



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

April 26, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240
Email: Ryan_Zinke@ios.doi.gov

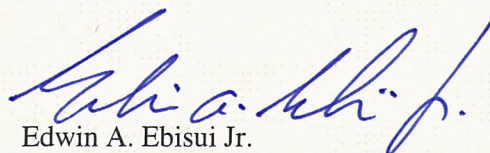
Dear Mr. Secretary:

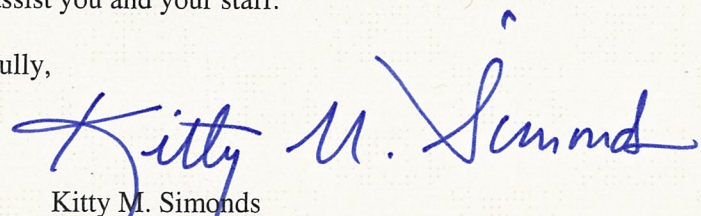
We have read President Trump's Executive Order released today on the Review of Designations under the Antiquities Act and believe it is fitting. We understand that you will provide an interim report to the President within 45 days with respect to the Proclamation 9558 establishing the Bear Ears National Monument and other such designations as you determine to be appropriate. In this regard, we would appreciate your consideration of the four marine national monuments (MNMs) in the US Pacific Islands (i.e., Western Pacific Region) for inclusion in the interim report. Encompassing an area of 760 million acres, these monuments account for 98 percent of the monument area under review, i.e., monuments created since 1996 that span 100,000 acres or greater.

The marine monuments in our region impose a disproportionate burden on our fishermen and indigenous communities, not only in terms of lost fishing area but also economic impact. As island states, we depend on our fisheries for our livelihoods, recreation and culture. In American Samoa, 52 percent of the gross domestic product and the majority of the private-sector employment are fisheries-related. In Hawaii, fish is the #1 food produced, with a landed value of \$110 million. Yet these monuments have closed regulated domestic commercial fishing in 51 percent of the US exclusive economic zone in our region.

Attached are additional points about the marine national monuments in the US Pacific Islands for your consideration as you determine what is appropriate for inclusion in the interim report. Please note that some media reports have included only the acres for the original Papahānaumokuākea MNM (89.5 million acres) and the Pacific Remote Islands MNM (55.6 million acres) and do not include their expansion area (an additional 283 million and 261 million acres respectively, for a total of 373 million and 317 million acres for these two MNMs alone). We have other important information pertinent to the scope of the review to share and are available to assist you and your staff.

Respectfully,


Edwin A. Ebisui Jr.
Chair


Kitty M. Simonds
Executive Director

Attachment: Overview of the Marine National Monuments in the US Pacific Islands and Maps
April 14, 2017, letter to President Trump with attached letters

cc: Secretary of Commerce