



SOUTH
PACIFIC
TUNA
CORPORATION

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President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

South Pacific Tuna Corp., which, for the last 10 years has been the largest US purse seine company fishing in the western Pacific, supports the efforts of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council to rescind the action of previous administrations that has led to the exclusion of US fishermen from using traditional US fishing grounds. We request that you remove the prohibitions on fishing in the Marine National Monuments and return responsibilities for fishery management in these areas to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. This would provide the best opportunities for the US fishing industry to continue to produce fresh, high quality sustainable seafood to the Nation.

US fishermen were not consulted by the Obama Administration prior to the decision to vastly expand the Monument declared under the Bush Administration. As a result, fifty-one (51) percent of the 2.2 million square miles of the US exclusive economic zone of the western pacific region was designated using the antiquities act as marine national monuments. These areas have been unaffected by US purse seine and longline fisheries, which do not interact with those resources identified by the monuments as needing protection such as corals or ocean bottom habitats.

The US fishermen who have traditionally fished these areas operate mainly out of American Samoa and Hawaii. These sustainable fisheries are highly regulated with on-board observer coverage from 20% to 100%, with catch restrictions such as quotas, with full reporting and other regulations through existing national and international management. These regimes have allowed US fisheries in the Western Pacific to operate while conserving and protecting tuna and non-tuna species and their environment.

Highly migratory species such as tuna cannot be conserved or effectively managed by marine protected areas, marine parks, or marine monuments – a simple scientific fact not disputed by reputable fisheries scientists. These species travel thousands of miles through the waters of many nations and on the high seas – that is why they are managed throughout the world by international agreements such as the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission and the South Pacific Tuna Treaty.

Headquarters

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Sincerely,

CEO South Pacific Tuna Corp.

cc: Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce
David Bernhardt, Secretary of the Interior
Kitty Simonds, WPFMC

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