



# 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



5.F(1)  
202nd CM

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 December 16, 2024 to March 15, 2025.

### *Pacific Islands Heritage MNM:*

- The Pacific Remote Islands MNM was officially renamed the Pacific Islands Heritage MNM.
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- The USFWS issued a Special Use Permit for the Fisheries Agency, Government of Japan, for 27 September - 22 October 2024 in the Howland Island and Baker Island Units of the Pacific Islands Heritage Marine National Monument (PIHMNM). They used the vessel Kaiyo-Maru to conduct research on the spatial and vertical distribution of skipjack, bigeye and yellowfin larvae and juveniles and their relations to the oceanographic features in subtropical and tropical waters in the Pacific Ocean. Research is in coordination with The Pacific Community (SPC). The research builds upon the skipjack sampling survey done by this group during 2012 and 2022, which informed the following publications:
  - Aoki, Y., Tanaka, F., Aoki, A., Ohashi, S., and Kiyofuji, H. (2024). Re-evaluating age estimation using daily increments on otoliths of the skipjack tuna *Katsuwonus pelamis*. *Fisheries Research*, 269, 106855.
  - Kiyofuji, H., Ohashi, S., Aoki, Y., Masujima, M., Tanaka, F., Fujioka, K., Okazaki, M., Aoki, A., Satoh, K., Fayakun, S., Priatna, A. and Taufik, M. (2019) Overview of recent research cruises in the WCPO and Indonesian archipelagic water by the R/V Shunyo-Maru of NRIFSF. WCPFC-SC15-2019/EB-WP-05.
  - Matsubayashi, J., Kimura, K., Ohkouchi, N., Ogawa, N.O., Ishikawa, N.F., Chikawaishi, Y., Tsuda, Y., Minami, H. (2022) Using geostatistical analysis for simultaneous estimation of isoscapes and ontogenetic shifts in

isotope ratios of highly migratory marine fish. *Frontiers in Marine Science*. 2305.

- Satoh K, Katayama S, Tanabe T, Okamoto K (2023) Connectivity in juvenile yellowfin tuna *Thunnus albacares* between temperate and tropical regions of the western Pacific Ocean. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 713:151-172.
- Tanabe, T., Kiyofuji, H., Shimizu, Y. and Ogura, M. (2017) Vertical distribution of juvenile skipjack tuna *Katsuwonus pelamis* in the tropical western Pacific Ocean. *Japan Agricultural Research Quarterly*. 51 (2): 181-189.

***Marianas Trench MNM:***

- Governor Lou Leon Guerrero nominated Guam's MTMAC representatives with the appointment package anticipated to take some time:
  - Dr. Austin Shelton (UOG) – primary
  - Mr. Clynton Ridgell (Governors Office) – alternate
- MTMAC membership changes
  - Rich Salas (CNMI) and Chris Concepcion (CNMI) no longer work for the government and not eligible to remain on the MTMAC
  - Rosemary Camacho (CNMI) and Zabrina Shai (CNMI), former alternates, will serve as primary members and were voted by the MTMAC to be the Chair and Vice Chair respectively (replacing Floyd and Rich)
  - Floyd Masga (CNMI) is in a different role within the CNMI government, and I am waiting for guidance from the CNMI leadership on his participation
- Coordinating with E/V Nautilus on early summer deep sea research/exploration expeditions, and outreach activities

Sincerely,

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