



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

July 5, 2017

Mr. Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 2024045

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Buenas Yan Håfa Adai! I write regarding the Marine National Monument Program and our efforts to remedy fishing restrictions in the waters surrounding the Pacific Island territories that were established under the Antiquities Act of 1906 namely, the Marianas Trench, the Pacific Remote Islands, and the Rose Atoll. Established in January 2009 through Presidential Proclamation 8335 through 8337, these monuments prohibit all forms of commercial fishing while allowing limited subsistence or recreational fishing. Along with the governors of American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we have jointly requested that such fishing restrictions be lifted for the Pacific Island territories as indicated in the March 3, 2017 letter to President Trump. We are pleased that President Trump has called for a review of the marine monument designations, to provide the states and territories with an opportunity to engage in the discussion and decision-making in the effort to gain better control of our surrounding waters.

Of particular interest is the Marianas Trench monument designated under the Antiquities Act. The Marianas Trench is approximately 940 nautical miles long and 38 nautical miles wide and is within the United States Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which prohibits foreign fishing vessels from entering. Although removing the monument designation will allow for commercial fishing, U.S. commercial fishing vessels must obtain a permit to conduct any such fishing activity which will add another protection and monitoring measures to protect our precious marine and fishery resources. Based on information to date, I believe there is no impact on the lifting of the restrictions as the Marianas Trench lies within the United States EEZ.

The EEZ allows for the United States to explore, exploit, and use marine resources, including energy production from water, currents, and winds. Guam's EEZ covers waters from 3 to 200 miles off the island's coast. Guam has local jurisdiction for waters 0 to 3 miles off the coast, with regulations enforced by the Guam Department of Agriculture.

Currently, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) have the authority to enforce the federal laws of the EEZ such as the

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 You governorofguam

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Page 2 of 2
July 5, 2017

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, National Marine Sanctuaries Act, and the Lacey Act.

Although the EEZ is enforced by NOAA and USCG, Guam recognizes the increased need for effective surveillance and enforcement mechanisms. Guam's 2017 Marine Conservation Plan (MCP) identifies planned activities to meet these objectives: 1) Implementation of an at-sea observer program to collect information on foreign fishing activities, and 2) Increase enforcement and surveillance of the U.S. EEZ around Guam. Guam has proposed through the MCP to purchase an enforcement vessel, which will be administered by Guam's Department of Agriculture's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources.

Guam will continue to leverage its local resources to further protect its surrounding waters from illegal foreign vessel activities. The removal of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument will allow our island communities to access these marine resources for food security, sustain cultural fishing practices, and promote economic development opportunities now and for generations to come.

In addition to Guam's request for the reversal of fishing prohibitions under the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument designation, we extend and advocate our continued support to American Samoa and CNMI for the removal of the Pacific Remote Islands and Rose Atoll fishing restrictions.

I trust the information provided will secure Guam's position and the U.S. Territories of American Samoa and CNMI to improve the livelihood of our communities while sustaining effective management of our fisheries and ocean resources.

Senseramente


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Governor of Guam

Enclosure

cc: Walter Leon Guerrero, Administrator, Guam Environmental Protection Agency
Manny Cruz, Acting Director, Bureau of Statistics and Plans
Matthew Sablan, Director, Department of Agriculture
Lorilee Crisostomo, Director, Guam Energy Office
Michael Borja, Director, Department of Land Management
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