



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. Archie Taotasi Soliai, Chair
 Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
 1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
 Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Soliai:

The Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office (PIRAMO), and on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration, Ecological Services, and Migratory Bird Programs, would like to report to you and the rest of the Council the following activities related to USFWS managed lands and waters in the Western and Central Pacific Region from June 15 to September 15, 2021.

- ***Marianas Trench Marine National Monument:***
 - A preliminary teleconference was held on August 10, 2021 with the **Mariana Trench Monument Advisory Council (MTMAC)** nominees, USFWS, and NOAA to discuss status of nominations package, MTMAC charge document, and provide an opportunity for nominees to ask questions/provide comments on the **draft Marianas Trench Marine National Monument management plan**. The MTMAC agency representatives' nomination package is currently with the Department's White House Liaison for vetting the nominees as of 8/25/21.
- ***Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration:***
 - Currently reviewing grant proposals from Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa agencies to fund their **Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Access projects** for the coming fiscal year. WSFR grants to Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources for next FY have already been approved.
- ***Ecological Services, Aquatic Ecosystems Conservation (AEC) Team:***
 - The AEC team contributes to **Coral Reef Task Force, Fisheries Working Group** meetings each month. This interagency working group aims to identify and share available resources between federal and jurisdictional partners. Examples of anticipated collaborative projects include enhancing and formalizing fisheries management plans, improving fisheries monitoring, and completing studies to determine current state and trends in prioritized fisheries.

- We are collaborating with the state of Hawaii, Department of Aquatic Resources (DAR) to plan for establishment and expansion of **several State artificial reef sites**. Benthic habitat surveys and Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act assessments are in process. Primary goals include identifying specific locations that are favorable for artificial reef material deployment, and study of previous deployments to better know what to expect from potential future deployments. Our ultimate goal is to generally enhance understanding of potential positive and negative impacts of artificial reefs in the Hawaiian context and to contribute to an artificial reef program that can maximize fisheries benefits and minimize ecological risks associated with altering the natural benthic ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Brian Peck
Superintendent
Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
and National Wildlife Refuge