



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
NOAA DKIRC
NOS/ONMS/PMNM
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

September 22, 2020

MEMORANDUM FOR: John Armor,
Director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

THROUGH: Kristina Kekuewa, Regional Director
Pacific Islands Region

FROM: Athline Clark, Superintendent
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

SUBJECT: NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council
Resolution in response to Presidential Executive Order 13921
"To Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth"

Background on Advisory Council Communication

In early May, following the President's Executive Order 13921 "To Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth," members of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) expressed their desire to take action and draft a response. At its May 22, 2020 meeting, the RAC unanimously approved to have a working group draft a resolution that would be reviewed and voted upon at its next meeting.

In addition to a draft resolution, the working group also drafted a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet based on publicly-available fishery statistics and peer-reviewed literature that provides additional context to the resolution. The FAQ sheet was developed to be used by the RAC in multiple discussions moving forward. During the RAC discussion on the Resolution and FAQs at its August 20, 2020 meeting was also pointed out that this document is not peer-reviewed and that it also included information about areas outside of the RAC's area of responsibility.

At its August 20, 2020 meeting, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem RAC unanimously approved the resolution after discussion and voting on minor revisions to the resolution. The resolution was signed by Chair William Aila Jr. on August 28, 2020. The RAC also voted to submit the FAQ sheet as an accompanying document. The NOAA superintendent made it clear to the RAC and those present that this FAQ sheet is not an official document of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and that we would have concerns with supporting it due to the focus. NOAA Fisheries raised similar concerns and furthermore reminded the RAC that commenting on fisheries management was outside of the scope RAC's purview.

Site Superintendent's Position

I concur with the statements made in this resolution regarding the Presidential Executive Order 13921 and support the RAC's position on this matter.

However, I do not support the accompanying FAQ sheet as many of the facts in this document focus on jurisdiction and management functions that are outside the purview of ONMS, and therefore, outside the RAC's scope and purpose. It was made known to the RAC at the August 20, 2020 meeting that the facts and statements in the FAQ sheet would be difficult to support by ONMS and NOAA Fisheries.

Signature of Transmittal of Information to ONMS Director

Acknowledges what has transpired:

John Armor
Director,
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

10/13/2020
Date

