



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

June 5, 2018

Ms. Kitty M. Simonds  
Executive Director  
Western Pacific Fishery Management Council  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RECEIVED  
18 JUN 11 P3:03  
WESPAC

Dear Ms. Simonds:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council's views on proposed amendments to the Billfish Conservation Act. I understand that billfish fisheries in Hawaii and Pacific Insular Areas are small, but important, domestic sources of sustainable billfish.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service provided relevant testimony to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee for Water, Power, and Oceans in a April 17, 2018 hearing. With respect to the Billfish Conservation Act amendments (H.R. 4528), we believe the legislation would not advance the conservation of billfish significantly, and would block a small amount of sustainably harvested domestic product from entering commerce on the U.S. mainland.

Thank you for your continued partnership in managing the Nation's fishery resources. If you have any further questions, please contact Chris Oliver, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, at (301) 427-8000.

Sincerely,

Wilbur Ross