



## Pacific Fishery Management Council

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Dorothy M. Lowman, Chair | Donald O. McIsaac, Executive Director

October 3, 2014

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510-0203

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your request for Pacific Fishery Management Council (Pacific Council) comments on your bill, S. 2608, the Improved National Monument Designation Process Act (S. 2608).

At its September meeting, the Pacific Council took statements from its Legislative Committee, other advisory bodies, and the public on S. 2608 and developed the following comments:

- 1) The Pacific Council believes any legislation relating to establishing national monuments should must make clear that fishing regulation within marine national monuments must be accomplished under the authority and processes of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, rather than the Antiquities Act or any other Act.
- 2) The Pacific Council recommends that a requirement be added in Section 2 of S. 2608 that any proposed marine national monument be presented to the appropriate Regional Fishery Management Council (RFMC) in a manner to allow for a recommendation to be considered from the Council subsequent to its normal public process.

The Council discussed, but declined to formally comment on, the bill's proposed requirement for state legislatures to specifically approve any monument within 100 nautical miles of their state.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment; please don't hesitate for your staff to contact Ms. Jennifer Gilden at the Pacific Council office, if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. O. McIsaac".

D. O. McIsaac, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

JDG:rdd

C: Pacific Council Members  
RFMC Executive Directors  
Pacific Council Staff