



# 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. Edwin Ebisui, Chair  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Ebisui:

The Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments (PIRAMO) would like to report to you and the rest of the Council the following activities related to US Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands and waters in the Western and Central Pacific Region from October 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015.

- On November 13<sup>th</sup>, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined Republic of Kiribati President Anote Tong to sign a Cooperative Arrangement to coordinate and jointly support research and conservation activities for nearly 490,000 square nautical miles in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (Monument) in the United States and the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) in Kiribati.
- In December, PIRAMO staff, volunteers and partners completed crew swaps for our field stations at Palmyra Atoll and Johnston Atoll. The Nature Conservancy Team at Palmyra has focused on infrastructure maintenance/improvements this winter, while the team on Johnston continues to work towards the eradication of invasive Yellow Crazy Ants.
- PIRAMO staff continue to manage a permanent station at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, which in turn supports the permanent State of Hawaii field station at Kure Atoll. The field stations at Laysan Island and Tern Island will remain closed and unstaffed for the foreseeable future.
- PIRAMO staff and volunteers participated in NOAA's CRED cruise that visited the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument. The PIRAMO Team conducted terrestrial surveys on Johnston, Howland and Baker islands, and deployed experimental remote monitoring equipment to further our understanding of these isolated ecosystems.
- PIRAMO staff continue to work closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on the development of a management plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument. USFWS Regional Staff are working closely with our Pacific partners on the transfer of submerged lands from the Northern Islands to the CNMI.

- In an effort to more effectively manage the 4 Marine National Monuments, the former Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex has been restructured into the Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office with two Superintendents sharing management of the Monuments. Susan White (former WestPac Representative) is the Superintendent for Operations, and Matthew Brown is the Superintendent for Policy/Partners/Support.
- We are pleased to announce Brian Peck has been selected to be the Rose Atoll Wildlife Refuge/Marine National Monument Manager. Brian will start in early May, and hopes to be in Pago Pago by mid-month. He looks forward to building relationships in American Samoa to further cooperation on the management of Rose Atoll MNM.

Sincerely,

Matt Brown  
Superintendent  
Policy, Partners, Support