



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

May 26, 2022

Kitty Simonds
Executive Director
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Simonds:

I would like to thank you for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's response letter dated March 22, 2022, regarding the consideration for designating marine portions of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a national marine sanctuary. As part of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act Section 304(a)(5) process, coordination with the Regional Fishery Management Council is a critical step in the proposed sanctuary designation and I am pleased that we continue to coordinate on how to best manage this naturally and culturally significant place.

I would also like to thank the Council for its decision to develop draft fishery regulations for the proposed sanctuary. As we prepare for the next phase of the sanctuary designation process, it is important that NOAA receives the Council's draft regulations in a timely manner. To best facilitate this timing, I have asked members of my staff to coordinate a meeting between Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Council staff to set a reasonable deadline for NOAA's receipt of draft fishery regulations and to help ONMS better understand the Council's process for amending the Hawaii Archipelago Fishery Ecosystem Plan.

As part of our commitment to transparency throughout the sanctuary designation process, I want to assure the Council that any draft regulations received by NOAA will be measured against the current requirements under Presidential Proclamations 8031, 8112, and 9478 specific to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), as well as the goals and objectives of the proposed national marine sanctuary as detailed in our November 19, 2021 letter to Chairperson Soliai.

I appreciate the time and effort of the Council thus far and look forward to receiving your final draft regulations. Please feel free to contact Athline Clark at 808-725-5800 or Athline.Clark@noaa.gov if you have any questions or require more information.

Sincerely,



John Armor
Director

cc: Michael Tosatto, Regional Administrator, NMFS-PIRO
Gerry Davis, Assistant Regional Administrator NMFS-PIRO HCD
Kristina Kekuewa, Regional Director, ONMS-PIR
Athline Clark, Superintendent, PMNM

