



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



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4th CM

Mr. John Gourley, Chair
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Gourley:

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 December 1, 2022 to March 15, 2023.

- ***Marianas Trench MNM:***
 - Dr. Toni Mizerek is the current Superintendent of the MTMNM and Project Leader for the Guam NWR.
 - The Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) R/V *KAIMEI* expedition has been authorized to collect bathymetric data and carry out ROV dives at NW Eifuku and Daikoku seamounts from March 2-27, 2023.
 - The USFWS is in consultation with design contractors for development of displays for the MTMNM visitor contact station at American Memorial Park on Saipan.
 - Ranger Younis has been promoting an education blitz on *serpentinite mud volcanoes* at high schools throughout the CNMI. In tandem with community engagement, a high school-level naming competition for 3 of these amazing deep-sea features in the Mariana fore-arc is underway with coordination and reviews through the MTMNM cultural working group.
 - The Federal Managers of the MTMNM have requested new CNMI MTMAC nominations from Governor Palacios. Staff are working with the newly-nominated DLNR Secretary, Sylvan Igisomar. Dr. Mizerek is the DFO for the MTMAC now.

- ***Pacific Remote Islands MNM:***
 - The *FS Sonne*, a German research vessel, has been authorized to sail April 14 - June 2, 2023 in the Equatorial Pacific Ocean from Ecuador to Australia, passing through the Jarvis and Baker units of the PRIMNM. The research will focus on trace element biogeochemistry, chemical oceanography, and also include physical and biological oceanographic components.

- ***Rose Atoll MNM:***

- Two trips to Rose Atoll MNM occurred in late January and February:

The primary purposes of the first trip were to ground truth invasive algae cover and identify species/genus on the coral reef to compare to satellite imagery; and to excavate green sea turtle nests to determine hatchling success.

The second trip was to carry out the first phase of the remaining iron removal at the Jin Shing Fa shipwreck site where a team of FWS and DMWR-CRAG divers relocated corals that had grown on or near the iron debris. The next phase will be to remove as much of the remaining iron as possible.

Sincerely,

Brian Peck
USFWS WesPac Council Representative
Superintendent/Manager
Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
and National Wildlife Refuge