



# 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. Taotasi Archie 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 September 15 to November 30, 2022.

- ***Marianas Trench MNM:***

- Refuge Supervisor Lopez visited Saipan and met with partner CNMI officials the first week of November.
- Ranger Younis continues to promote environmental education and community engagement in CNMI with presentations in support of marine life and marine habitat protection throughout the Marianas, including interpreting a whale bone display and the connections between traditional fishing and seamounts.
- There were 2 research expeditions to serpentinite mud volcanoes permitted in the Mariana Trench National Wildlife Refuge in 2022. The first, **DeepBlue RV Sonne**, was led by the University of Bremen in July and the **RV Kilo Moana** expedition will go from November- December, led by the University of Alaska.

- ***Rose Atoll MNM:***

- NOAA National Geodetic Survey began to fly LiDAR transects on several islands and seamounts within American Samoa, including at Rose Atoll. This LiDAR is capable of bathymetry data up to 30-50 meters depth which will be immensely valuable to gauge long term changes to the coral reefs and entry channel at Rose Atoll.

Sincerely,

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