

From: <Catherine_Callaway@ios.doi.gov>
To: Randal_Bowman@ios.doi.gov
Subject: DCN: EST-00003347 - Antiquities Act - NE Seamounts
Date: Monday, July 10, 2017 9:40:21 AM
Attachments: [3347 in.pdf](#)

Tasked to OIEA.



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce
via the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Re: E.O. 13795 Review

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
Re: Monument Review, MS-1530

Dear Secretary Ross and Secretary Zinke,

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the Obama Administration's designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument under the Antiquities Act. I greatly appreciate your review of this monument in light of the inadequacy of consultation conducted prior to its designation. All Americans have a unique and shared interest in our ocean space; therefore, it is all the more critical to ensure adequate opportunity be given for public comment before restrictions on the use of shared ocean space are implemented by the trustees of that space.

The State of Maine, along with other New England states, participates actively in federal regional fisheries management through its seat on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC). The Council's Omnibus Deep-Sea Coral Amendment, a process which evaluated costs and benefits of closing portions of the Northwest Atlantic to certain fishing gears for protection of coral habitat, had been in process for several years and was nearing completion when the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument was designated in the fall of 2016.

Given the work already underway in the fisheries management arena to protect these areas and to ensure opportunities for robust public process at the time the Monument was designated, it was both ironic and offensive that the Obama Administration was concurrently having closed-door discussions about the potential designation of a marine monument off the New England coast. The Obama Administration required the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to hold a "town hall" meeting to accept comment on the proposal, but failed to provide even a chart of the areas being considered for closure. Members of the public were left to respond to mere rumors. Under considerable pressure from the states and the fishing industry, an informal public comment period was later opened. But without the details of a proposed rule and defined boundaries, opponents were shooting into the dark.

I have consistently supported the New England Fishery Management Council's position, as well as that of the Council Coordinating Committee, that fisheries management in federal waters, including within marine monument boundaries, should remain under the jurisdiction of the Magnuson-Stevens



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PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

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FAX: (207) 287-1034

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Fishery Conservation and Management Act as implemented through the work of the regional fishery management council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). This process, though far from perfect, ensures that impacted stakeholders and interested members of the public are afforded a clearly defined and appropriate opportunity to provide input on the development of federal rules.


Furthermore, Maine spent four years participating in the development of the Northeast Ocean Plan, the first regional ocean plan in the nation, developed under President Obama's Executive Order 13547. That Executive Order espoused principles including the use of sound science, meaningful public participation and transparent, efficient decision-making by government to achieve improved intergovernmental coordination and stakeholder engagement, compatibility among ocean uses and a healthy ocean and coast. One of the most valuable opportunities this process could provide is improved coordination across agencies and levels of governance, an articulated goal of the Northeast Regional Planning Body (NERPB).

The State of Maine has been pressing for federal agencies to clarify how they will use non-regulatory tools, such as improved pre-application coordination to achieve that objective. In my view, this will ultimately be the measure of whether regional ocean planning has tangible, on-the-ground value for states; unfortunately, the process of this monument's designation did not inspire confidence that states or stakeholders have gained any ground from the Northeast Ocean Plan.

In closing, I urge you and President Trump to consider abolishing or reducing the size and scope of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument on the basis of inadequate public process and the negative impacts it will have on the fishing industry. At the very least, the restrictions on fishing within the monument boundaries should be rescinded.

Again, I thank you for undertaking this review and providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



Howarth, Robert <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fwd: Letter from Governor LePage Regarding Review of Marine Monument

1 message

Timothy Williams <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>
To: Robert Howarth <robert_howarth@ios.doi.gov>

Fri, Jul 7, 2017 at 11:49 AM

Timothy Williams
External and Intergovernmental Affairs
Department of the Interior
Cell: (202) 706-4982

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Libby, Lance" <Lance.Libby@maine.gov>
To: "timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov" <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>, "pkrug@doc.gov" <pkrug@doc.gov>
Subject: Letter from Governor LePage Regarding Review of Marine Monument

Hello Tim and Peter,

Attached please find a letter from Governor LePage to Secretary Ross and Secretary Zinke regarding the review of the designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. Can you please pass this letter along to your respective bosses and appropriate people at the departments? This letter will be Governor LePage's official position on the review of the marine monument and we will not be sending a comment through the website.

Thank you,

Lance

Lance Libby
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of the Governor
207-287-3416, Office
207-592-0041, Mobile

2 attachments

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 **Governor's Letter to Ross and Zinke RE Review of Marine Monument 7.6.17.pdf**
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