



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office
300 Ala Moana Blvd Room 5-231
PO Box 50167
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 Refuges and Monuments Office (PIRAMO), and on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration, Ecological Services, and Migratory Bird Programs, would like to report to you and the rest of the Council the following activities related to USFWS managed lands and waters in the Western and Central Pacific Region from September 16, 2024 to December 15, 2024.

Dr. Sean MacDuff was designated as the first alternate for the USFWS representative on the Council. Sean is the Superintendent for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument based in Saipan. His resume and contact information are attached.

Pacific Remote Islands MNM:

- The USFWS issued a Special Use Permit for a climate change research cruise January to March 2025 by the Japanese Meteorological Agency (JMA) for the Wake Atoll portion of the PRIMNM. This climate change research is ongoing since 1996 with the following objectives to monitor: vertical profiles of seawater temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and nutrients; concentrations of greenhouse gases in the water and atmosphere, and marine pollutants such as heavy metals, oil, and floating tar balls. The research will be conducted onboard the R/V Keifu Maru, and will consist of a cruise track along longitude 165° E from latitudes 35° N to the equator.
- On November 9, 2024, a drifting fish aggregating device (dFAD) was retrieved offshore at Palmyra Atoll NWR. This is the 44th dFAD recorded at Palmyra in 2024.
- Work continues at Palmyra Atoll NWR by U.C. Santa Barbara to determine how herbivorous fish respond to predation risk, competition, and the spatial distribution of resources through surveys and observations to understand what factors influence community assemblage, feeding rates, and spatial use.
- A project was recently initiated at Palmyra Atoll NWR by San Jose University and the University of Alaska at Fairbanks and in conjunction with the Palmyra Blue Water Research project to assess synergistic relationships between aquatic and aerial marine

predators and the connectivity of Palmyra's seabird species to other pelagic populations & environments. This project is characterizing and evaluating the ecological relationship between aerial predators (boobies) and subsurface predators (tuna, dolphins, sharks, etc.) that associate while feeding on schooling fish.

Ecological Services:

- USFWS (Migratory Birds, Refuges-PIRAMO, and Ecological Services) have been meeting with the US Air Force to provide technical assistance, as a cooperating agency, on their proposed SpaceX rocket landings at Johnston Atoll. We do not feel their draft EA adequately addresses impacts and are requesting for USAF to include minimization measures and restore the land to pre-rocket conditions following completion of their rocket landings and infrastructure. We are continuing discussions with USAF on steps to move forward.
- USFWS conducted surveys around Marine Corps Base Hawaii to characterize the marine resources within their nearshore security zone. Additionally, the USFWS facilitated a wetland contaminant study.
- USFWS partners with NMFS to conduct baseline marine inventory surveys at Kwajalein Atoll. Additionally, USFWS has started photogrammetry surveys to categorize key areas around the Atoll.
- USFWS conducted a Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act consultation with the USACE to study possible alternatives for modifications to the Honolulu Harbor entrance channel. These modifications include better entrance channel navigation and widening Kapalama Channel. Additional alternatives include exploring coastal storm management to protect vital components of the harbor.
- The USFWS is leading a multiple agency (Bishop Museum, PMNM, Old Dominion University and Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology) research project in American Samoa that characterizes the mesophotic coral ecosystems around Tutuila. Characterization includes fish diversity, key fishery species, coral, algae, invertebrates, coral bleaching thresholds, and predictive modeling.
- The USFWS worked with the Naval Base Guam to develop an Apra Harbor emergency response plan for vessel groundings, anchor impacts, UXO, or marine debris. The response plan is under review currently.

Sincerely,

Brian Peck
USFWS WesPac Council Representative
Superintendent/Manager
Rose Atoll Marine National Monument
and National Wildlife Refuge

Sean DLG Macduff
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Research focus on the linkages between terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and how human impacts play a role in resource sustainability, management, and conservation. Professional work experience in the collection of water quality, habitat quality, and of fisheries data with respect to resource management, conservation, and sustainable use. Additional work experience in the review and application of environmental laws required for 1) the management of natural resources and 2) the protection of human health and the environment. I am passionate about the applicability of science and how collaborative management can solve issues important to communities. I want to be a community asset. I eat fish and want my kids and future generations to have fish to eat. That's why I conserve. That's why I care.

EDUCATION

PhD in Zoology (Marine Biology), University of Hawaii at Manoa
BS in Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa
AAS in Criminal Justice, Northern Marianas College
Graduated from Marianas High School

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Superintendent, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Saipan CNMI, 9/2023 – present. Manage research, permitting, education and outreach, and coordinated management of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.
- Life Scientist, US Environmental Protection Agency, Seattle WA, 4/2022 – 9/2023; 12/2016 – 7/2020. Worked with State, Federal, Tribal, Industry, and community partners to implement and coordinate marine restoration and recovery programs in Puget Sound, WA.
- Assistant Director for Community Engagement, University of Washington Sea Grant, Seattle WA, 7/2020 – 4/2022. Managed research, education, and marine extension staff responsible for promoting ecosystem health, human wellbeing and beneficial industry outcomes.
- Aquatic Biologist Intern, US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle WA, 7/2016 – 12/2016. Reviewed civil works, navigation, restoration, emergency management projects and identified direct and cumulative impacts to ESA species/habitats and documented NEPA compliance.
- Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Saipan CNMI, 6/2012 – 9/2015. Managed all fishery-dependent data collection programs. Represented the CNMI on the regional fisheries management council as a member on several committees.
- Graduate Research Assistant, Kewalo Marine Laboratory, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu HI, 8/2008 – 7/2013. Collected environmental and coral tissue samples to investigate how land-based pollution affected coral and coral reef health.
- Fisheries Analyst Intern, Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, Honolulu HI, 1/2012 – 5/2012. Collaborated with federal and local government agencies on the compilation, analysis, interpretation, and reporting of fisheries dependent creel survey data from the CNMI.
- Police Officer, CNMI Department of Public Safety, Saipan CNMI, 7/1999 – 7/2003. Completed 17th Cycle Police Academy. Enforced local traffic and criminal laws.