

My comments are, I believe in balance of resources for use along with preservation. My comments regarding the proposed Remote Island National Marine Sanctuary proposal areas follow.

The expansion of the closure of more available US fishing waters provides very little if any benefit for the protection and management of fish resources. With the proposed expansion the only species it will impact are migratory fish which do not stay within the proposed boundaries. The only benefit will be more resources for Asian and European vessels fishing the Pacific waters. International agreements with countries currently not caring for, or flaunting what international laws that is in place now, should be the priority. International, illegal fishing by certain countries fishing vessels should be addressed first not more closures for those who abide by the strictest rules and standards of any fishing industry.

More importantly, the impact on US supplied fish for our local cannery must be a priority. The vessels that supply the canneries here now would leave.

Hawaii, without tourism or the military and the employment spin off those entities create; Hawaii would be the poorest state in the nation with mass unemployment. American Samoa faces the same situation. The canneries are our only resource; everything else is a spin off with businesses supporting the trickledown effect. It is not only the workers and owners at the canneries who will suffer but triple that amount would also be impacted who now support in one way or another, the cannery (including taxes for the government to operate).

I believe in looking after resources but the very little, if any, impact this proposal would have on the fish stocks would not preserve the migratory species but enhance the catch of those countries that do not care at the expense of the US fishing industry.

Although not fishing as much as I used to, in the past fifty plus years, fishing in American Samoa has not changed much, good day's bad days but can't remember when last getting skunked.

Peter Crispin