



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

6.C.1(2)
183rd CM

August 25, 2020

Rear Admiral Matthew W. Sibley
Commander
U.S. Coast Guard 14th District
300 Ala Moana Blvd, Rm 9-204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-4982

Dear Admiral Sibley,

On behalf of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council), I would like to extend a warm aloha to you and your family and welcome you to the Council *ohana* (family). The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) 14th District is a highly valued member of the Council, and its reports and insights on the enforcement of federal fishery regulations in the Western Pacific Region are an important and integral part of Council meetings.

By now Council staff should have already approached your office for the USGC 14th District report for the 183rd Council virtual meeting, to be held by Webex on Sept. 15-17, 2020. If it hasn't, please have them contact our Program Officer, Mark Mitsuyasu, at mark.mitsuyasu@wpcouncil.org.

Your office should also already have received the agenda for the meeting to help you prepare in advance for the discussions and management decisions to be made. While the USCG is a non-voting member, it is able to participate in the deliberations, and we value its perspective. In particular, I would like to direct your attention to the agenda item 8.F. regarding Presidential Executive Orders (EOs) 13921 and 13924.

EO 13921 addresses American seafood competitiveness and economic growth, including strengthening effort to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The Council would appreciate the USCG to weigh with recommendations on measures the Council could and should take to alleviate those issues. To wit, EO 13921 Section 5 Combatting IUU Fishing, lists the following:

- (a) Within 90 days of the date of this order [May 7, 2020], the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), shall issue, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, a notice of proposed rulemaking further implementing the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing, which entered into force on June 5, 2016 (the Port State Measures Agreement).

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(b) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the heads of other appropriate executive departments and agencies (agencies) shall, to the extent permitted by law, encourage public-private partnerships and promote interagency, intergovernmental, and international cooperation in order to improve global maritime domain awareness, cooperation concerning at-sea transshipment activities, and the effectiveness of fisheries law enforcement.

(c) The Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent with applicable law and available appropriations, prioritize training and technical assistance in key geographic areas to promote sustainable fisheries management; to strengthen and enhance existing enforcement capabilities to combat illegal, unreported, and unregulated fish.

EO 13924 requires agencies to rescind, modify, waive or provide exemptions from regulations that may inhibit the nation's economic recovery from the impacts of the COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Archie Taotasi Soliai".

Archie Taotasi Soliai
Chair