

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE
RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Non-Government (Voting)

William Aila Jr. (Chair)
State of Hawai'i
Linda Paul (Vice Chair)
Conservation
Rick Gaffney (Secretary)
Recreational Fishing
Solomon Kahooalahala
Native Hawaiian Elder
Halealoha Ayau
Native Hawaiian
Pelika Andrade
Native Hawaiian
Gail Grabowsky
Education
Phil Fernandez
Commercial Fishing
Cindy Hunter
Research
Don Schug
Research
Jean Kenyon
Research
Richard Lee
Ocean-Related Tourism
Kanoë Morishige
Conservation
Audrey Newman
Conservation
Judith Cucco
Citizen-at-Large

Government (Non-Voting)

Athline Clark
Papahānaumokuākea MNM
Allen Tom
*Hawaiian Islands Humpback
Whales NMS*
Hoku Kaaekuahiwi-Pousima
NOAA Fisheries PIRO
Brandon Jim On
NOAA OLE
Brad Kaaleleo Wong
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Maile Norman
U.S. Coast Guard
Janice Fukawa
U.S. Department of Defense
Joshua DeMello
WESPAC
Dan Polhemus
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Ecological Services*
Jared Underwood
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Refuges*
Brian Neilson
State of Hawai'i - DLNR

August 28, 2020

Mr. John Armor, Director
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

c/o Ms. Athline Clark, Superintendent Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
NOAA/DKIRC NOS/ONMS/PMNM
1845 Wasp Boulevard, Building 176
Honolulu, HI 96818

RE: Executive Order 13921 to Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth

Aloha mai Director Armor,

The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council hereby submits the following resolution concerning possible regional fishery management council recommendations submitted under Section 4 of Executive Order 13921 that would revoke fishing restrictions in the Pacific marine national monuments. Adopted by a unanimous vote, the resolution affirms that the Council is strongly opposed to any recommendations that would diminish the effectiveness of the conservation measures in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National and other Pacific marine national monuments.

At the same time, the Council is fully supportive of recommendations that would truly reduce burdens and increase production in US fisheries. However, as outlined in the accompanying FAQ sheet prepared by a Council committee based on publicly-available fishery statistics and peer-reviewed literature, there is no evidence that removing the fishing restrictions in the Pacific marine national monuments would significantly benefit the US fishing industry. Instead, removing these restrictions would likely undermine precautionary measures designed to both protect pelagic ecosystems and help ensure fishery resources are available for years to come.

Sincerely,



William Aila, Jr.

Chair

NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council