Allow Native Hawaiian practices; Allow a special ocean use; Allow recreational activities within the Midway Atoll Special Management Area.

A summary of activities relevant to the Monument area is provided below:

- Commercial Fishing: Commercial fishing is prohibited in the PMNM and MEA.
- Non-commercial Fishing: sustenance fishing is a restricted, but authorized, activity incidental to other permitted activities.
- Research: According to Proclamations 8031 and 9478, the Secretaries may issue a permit for research that is “designed to further the understanding of Monument resources and qualities.” Research in PMNM has crossed most disciplines including oceanographic, geological, biological, and atmospheric research. Despite the limited geographical access to the area there has been a wealth of research accomplished in the PMNM over time and numerous discoveries of objects of historical and scientific interest originating from research in the Monument. To date, 224 research permits have been issued for the PMNM. A 2013 article - *Sailing through Time: A Historical Examination of the Explorations and Expeditions of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument* (Weiner and Wagner 2013) summarizes much of the research and exploration in the Monument. The PMNM was also a featured site during the 2015-2017 NOAA *Okeanos Explorer* deep-sea research expedition. The NOAA conducts annual reef assessment and monitoring in the PMNM, while USFWS has conducted monitoring of plant and seabird species since Refuge establishment.
- Native Hawaiian Practices: Since establishment of PMNM, and the permit requirement, there have been 25 permits issued under the area of Native Hawaiian practices.
- Education: Since the establishment of PMNM, there have been 24 education permits issued authorizing access. Countless outreach and educational opportunities have also been undertaken by the co-managing agencies to “bring the place to the people.” Additionally, the establishment of the Mokuapāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo, Hawai‘i has drawn in thousands of visitors.
- Recreation: Since the establishment of PMNM, there have been 6 recreation permits issued authorizing access. Midway Atoll, the only site where recreational activities were allowed in PMNM, has been closed to visitors since 2012 due to resource constraints.
- Vessel Passage: Vessels transiting PMNM (without interruption) are required to notify an official designated by the Secretaries at least 72 hours, but no longer than 1 month, prior to the entry date. However, no records are kept by NOAA on the number of vessels that have notified the proper authority on the intent of making uninterrupted (“innocent”)



passage through PMNM.

### **Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation**

- **Commercial Fishing:** Historically there were two commercial fisheries operating in the waters of the NWHI: the lobster and bottomfish fisheries. The NWHI lobster fishery operated almost exclusively within 50 nmi of the Hawaiian Archipelago. At the time of the designation of PMNM, the NWHI bottomfish fishery was divided into two zones: the Ho'omalulu Zone and the Mau Zone, which were both limited-entry fisheries with permits that allowed the holder access only to one of the two zones. Following the closure of the longline fishery within the 2006 Monument area, longline fishing continued in the waters from 50-200 nmi. The 2016 proclamation closed commercial fishing in the MEA areas as well.
- **Non-commercial Fishing:** Due to the distance from the inhabited Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), non-commercial fishing was essentially non-existent in the area.
- **Research:** Research was being conducted in the area primarily by NOAA staff of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, but also by domestic and foreign universities and research institutes. A total of 23 research projects from 2003-2006 accessed the waters of the NWHI. Research has been conducted by the USFWS and various universities and research institutes since 1909 on the islands and in the waters of PMNM.
- **Native Hawaiian Practices:** There would have been limited opportunities for Native Hawaiians to visit the area due to the distance from the MHI, and because the cost of the endeavor would have been prohibitive.
- **Education:** There would have been limited opportunities for educational activities that could take place within the area due to the distance from the MHI, and because the cost of the endeavor would have been prohibitive.
- **Recreation:** There would have been limited opportunities for recreational activities that could take place within the area due to the distance from the MHI, and because the cost of the endeavor would have been prohibitive.
- **Vessel Passage:** No notification requirements existed for vessels transiting the areas.

### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

Some analysis on longline fishery economics were been produced by the NOAA for the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council. No other publically available economic information on tourism, energy resources, or other subjects has been produced that we are aware of.

### **Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

The size of the original designation of PMNM by Presidential Proclamation 8031 was 139,793 square miles, or 89,467,520 acres. The size of the expansion area of PMNM by Presidential

Proclamation 9478 was 442,781 square miles, or 283,379,840 acres. The expansion of PMNM brought the total size of the Monument to 582,574 square miles, or 372,847,360 acres.

## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument**

On January 6, 2009, President George W. Bush established the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument by Presidential Proclamation 8336. The Monument includes seven units centered on National Wildlife Refuges comprised of islands and atolls located south and southwest of Hawai‘i. The Monument boundaries were rectangle areas that extended approximately 50 nautical miles (nm) from the mean low water lines of Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands; Johnston, Wake, and Palmyra Atolls; and Kingman Reef. President Barack Obama expanded the Monument on September 25, 2014 with Presidential Proclamation 9173. The Monument boundary was extended from the 50 nm boundary to the 200 mile seaward limit of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone around Jarvis Island and Johnston and Wake Atolls, adding approximately 408,301 square miles to the existing Monument. The rectangle boundaries around Howland and Baker Islands and Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef remained unchanged. The stated purpose of the Monument designation and expansion is to preserve the marine environment around the islands of Wake, Baker, Howland, and Jarvis Islands, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, and Palmyra Atoll for the care and management of the historic and scientific objects therein. These waters provide sanctuary for whales, sea turtles, fish, and millions of seabirds.

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

#### **1. Proposed Monument designation:**

A press release from Washington DC was published on September 20, 2008 to invite the public to participate in round table format conversations about the scientific, historical and cultural resources, and the potential for protection and coordinated management of marine areas in the Pacific. Information and comments received at these open houses were taken into consideration for the final Monuments designation.

A public meeting was held in Honolulu on October 6, 2008 by James Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality and his federal representatives. The public was given the opportunity to learn about the proposal to designate a marine protected area, ask questions, and provide their comments. Public comments were solicited for 60 days from August 25, 2008 to October 25, 2008 and were to be sent to: James Connaughton at 722 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC, 20503.2.

#### **2. Proposed Monument expansion**

A public comment period was open from January 14 – February 13, 2015. One public meeting to solicit comments on the proposal to expand the PRIMNM was held in Honolulu, Hawai‘i on August 11, 2014 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm: 291 people signed in and 288 participants were eligible to comment. Given 2 minutes to give comments, there was only time for 53 people to speak. Of those who commented, 34 supported and 19 opposed the proposal. Separately, the Council on Environmental Quality held a listening session with the fishing industry leaders in Washington

DC in July 2014. The final boundaries of the expansion area were modified to reflect public input, particularly from the fishing community.

### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

2010- A NOI to conduct management planning was issued and public comment was accepted on potential uses for site.

### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

Since the Monument was designated, NOAA Fisheries established eight full-time (4 PIRO and 4 PIFSC) staff positions and four part-time staff positions (1 PIRO and 3 PIFSC) to provide for the management and research within the four Pacific Marine National Monuments. Duties are shared among the personnel who work with the local governments in American Samoa, Saipan and Hawaii. USFWS has not established new positions for PMNM but has restructured existing staff to cover monument management duties. The USGC and DOD conduct monitoring and enforcement activities for the Monument area.

Non-commercial Monument fishing regulations were promulgated in June 1, 2013 and amended after the expansion. A non-commercial Monument fishing permit may be authorized by NOAA Fisheries for vessels operating within the waters of the Monument. To date, the only non-commercial fishing permits that have been applied for and granted were for NOAA vessels operating within the Monument. There is a minimal level of recreational and sustenance fishing that occurs within the Wake Atoll National Wildlife Refuge out to 12 nautical miles from shore, prior to and after Monument designation and expansion. These activities are carried out under the purview of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in coordination with the U.S. Air Force

Since the Monument's designation, research interest and collaboration activity has increased due to the Monument status. NOAA has awarded nine grants to pursue research management objectives (note that some grants include work in multiple monument areas). From 2015-2017, NOAA and its partners conducted deep-sea explorations of the Monument areas using the NOAA ship Okeanos Explorer. NOAA also continues to conduct its Pacific Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (Pacific RAMP), providing scientific information to support ecosystem approaches to management and conservation of coral reefs. USFWS continues to conduct regular studies on the ecosystems of the Refuge areas: Beginning 2010, USFWS initiated an effort to eradicate the invasive yellow crazy ant from Johnston Island. From June 2011 to June 2012, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, and Island Conservation carefully and strategically removed destructive, non-native rats from Palmyra Atoll. After successful eradication, a detailed prevention plan was put in place to minimize the threat of non-native species being introduced. In January 2014, USFWS completed the removal of three shipwrecked vessels from Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef. The operation took 79 days and the team removed nearly a million pounds of debris, which was fueling the growth of green algae and hundreds of acres of corallimorph – an invasive species that smothers coral and destroys the ecosystem.

### **Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation**

The human uses that took place in the Monument before it was designated include conservation

management activities in the National Historic Landmark and six original National Wildlife Refuges at the heart of the Monument; DoD activities at Wake Atoll; a modest amount of commercial and non-commercial fishing activity; and research and monitoring through the bi-annual/tri-annual NOAA NMFS Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Program, USFWS, the Palmyra Area Research Consortium, and limited research by academic and international partners.

There were no established bottomfish fisheries operating in the Pacific Remote Islands Area (PRIA) EEZ, although several vessels were known to occasionally fish for bottomfish in Federal waters around the PRIA. According to the 2016 PRIA draft FEP, the largest volume of fish commercially harvested from the PRIA is pelagic fish caught by longliners home ported in Hawai'i and tuna purse seiner's home ported in American Samoa. Between 1991 and 2007, Hawai'i longline vessels caught on average about 1.24 million lbs. of fish from the US EEZ around Johnston, Kingman and Palmyra and Jarvis islands, with about 60 percent coming from the US EEZ around Kingman and Palmyra and most of the remainder from the US EEZ around Johnston. US purse seine vessels have fished in the US EEZ of the equatorial located PRIA between 1997 and 2007, with 25 percent of their total catch coming from the PRIA in 1997, mainly from the US EEZ around Howland and Baker Islands, when about 35,000 mt of fish was taken within the EEZ. The 2009 FEP also identifies in 2006 and 2007, several PRIA troll/handline/bottomfish fishing permits were issued by NMFS however, to date only one has been used. No precious corals harvest Federal permits to harvest corals from the EEZ surrounding the PRIA have been issued since the implementation of the Precious Corals FMP in 1980.

Commercial fishing was prohibited within the original refuge boundaries 3 nautical miles from shore, and recreational fishing through the Nature Conservancy and within the refuge boundary was permitted through the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at Palmyra. As noted above, a minimal level of recreational and sustenance fishing also occurred in the waters surrounding Wake Atoll by the U.S. Air Force.

### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

We are not aware of any publically available documents that specifically describe or quantify the economic benefits of the monument designation.

### **Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

The 2009 designation encompassed 86,888 square miles that overlapped six pre-existing national wildlife refuges and created a new national wildlife refuge in the waters around Wake Atoll. The 2014 expansion added approximately 408,301 square miles of submerged land and water by expanding the Monument area at Wake, Johnston, and Jarvis Islands for a total of 495,189 square miles.

## **Executive Summary of Review of National Monuments under EO 13792 (April 26, 2017)**

### **Key Information about Rose Atoll Marine National Monument**

Rose Atoll Marine National Monument (RAMNM) was established on January 6, 2009, by Presidential Proclamation 8337. The RAMNM extends out approximately 50 nautical miles (nmi) from the mean low water line of Rose Atoll, and encompasses 13,451 square miles (8,609,045 acres) of emergent and submerged lands and waters of and around Rose Atoll. It was established in the interest of the public for the purpose of protecting the dynamic reef ecosystem that is home to a very diverse assemblage of terrestrial and marine species, many of which are threatened or endangered. The species found within RAMNM includes roughly 100 species of stony corals, dominated by the presence of pink coralline algae species which is the prevailing reef-building species found in the waters of American Samoa. The atoll serves as nesting grounds for endangered marine turtles, and the marine areas are home to many large marine predators such as whitetip reef sharks, blacktip reef sharks, gray reef sharks, snappers, jacks and groupers. Species that have faced depletion elsewhere, some of which have declined worldwide by as much as 98 percent, are found in abundance at Rose Atoll, including giant clams, Maori wrasse, and large parrotfishes. Humpback whales, pilot whales, and porpoise have all been spotted at Rose Atoll.

### **Summary of Public Engagement Prior to Designation**

A press release from Washington, DC was published on September 30, 2008, to invite the public to participate in roundtable conversations about the scientific, historical and cultural resources, and the potential for protection and coordinated management of marine areas in the Pacific. Information and comments received at these open houses were taken into consideration for the final designation. A public meeting was held on October 9, 2008, in Pago Pago, American Samoa by James Connaughton, Chairman, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and his Federal representatives in October 2008. The public stakeholders, fishermen, Manu'a Islands residents, and traditional leaders were given the opportunity to learn about the proposal to designate a marine protected area, ask questions, and provide their comments. Public comments were solicited for 60 days from August 25, 2008 to October 25, 2008, and were to be sent to: James Connaughton at 722 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC, 20503. Prior to the public meetings in Pago Pago, the American Samoa Governor and his representatives met with PEW Charitable Trusts and Marine Conservation Institute personnel in February 2008, to exchange ideas on protection and management of such proposed areas (personal communication with Atuatasi Peau, National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, NOAA).

Mr. Connaughton and/or his representatives held several meetings in Washington, DC, which were

attended by various agency representatives, to discuss potential marine protected area, sanctuary, or Marine National Monument designation in the Pacific. Governor Togiola Tulafono wrote to President Bush on October 2, 2008, in support of declaring Rose Atoll as a national monument and endorsed the establishment on January 6, 2009.

### **Summary of Public Scoping in Development of Resource Management Plan**

In November 2009, the Rose Atoll Intergovernmental Committee held public meetings in Pago Pago, Ta'u, and Ofu to provide information and answer questions on: USFWS responsibility to develop a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, NOAA Fisheries responsibility to develop non-commercial fishing regulations, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries responsibility associated with designating the marine portion of RAMNM to be managed as a national marine sanctuary, and how these three plans would be eventually merge into one “umbrella” document. The questions asked focused on education, science, research, recreation, enforcement, and employment opportunities within the Manu’a Islands and Tutuila communities.

### **Summary of National Monument Activities since Designation**

Since the Monument was designated, NOAA Fisheries established eight full-time (four Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and four Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC)) staff positions and four part-time staff positions (1 PIRO and 3 PIFSC) to provide for the management and research within the four Pacific Marine National Monuments. Duties are shared among the personnel who work with the local governments in American Samoa, CNMI and Hawaii. The USFWS has established existing staff to manage RAMNM.

No external grants have been obtained for work in the RAMNM by USFWS. The NOAA has issued seven grants on subjects included outreach and education, invasive species, and real-time monitoring using remotely operated vehicles. Since the RAMNM has been designated, research interest and collaboration activity has increased, in part, due to the Monument status. The USFWS and NOAA both conduct a wide array of research and monitoring projects at Rose Atoll with multiple partners including the National Park Service, American Samoa’s Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, and many external partners.

The Proclamation sets-forth non-commercial fishing as a management objective. Non-commercial fishing regulations were promulgated in June 1, 2013. Fishermen who harvest fishery resources under a non-commercial fishing permit may engage in customary exchange, which helps to preserve traditional,

indigenous, and cultural fishing practices, on a sustainable basis. Since commercial fishing was prohibited and non-commercial fishing regulations went into effect, NOAA Fisheries has not received a single non-commercial fishing permit request for the RAMNM.

#### **Summary of Activities in Area for Five years Preceding Pre-Designation**

The human uses that took place in RAMNM before it was designated include fishing activities (commercial and non-commercial) and research and monitoring through the bi- annual/tri-annual NOAA Fisheries Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Program and limited research by international institutes and universities. In 1974, Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge was established and USFWS has since conducted research, monitoring, management, and restoration activities at the refuge. Prior to RAMNM designation, limited exploration and research was conducted primarily by NOAA Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.

#### **Summary of Available Economic Information since Designation**

We are not aware of any publically available economic information regarding the RAMNM since designation.

#### **Summary of Any Boundary Adjustments since Designation**

No changes to the boundary have been made since designation. Presidential Proclamation 8337 directed the Secretary of Commerce to add the marine areas of the RAMNM to the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The expansion of the existing sanctuary was completed in 2012 and the name of the Sanctuary was changed to the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa.