April 14, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,  
Washington, DC 20500.

Dear President Trump:

At its 169th meeting, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council considered the impacts of Marine National Monuments\(^1\) on US fisheries and the undermining of the decades of fisheries management under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) by the Antiquities Act. The voting members of the Council request that you consider removing the monument fishing prohibitions in the US Pacific Islands Region\(^2\).

These four monuments created by previous Administrations encompass 1.18 million square miles and prohibit US commercial fishing in 51% of the US Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) waters in the Western and Central Pacific. This amounts to about 25% of the entire US EEZ. Fishing is an important economic activity in the US Pacific Islands. The monuments have eliminated access to US fishing grounds to US fishermen, forcing them to compete with foreign fishing vessels on the high seas and making it more difficult for American fishermen to lower the US fishery trade imbalance (over 90 percent of US seafood consumption is imported, with up to a third estimated to be from illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing).

The best scientific information available indicates that monument fishing prohibitions are unnecessary for fisheries conservation and management. The monuments have no discernable conservation benefit to and do not provide significant additional protections to highly mobile species such as tuna, billfish, sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals. The climate mitigation attributes of the monuments are speculative.

Under the MSA, US fisheries are among the best managed globally and the regional fishery management councils are required to establish regulations to prevent overfishing while achieving optimal yield. Removal of the monument fishing prohibitions would not leave fishery resources unregulated. Comprehensive regulations developed under the MSA to manage bottomfish, lobsters, precious corals and pelagic species are still in place. We hope Mr. President, that you will redress this unfair burden on our American fishermen.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Edwin A. Ebisui Jr.  
Chair

Enclosed: Maps of four monuments and MSA fishery regulated areas in the Western Pacific Region

cc: Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

\(^1\) The Pacific Remote Islands MNM, Mariana Trench MNM, Rose Atoll MNM, Papahanaumokuakea MNM

\(^2\) Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands, Pacific Remote Island Areas (Wake Island, Howland and Baker Islands, Jarvis Island, Palmyra Island and Kingman Reef, Johnston Island and Midway Atoll)
President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Access to several of the Nation’s key fisheries is in jeopardy -- through the establishment and expansion of Marine National Monuments. All of these marine monuments have been created by Presidential Proclamations under the Antiquities Act of 1906. In the U.S. Pacific Islands region, for example, over half of U.S. waters have been closed to commercial fishing by a stroke of the pen and without scientific evidence, socioeconomic analysis, or a deliberative and public processes as are mandated under the amended Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management of 1976 (MSA), the nation’s primary fisheries law.

The loss of U.S. fishing grounds makes our consumers more dependent on foreign seafood sources, as only ten percent of the seafood consumed in the U.S. is domestically produced. Marine National Monuments created in the U.S. Pacific Islands resulted in the U.S. tuna purse-seine fleet losing access to historical fishing areas including all U.S. waters (0–200 miles) surrounding Jarvis Island, Wake Island, and Johnston Atoll, remote, uninhabited equatorial possessions of the United States, totaling 1,184,000 square miles. The Hawaii longline fleet also lost access to these areas as well as to two-thirds of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone around the Hawaii Archipelago. At the same time, U.S. government negotiators agreed to reduce significant access of the U.S. purse-seine vessels to the high seas within the Western and Central Pacific Ocean as well as catch limits for U.S. longline vessels. Such actions exemplify how a President and government bureaucracies can dispassionately decimate U.S. fishing industries.

The commercial fishing prohibitions of Marine National Monuments impact shore-side businesses and local economies of the U.S. In December 2016, for example, one of the two canneries in American Samoa, which represent over half of the local private sector workforce, and over half of the Territory’s Gross Domestic Product, ceased operations due to lack of U.S. tuna supply. The remaining cannery has stated that it may close if the regulatory conditions do not change. Likewise, the loss of access to highly productive fishing grounds in the northeast has exacerbated the decline of many fishing ports in the region.
To remedy the impacts that face the U.S. fishing industry, you can act swiftly and
effectively to remove all marine monument fishing prohibitions. The fisheries would continue to
be managed under federal law (MSA), through the Regional Fishery Management Councils and
the Department of Commerce. U.S. fisheries support hundreds of thousands of direct jobs,
millions of indirect jobs, and billions of dollars in annual revenue. Removal of the fishing
prohibitions stipulated in the monument proclamations and the return of U.S. fisheries
management to the Regional Fishery Management Councils would continue to prevent
overfishing and protect the marine environment as required by the MSA and other applicable
laws, while allowing our fishing fleet to compete with their foreign competitors.

Using the Antiquities Act to close U.S. waters to domestic fisheries is a clear example of
federal overreach and regulatory duplication and obstructs well managed, sustainable U.S.
fishing industries in favor of their foreign counterparts. You alone can act quickly to reverse this
travesty, improve our national security, and support the U.S. fishing industry that contributes to
the U.S. economy while providing healthy, well-managed fish for America’s tables.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Rob Bishop
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources

[Signature]
Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen
Member of Congress

cc: The Hon. Wilbur Ross, Secretary, Department of Commerce
    The Hon. Raul Grijalva, Ranking Member, Committee on Natural Resources
March 3, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We, the Governors of the US Territories of American Samoa and Guam and the US Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, humbly request that you use executive authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to remove the fishing provisions applicable to the Marine National Monuments in federal and our island jurisdictions.

Our island communities depend on the ocean for food security and economic opportunities. Our Samoan, Chamorro, and Carolinian cultures are interwoven with the marine environment and fishing. The monument fishing restrictions are unnecessary and impede our socioeconomic and cultural stability. The promises of previous administrations and environmental organizations of monument co-management and revenue generation have not been realized.

Our islands contribute a significant amount of land and water for military training and among the highest per capita US Armed Forces personnel and military casualties, reflecting our resolute American patriotism. Many of our people have not returned from harsh and distant battlefields, providing the ultimate sacrifice for our great country.

We trust you will demonstrate your great leadership on this pressing issue and do what is right for our people and the Nation. Please return American fishermen to US waters and remove the monument fishing prohibitions.

Respectfully,

Eddie B. Calvo
Governor of Guam

Lolo L. M. Moliga
Governor of American Samoa

Ralph D. G. Torres
Governor of CNMI

Enclosures

PO Box 2950
Agana, CU 96932

A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building
Pago Pago, AS 96799

Callele Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
in the PRAs

Federal permits and logbooks required when operating

Troll and Handline

Instructions

Longline gear requirements to minimize sea urchins

• Longline gear requirements to minimize sea urchins

• Longline gear requirements to minimize sea urchins

• Large partigle vessel (>50 ft) exclusion only to zone 50

• Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not

• for Longline vessels

• Limited entry of vessels in four different size classes

American Samoa

Requirements when fishing north of 23° De. N

• Follow shallow-set fisheries specified migration

• Mandatory observer program with 20%

• Deep-set fisheries

and set at night

or use blue-dye bait, strategically placed offshore

macareter-type ball (and seabirds, either side-set

Shallow-set fisheries

• Gear requirements to minimize incidental

• Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not

• for Longline vessels

• High entry of vessels in four different size classes

Hawaii Longline

to fish in the EEZ

including weekends and federal holidays) before leaving port

Mandatory notification to NMFS at least 72 hours (not

Maximum vessel size = 10 feet in length

Limited entry by vessel with a maximum of 164 vessels

Hawaii Longline (Guna, CNMI, and PRAs)

General Longline (Guna, CNMI, and PRAs)

vessel owners and operators

Mandatory annual approved species workshops for all

Federal permits and logsbooks required

and other mitigation gear, and follow mitigation

Muzzle city and use dip nets, line cutters, pole cutters

Longline gear must be marked

All Longline vessels

Key Pelagic Fishing Regulations

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Key Pelagic Fishing Regulations
Western Pacific Council Special Management in the Hawaiian Islands
Gold coral moratorium

Quals: Ky Australia and species, and now ACs.

Permitting and Reporting

With height of 48 in diameter of 1 inch

Size restrictions pink coral, with height of 10 in. Block coral

Deep-water Management (Euphasia, conditional beds and

Area restrictions (Weeds, reef, seafloor)

Precious Corals

Daily catch report requirement

Vessel monitoring system requirement

NWHI

Harvest limitation Program (Reef, Gardner, Maro and

Lhuanof the 1 0 ft curve)

Closed areas (within 20 min. of Layman, within the EEZ

Closed seasons (Permit Area 1 closed Jan-Jun; Permit Area 2

Wokalup, Professor Measures

TIP restrictions (Artificial size, escape vents, max number of

ACI)

General Observer Harvest Guideline (Ngi, would then become

Limited entry permit (including Permit area 1 around NWHI,

Cautions

Prohibitions (live rock, poisons, explosives)

ACIs

General identification for trips

Areas

Harvested Coral, Reef, and low use Marine Protected

Special Permit (Monitoring and Reporting) (for potentially

Coral Illustrations

Posnies, reef, and bottom-set bullet

Prohibitions of destructive fishing techniques: explosives,

Annual coress, registry and markings

LRP Reporting

Reauthorization (CML)

Compliance with State of Hawaii Commercial Marine License

Non-commercial reef limits for deep-7 bottomfish species

Non-commercial Federal Permit and LRP Reporting

Deep-7 bottomfish complexes

Annual catch limits (ACI) for deep-7 bottomfish and non-

NWHI Bottomfish

Harpoon Seamounts

Non-commercial harvest of seamount foundation at

Annual catch limits would be regulated on the High seas

Regional observer Program, requirement

Permit for incidental Hawaii fisherman

Community Development Program reserves 20% of Main Zone

Liability and NWHI, seaweed, length

Large fish on record, Hawaii fisherman

Hrana and participation in focused specialty workshops

Annual landing requirements for permit request and

Hawaii zones

NWHI EEPf will have limited access systems - nau and

Prohibitions of destructive fishing techniques: explosives,
Key Regulations for Mariana Archipelago

All Fisheries
- Annual Catch Limits
- Anchoring prohibited on Guam’s southern banks

Bottomfish
- Prohibits use of destructive fishing techniques: explosives, poisons, trawl nets and bottom-set gillnets
- Prohibit vessels larger than 50 feet from targeting bottomfish with 50 nm around Guam
- Federal permits and reporting for large vessels

Coral Reef Fisheries
- Special permit (permitting and reporting) for Potentially Harvested Coral Reef Taxa and low use Marine Protected Areas
- Prohibitions (on live rock, poisons, explosives)
- Gear identification for traps

Crustaceans
- Permit and reporting (for spiny, slipper, deepwater shrimp)
- Landing notifications

Precious corals
- Spatial management (Exploratory area)
- Permitting and reporting requirements
- Gear restrictions (selective gear only)
- Size restrictions (pink coral min height of 10 in., Black coral min height of 48 in or diameter of 1 in.)
- Gold coral moratorium
- Quotas (1000 kg for all MUS combined, except black corals)
Key Regulations for American Samoa Archipelago

All Fisheries
- Annual Catch Limits
- No-take MPA within 12 nautical miles of Rose Atoll

Bottomfish
- Prohibits use of destructive fishing techniques: explosives, poisons, trawl nets and bottom-set gillnets

Coral Reef Ecosystem
- Special permit (permitting and reporting) for Potentially Harvested Coral Reef Taxa and low use Marine Protected Areas
- Prohibitions (on taking live rock, poisons, explosives)
- Gear identification for traps

Crustaceans
- Permit and reporting (for spiny, slipper, deepwater shrimp)
- Landing notifications

Precious Corals
- Spatial management (Exploratory area)
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