



United States Department of the Interior

5.F(1)
206th CM



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122
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 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 November 16, 2025 to March 15, 2026, prior to the 206th Council Meeting.

Rose Atoll MNM/Muliava Unit:

- Acting Refuge Manager and Superintendent Laura Beauregard is now the POC for all questions related to the Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge and Rose Atoll Marine National Monument.
- Muliāva Laumei Fa'asao, a team of FWS and American Samoa DMWR personnel, voyaged to Muliāva in December during peak green turtle nesting season to identify and tag nesting females and record morphometric measurements, collect skin samples, and deploy subsurface temperature loggers in marked nests.
- DMWR Wildlife Biologist Alphina Liusamoa was designated by the Refuge Manager as a Refuge Resource Monitor for DMWR survey expeditions to the Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in accordance with approved Special Use Permits. This allows DMWR to visit Muliāva without FWS personnel.
- DMWR Director Ilaoa also designated Ms. Liusamoa as the DMWR POC for work on renewing the MOU between FWS and DMWR for co-stewardship of the atoll. Laura Beauregard is the FWS POC and MOU revisions are underway.
- Under Special Use Permit (12514-26-01), Ms. Liusamoa will lead a DMWR team to Muliāva in late March to recover temperature loggers, perform nest excavations, and tag and collect data on any late-season nesting females encountered. Data will be provided to NOAA's Pacific Islands

PACIFIC REGION 1

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

*PARTIAL

Fisheries Science Center for analysis. Thermal profiles may help estimate the green sea turtle hatchling sex ratio based on regional temperature-dependent thresholds. The nest excavations will help quantify hatching success and provide assistance to any encountered late-emerging hatchlings.

Mariana Trench MNM:

- A Research and Monitoring permit (12540-25002) was issued in December 2025 to the Japan Agency for Marine Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC) for a project to include two cruises aboard the R/V Kaimea to study hydrothermal vents and seamounts within Monument waters. Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) will be used to collect sediment, rock, fluid and organism samples. A Preliminary trip report was provided to the Council.
- A Commercial Right of Way permit (12541-25002) was issued in December 2025 to Starfish Infrastructure Inc. to install the Bulikula fiberoptic cable across approximately 180 miles of Refuge seabed. A site map of this area was provided to the Council.
- Ongoing coordination is occurring with E/V Nautilus regarding deep sea research and outreach activities.

Reports Provided to the Council:

- Abundance, Production, and Migrations of Nesting Green Turtles at Rose Atoll
- Seafloor Mapping Offshore Howland and Baker Islands
- Pacific Tuna Tagging Project: Phase 2 (Central Pacific)
- Bulikula Cable – Mariana Trench National Wildlife Refuge Crossing (Map)
- Preliminary Cruise Report: JAMSTEC Hydrothermal Vent and Seamount Study, Mariana Trench Marine National Monument

Sincerely,



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