



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office
 300 Ala Moana Blvd Room 5-231
 PO Box 50167
 Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Mr. Archie Taotasi Soliai, Chair
 Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Soliai:

The Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office, and on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration, Ecological Services, and Migratory Bird Programs, would like to report to you and the rest of the Council the following activities related to USFWS managed lands, waters, and species in the Western and Central Pacific Region from June 15, 2020 to September 15, 2020.

- A **team of 7 biologists visited Nihoa** from August 16-22 and completed the following activities: 1) conducted invasive plant surveys and control (*Cenchrus echinatus*, *Eluesine indica*, and *Tetragonia tetragonioides*), 2) conducted passerine surveys, 3) conducted invasive ant surveys, 4) removed songmeters for rare seabird detection project, 5) collected data from and redeployed camera traps monitoring seabirds and vegetation, and 6) maintained Nihoa's weather station.
- The FWS and NMFS have completed the final draft **Marianas Trench MNM Monument Management Plan and Environmental Assessment**, which should be available for on-line public review and comment this fall for a 90-day public comment period.
- **Guam National Wildlife Refuge** staff hosted ten high school students in the Upward Bound Program's marine science class. Students learned about Guam NWR's role in sea turtle conservation and visited a sea turtle nest; learned how to read a tide chart; and practiced marine species identification while exploring Ritidian's reef flat at low tide. Upward Bound is a federally-funded national program that supports high school students that will be first generation college students and/or come from a low-income family.

In addition, staff piloted tide pool exploration as a new program for younger children. A small group of families participated in the event to look for marine creatures, such as giant clams, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and more. Water safety and "reef etiquette" briefings were conducted to promote safe exploration that does not harm marine life at the Guam NWR.



- **Tern Island within Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**

The resource monitor was able to save one green sea turtle that was stuck hanging in the seawall at Tern Island. The resource monitor also found three dead green sea turtles and one Laysan Albatross trapped in the deteriorating seawall and among debris. Staff are planning a trip to Tern in October to mitigate entrapment hazards on island as well as finish up the clean up efforts from Hurricane Walaka. Staff will be prepared to clean up debris from Hurricane Douglas as well.



Sincerely,

Brian Peck
Superintendent
Rose Atoll Marine National Monument and National Wildlife Refuge