

PACIFIC

Scientist says expanding Hawaii monument is abuse of law

3:23 pm on 16 June 2016



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.



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

United States President Barack Obama announced a series of measures in 2014 to protect parts of the world's oceans which include expanding Hawaii's Papahānaumokuākea monument under the Antiquities Act.

The plan would increase the monument, or reserve, fivefold and could reduce the available fishing grounds in the US exclusive economic zone waters around Hawaii from 63 percent to 15 percent.

Members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council said it would be detrimental to Hawaii's economy, food security and food production as 95 per cent of its fisheries rely on domestic fishing.

Paul Dalzell said claims that the expansion would improve conservation were false.

"The Antiquities Act was meant to protect small places. Stop them from being overrun by tourists or being stripped by souvenir hunters. And it's supposed to be the for the smallest area possible. It was never

intended to parcel off great large areas of land or indeed to be applied to make these huge expansions of water."

Tags: [Hawaii](#) [United States](#)



Copyright © 2016, Radio New Zealand

NEXT STORY IN PACIFIC

Sport: Manu Samoa make four changes for Fiji test

RELATED STORIES

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.

Scientist says no conservation benefit in reserve expansion

2 months ago

A senior scientist from a regional fishing body says there's no conservation benefits in expanding Hawaii's protected waters.

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.

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

Olympics: Black Sticks women beat Australia 4-2

Olympics: Carrington kayaks into finals
