



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850



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203rd CM

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

Dear Mr. Sword:

The Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office (PIFWO), and on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration, Ecological Services, National Wildlife Refuges, Marine National Monuments, 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 March 16 to May 15, 2025.

Mr. Brian Peck retired from federal service on May 31 after having served on the Council as the FWS representative for 10 years. Mr. Jeremy Raynal is now the FWS primary representative, and Dr. Sean Macduff remains as the alternate.

### ***Pacific Islands Heritage MNM:***

- We will be permitting an upcoming research activity in Monument waters June to August 2025 for the University of Hawaii in the Howland Island, Baker Island, Jarvis Island, Palmyra Atoll, and Kingman Reef Monument Units to catch and release bigeye, skipjack, and yellowfin tuna with conventional tags around industry provided drifting FADs (dFADs) using the vessel Gutsy Lady 4 (United States flagged).
- Another upcoming permitted research activity in the PIHMNM is the Ocean Exploration Trust using the vessel Nautilus August to September 2025. They will explore and map the Wake Atoll Monument Unit.

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

The Council requested an update on various MTMNM activities:

Currently the MTMNM contact station is undergoing improvements including an exterior mural depicting the shallow, open water, and deep sea organisms and habitats found in the Monument. The artist will be on island in May to complete the mural. The interior walls will have updated information and pictures about the Monument. Monument staff continue to conduct education

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## **PACIFIC REGION 1**

IDAHO, OREGON\*, WASHINGTON,  
AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAII, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

\*PARTIAL

and outreach activities with visitors and students who visit the contact station, with students at their schools, and at community events.

The current Mariana Trench Monument Advisory Council (MTMAC) consists of Rosemary Camacho – CNMI (Chair), Zabrina Shai – CNMI (Vice Chair), Frank Rabauliman – CNMI, Maile Norman – USGS, and Mark Cruz – DoD (Secretary). The MTMAC voted to include a representative (primary and alternate) from Guam. Guam Governor Lou Leon Guerrero nominated Dr. Austin Shelton and Mr. Clynton Ridgell to serve as the primary and alternate Guam representatives respectively. Currently the nomination is with the DOI White House liaison for review and approval. The DoD nomination, Rear Admiral Brent DeVore, is also in review and awaiting approval. Mr. Mark Cruz continues to serve as the delegated DoD representative. All MTMAC nominees will be vetted through a review process, including an Executive Branch-level background investigation prior to appointment.

Mr. Floyd Masaga, Mr. Richard Salas, and Mr. Chris Concepcion all left the CNMI government and are no longer eligible to serve on the MTMAC. Ms. Camacho and Ms. Shai have moved up from alternate members to become primary members, however CNMI currently has no alternate members.

The Monument continues to implement the strategies and actions from our management plan. Economic hardship continues to fall on the CNMI, which makes our mission of serving as an asset to our community and visitors increasingly valuable. We continue to work with limited resources to bring learning opportunities and partnerships to the communities of the Marianas.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Raynal  
Biologist – Aquatic Ecosystems  
USFWS WesPac Council Representative  
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service