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Editorial | Letters

Open fishing areas in event of disaster

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As we hunker down due to approaching weather systems, be reminded that we are globally the most isolated place on the planet. The Papahānaumokuākea and Pacific Remote Islands national marine monuments hold our lifesaving fish stocks, which are accessible only by our longline vessels.

We advocate buying locally grown produce, but not locally caught fish. The alternative is carbon monoxide or tasteless-smoke-treated, previously frozen fish. The hepatitis A outbreak should be of concern.

We are vulnerable to natural disasters. Our seaports and most of our airports are at or near sea level, open to the devastating effects of a hurricane tidal surge or tsunamis. We are nearly totally dependent upon imported food and goods as we hoard water, canned goods and paper products with each threat.

Our leaders must ensure that these protected waters are open and available to our local fishing fleet to sustain our state should such an event occur.

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