



# 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. William Sword  
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council  
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Sword:

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 16, 2023 to September 15, 2023.

## ***Marianas Trench MNM:***

- PRESS RELEASE: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Names New Superintendent for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument:

<https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2023-08/mtmnm-new-superintendent>



### [MTMNM New Superintendent | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service](#)

GARAPAN, Saipan —The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced Dr. Sean Macduff as the new superintendent for the Mariana Trench Marine National Monument. Macduff will begin his new position in the Service's monument office in Garapan mid-September, 2023.

[www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov)

- The Mariana Trench Marine National Monument Advisory Committee (MTMAC) process is proceeding at Department levels of both the DOI and the NOAA, for final review. After Departmental review is finalized, the FWS plans for the seating and associated meetings of the MTMAC.
- Monument Management Plan finalization is pending review by MTMAC after formal appointments. Agencies continue to follow the 11 action plans described in the DMMP, as updated under the "working" Management Plan awaiting final FONSI.

***Pacific Remote Islands MNM:***

- The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) will be using the vessel Gutsy Lady 4 for work in the Palmyra Atoll and Jarvis Island Monument Units beginning August 16 to tag bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna with acoustic tags and monitor them around drifting fish aggregating devices (dFADs).
- The USFWS Rainforest Realignment Project at Palmyra Atoll (which includes maximum control of invasive coconut palms with herbicide and manual cutting) continues.
- A number of research projects are currently happening at Palmyra Atoll Refuge and The Nature Conservancy including: TNC seabird attraction project, Blue Water-Seabird Movement and Foraging Ecology project, and Coral Bleaching Tolerance Project.

***Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration:***

- WSFR is currently working with NMFS and FEMA (as a cooperating action agency if they are to fund FAD deployment after a disaster) to update our Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation on the sport fishing FADs deployed in Guam, CNMI, and American Samoa. This consultation will be renewed for an indefinite period, until re-initiation requirements are triggered.

Sincerely,

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