

PACIFIC

Concerns over whether USA can manage huge fishing protected zone

12:54 pm on 15 August 2016



The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has agreed to ask the United States government to address a range of concerns about a proposal to expand Hawaii's protected waters.



Teeming reef scape in Hawaii's Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Photo: NOAA, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

The government plans to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument in Hawaii five-fold, which would prohibit fishing in two-thirds of the US Exclusive Economic Zone.

The council, which manages the United States' fisheries in the Pacific, says it wants a public, transparent, deliberative and science-based process to address its concerns.

The proposals have concerned US fishing fleets and territories, which fear the expansion will threaten access to fishing grounds for what they consider one of the world's most regulated fleets.

Council members also said they hope the government addresses the resources needed to effectively administer and manage an expanded monument.

They said when it was last expanded in 2014, the White House did not give any extra support to the Homeland Security Department and Coast Guard to monitor it.

A special advisor to American Samoa's governor, Henry Seseapasara, said he hopes the federal agency involved with the expansion will work with the council.

Tags: [Hawai'i](#) [United States](#)



Copyright © 2016, Radio New Zealand

NEXT STORY IN PACIFIC

CNMI marijuana bill fails

RELATED STORIES

Scientist says expanding Hawaii monument is abuse of law

2 months ago

The senior scientist of a regional fishing body says a presidential executive order to expand Hawaii's protected waters is an abuse of federal law.

Regional fishing body opposes expansion of Hawaii monument

2 months ago

A regional fishing body is opposing the planned expansion of United States protected waters around Hawaii. (AUDIO)

▶ [Listen 3'45"](#) | [Add to playlist](#) | [Download](#)

US Pacific fear fishing grounds will be further closed

2 months ago

US Pacific territories fear their national marine monuments will also be expanded if a plan to enlarge Hawaii's protected waters is successful.

PACIFIC

Tahiti's Forum bid gaining traction

Save the Children to launch 'biggest project yet' in Fiji

ExxonMobil says PNG protest not affecting production

TOP NEW ZEALAND STORIES