



**Western
Pacific
Regional
Fishery
Management
Council**

August 17, 2016

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, we are writing to provide you options regarding your consideration of the request to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). We have developed two options to achieve the conservation and legacy objectives communicated by proponents of monument expansion while also ensuring access to current and historic fishing grounds of the highly monitored, responsible Hawaii longline fishery. These options have been vetted and supported by the Hawaii Longline Association and Hawaii Seafood Council.

Both options would result in the establishment of the world's largest contiguous no-take marine protected area, protect all WWII Battle of Midway objects, and encompass deep-sea high-density biological communities of scientific interest.


If you choose to expand the PMNM, we maintain our request that fisheries management in the US EEZ continue to be implemented under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), similar to what was prescribed in the proclamations establishing the Rose Atoll, Marianas Trench, and Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monuments. The Hawaii longline fishery has been evaluated to be 94% compliant with the UN FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fishing and is subject to a suite of regulations developed under the MSA that includes catch limits, sea turtle, seabird, and marine mammal mitigation measures, independent federal observers, real-time satellite monitoring, fishing gear identification, and daily catch logbooks.

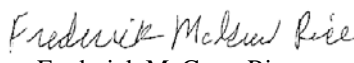
The Hawaii longline fleet has been subject to satellite-based monitoring since the early 1990s and the existing PMNM entry/exit notification requirements are duplicative and overly burdensome. Please consider revising the entry and exit notification requirements for Hawaii longline vessels, which we note only apply to US vessels and not foreign fishing vessels.

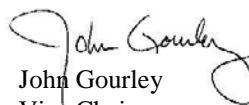
Another change to existing PMNM regulations that we request you consider is to allow subsistence fishing for Native Hawaiian communities, which is consistent with the provisions provided in the Rose Atoll and Marianas Trench monuments for local indigenous communities.

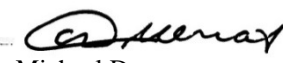
The initiative to expand PMNM has divided the Hawaii community, including friends, families, and colleagues. We believe the options we have developed would repair the community divide while addressing the interests of both sides of this issue.

Sincerely,


Edwin Ebisui Jr.
Chair


Frederick McGrew Rice
Vice Chair


John Gourley
Vice Chair


Michael Duenas
Vice Chair

Enclosure: Proposed PMNM Expansion Options

Cc: White House Council on Environmental Quality and The Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii



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The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States
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1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
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Dear Mr. President:

Yesterday, we provided you with two options regarding your consideration of the request to expand the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument around the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Those options would achieve the conservation and legacy objectives communicated by proponents of monument expansion while also ensuring access to current and historic fishing grounds of the highly monitored, responsible Hawaii longline fishery. These options have been vetted and supported by the Hawaii Longline Association and Hawaii Seafood Council. As noted, the preferred option would also reduce impacts to Native Hawaiian and State rights.

At this time, we submit for your consideration the following addendum to those options:

ADDENDUM

- ✓ 44% of US EEZ around Hawaii as no-take

In other words, both Option A and Option B would place 44 percent of the US exclusive economic zone around Hawaii as no-take waters (with possible allowance for subsistence fishing by native Hawaiian communities, as an added recommendation).

We feel it is important to include this addendum because efforts are underway to expand upon the Aichi Biodiversity Target established in 2010 to conserve 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, which Hawaii meets already. The World Parks Congress in 2014 recommended 30 percent no-take marine protected areas, which either option would exceed by 50 percent. Additionally, the United Nations' Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group is studying issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Edwin Ebisui Jr.
Chair

Frederick McGrew Rice
Vice Chair

John Gourley
Vice Chair

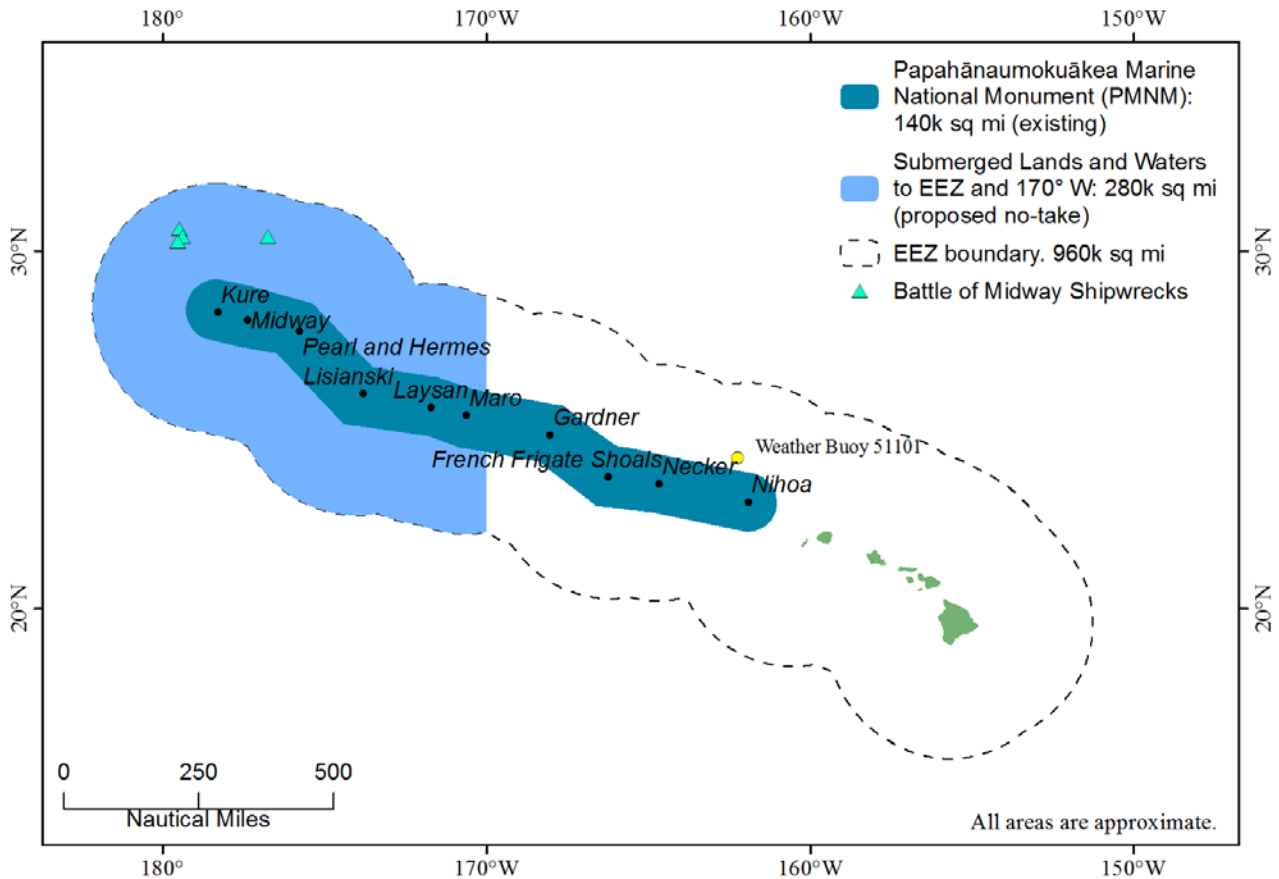
Michael Duenas
Vice Chair

Enclosures: Proposed PMNM Expansion Options with addendum point
Copy of August 18 letter

Cc: White House Council on Environmental Quality
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii

Option A (Preferred): Expansion West of 170°W

- ✓ World's largest contiguous no-take marine protected area: 419,517 sq. miles
- ✓ World's second largest contiguous marine protected area: 419,517 sq. miles
 - ✓ Triples the no-take area of the existing monument
 - ✓ 44% of US EEZ around Hawaii as no-take

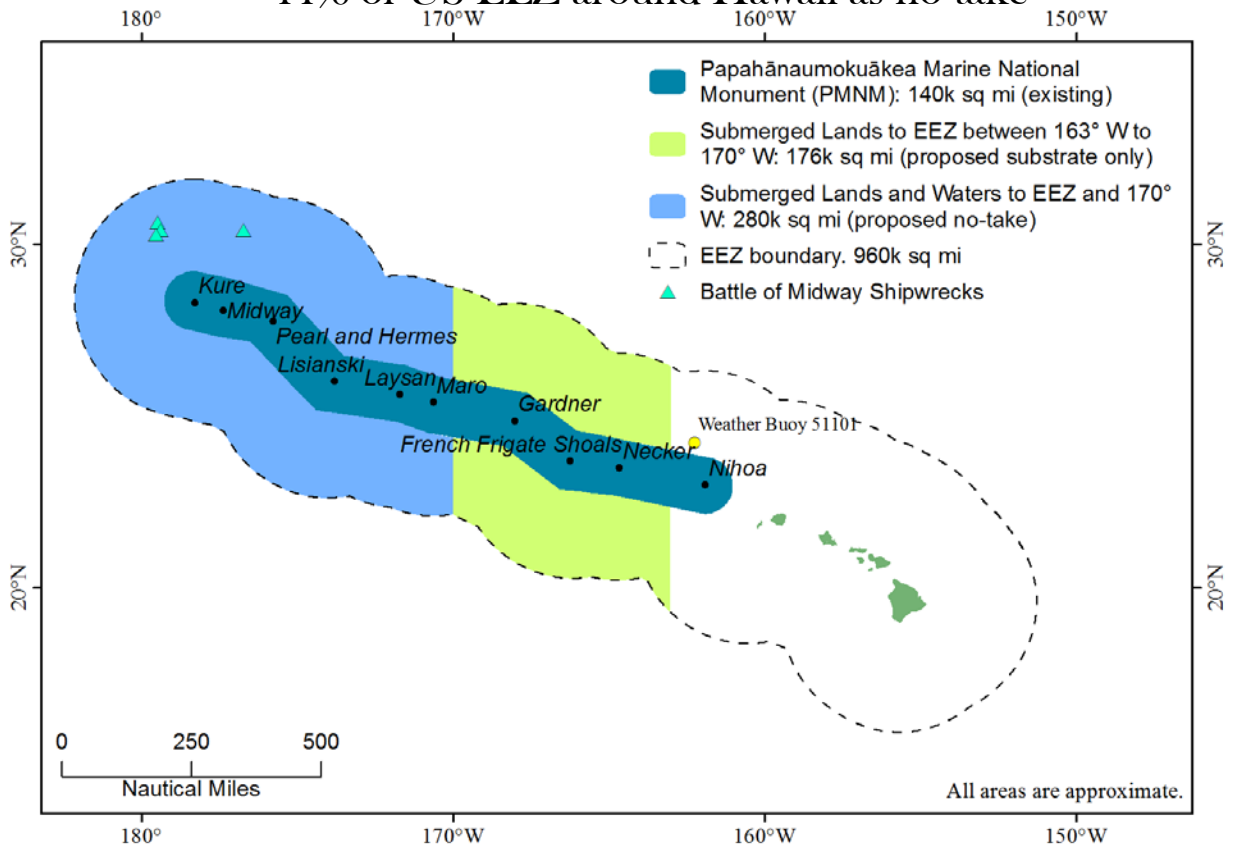


- ❖ Protects seamounts, banks and deep-sea high-density biological communities
- ❖ Eliminates future extractive activities that impact the ocean bottom (i.e., seabed mining)
- ❖ Protects dynamic pelagic areas (e.g., seasonal subtropical frontal zone)
- ❖ Protects all WWII Battle of Midway shipwrecks
- ❖ Encompasses 70% of NWHI monk seal population
- ❖ Encompasses 99% of NWHI albatross nesting population
- ❖ Protects an observed deep sea foraging area of monk seals off Kure
- ❖ Reduces impacts to Hawaii longline fishery and local sustainable food security
- ❖ Reduces enforcement burden for US Coast Guard, NOAA
- ❖ Continues to protect Hancock Seamount Ecosystem Management Area
- ❖ Continues fishery management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act
- ❖ Reduces impacts to Native Hawaiian and State rights



Option B: Expansion West of 163°W (Submerged Lands Only 163°W-170°W)

- ✓ World's largest marine protected area: 582,578 sq. miles
- ✓ World's largest contiguous no-take marine protected area: 419,517 sq. miles
 - ✓ Triples the no-take area of the existing monument
 - ✓ 44% of US EEZ around Hawaii as no-take



- ❖ Protects seamounts, banks and deep-sea high-density biological communities throughout the NWHI EEZ
- ❖ Eliminates future extractive activities that impact the ocean bottom (i.e., seabed mining)
- ❖ Protects dynamic pelagic areas (e.g., seasonal subtropical frontal zone)
- ❖ Protects all WWII Battle of Midway shipwrecks
- ❖ Encompasses 70% of NWHI monk seal population
- ❖ Encompasses 99% of NWHI albatross nesting population
- ❖ Protects an observed deep sea foraging area of monk seals off Kure
- ❖ Reduces impacts to Hawaii longline fishery and local sustainable food security
- ❖ Reduces enforcement burden for US Coast Guard, NOAA
- ❖ Substrate-only precedent exists with the Mariana Trench MNM
- ❖ Continues to protect Hancock Seamount Ecosystem Management Area
- ❖ Continues fishery management under the Magnuson-Stevens Act

