

[June 6, 2016]

Aloha Tim,

Hope you are well. I am currently with the WesPac Council in Saipan/Guam for our second meeting of 2016 and wanted to get in touch with you before the NWHI Coral Reef AP meeting which I will not be able to attend.

As you know, Council had sent a letter to President Obama with solid arguments against the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument expansion's perceived benefits and Don Schug has since reviewed it. Council scientist Paul Dalzell sent his comments of the review back to Don, on which you were copied.

I wanted to highlight a particular section of Paul's comments to Don. Regarding Don's summary on the work of Jeff Polovina and the NP pelagic ecosystem, it is crucial to not attribute all effects to only the Hawaii longline fleet. Jeff acknowledges that he was referring to all fisheries in the region, both US and foreign. The domestic Hawaii fleet represents only 4% of the regional effort and only 2% in the entire Pacific Ocean. This is a statement that the Council has reiterated many times in the international arena and is equally important to consider in these matters.

Additionally, Paul also notes that there are scientific inconsistencies regarding bigeye catch rates and catch sizes. Paul's assessment is correct as I can attest by being at the auction, where for the past few years I have observed increasing catch rates of much larger bigeye tuna over a consistent period of time. I believe both these points are vitally important to note.

Thanks for your time and hope the meeting goes well on Wednesday. I look forward to talking to you on the Commissioners call on the 14th.

Mahalo,

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