

## **Bigger reserve won't cut fish exploitation**

An expansion of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument has been proposed to make it a no-take ecological reserve. It is mistakenly expected that this will improve fish production inside and outside the reserve.

The proposed expansion is virtually all deep, open-ocean space. No-take reserves in the open ocean have never been found to reduce fishery exploitation and therefore are not expected to enhance production or recovery of fish populations.

The fishery operating in the proposed area is the Hawaii-based longline fishery. This fishery has been well managed for decades by international and U.S. laws that regulate harvest levels and protect endangered species.

The monument would be expanded by virtue of the U.S. Antiquities Act, an act not designed as a fishery-management tool. To use it that way is pointless and a distraction from weighty ecological concerns such as rising temperatures, pollution and ocean acidification.

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