



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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205th 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) would like to report the following activities related to USFWS managed lands and waters in the Western and Central Pacific Region to you and the rest of the Council, 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. The following activities took place from August 16 to November 15, 2025.

Pacific Islands Heritage MNM:

- USFWS issued a Special Use Permit for research in the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument (PIHMNM) for the University of Hawaii to tag tunas around drifting FADs in the Howland Island, Baker Island, Jarvis Island, Palmyra Atoll, and Kingman Reef Monument Units. Operations were carried out from June to August, 2025. 4,446 tunas including 2,894 bigeye, 1,481 yellowfin, and 71 skipjack were tagged and released with conventional tags. 10 of the bigeye were also affixed with satellite tags.
- USFWS issued a research permit for the Ocean Exploration Trust to explore and map the Howland Island and Baker Island Monument Units aboard the Nautilus. This was carried out from August to September 2025.

Rose Atoll MNM:

- A joint FWS/DMWR expedition to Rose is scheduled for December 17-21 to support the long-term marine turtle biology and assessment program.
- BOEM announced completion of Area Identification for potential critical minerals leasing adjacent to the Monument/Sanctuary. FWS is continuing intergovernmental coordination during the environmental analysis phase of this work.

PACIFIC REGION 1

IDAHO, OREGON*, WASHINGTON,
AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, HAWAI'I, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

*PARTIAL

- The FWS is coordinating with the NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER) on the proposed investigation of potential sea floor hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic activity, and landslides. Deep sea biodiversity research is also proposed including subjects of biogeography and other species distribution characteristics.

Office of Migratory Birds (OMB):

- The Region 1 USFWS Office of Migratory Birds is part of a team organizing a virtual Seabird Bycatch Reduction Strategies Workshop (February 11-12, 2026) which will convene experts, practitioners, and partners from across North America. Participants include representatives of commercial fishing, conservation, and research communities with goals to advance knowledge and collaboration on seabird bycatch reduction in gillnet, longline, and trawl fisheries. Interested parties may contact the workshop facilitator David Bidwell (dbidwell@lynnecarbone.com).

Office of Conservation Investment (CI):

- Granted funds for AS DMWR to purchase a drone for FAD monitoring and coral monitoring. Concurrence, in partnership with NMFS, is expected by January.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeremy Raynal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeremy" and last name "Raynal" clearly distinguishable.

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