



**WESTERN  
PACIFIC  
REGIONAL  
FISHERY  
MANAGEMENT  
COUNCIL**

## **Info Paper on Council Options for Addressing the Monument Expansion**

*Prepared by Council Staff for Public Scoping Sessions*

### **Background**

Presidential Proclamation 9478 set aside an area adjacent to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument that constituted a Monument Expansion Area (MEA). Through the proclamation, the Secretary of Commerce (NOAA), in consultation with the Secretary of Interior (USFWS), was provided responsibility for management of activities and species within the monument expansion area under the MSA and ESA. The Proclamation prohibited fishing commercial fishing activities and anchoring on any living or dead coral. However, it also allows for regulated fishing activities including Native Hawaiian practices (including exercise of traditional, customary, cultural, subsistence, spiritual, and religious practices) within the MEA, and non-commercial fishing (provided that the fish harvested either in whole or in part, does not enter commerce through sale, barter, or trade, and that the resource is managed sustainably).

### **Purpose and Need**

On September 23, 2016, the NMFS sent the Council a letter requesting the Council's recommendations for amending the Hawaii and Pelagic FEPs to establish appropriate fishing requirements under the MSA including the prohibition on commercial fishing and the regulation of non-commercial fishing within the monument MEA. A similar process occurred in 2009 after the designation of marine national monuments for the Pacific Remote Islands, Rose Atoll and Marianas Trench.

The purpose of this public scoping session is to determine what information is available for the Council to begin the process of analyzing alternatives and recommending management regulations for the MEA. There is a need to conduct a preliminary analysis to collect information so that Council staff can develop an options paper for the Council to take action in the near future.

### **Scoping Questions**

The following questions are being used to gather information for the Council process of developing proposed fishing regulations in the MEA:

1. What data are available on historical fishing in the MEA?
2. What data are available on historical non-fishing activities (transit, research, voyaging, access, etc) in the MEA?
3. What species are extracted from the MEA?
4. To what extent can the existence of current permitting and reporting requirements for non-commercial fishing in the MEA be used?
5. What is the level of interest of fishing in the MEA?
6. What type of options should the Council be looking at regarding:
  - Commercial Fishing
  - Non-commercial Fishing
  - Native Hawaiian Subsistence Fishing