

## COMMENTS ON EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

Recently President Obama announced an executive action and a presidential memorandum that affect fisheries management:

### Executive Action on Marine Areas, Combating Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, and Other Matters

On June 17, President Obama announced a suite of new executive actions, including

- A commitment to immediately consider how to expand protections near the **Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument** in the south-central Pacific Ocean. Input of fishermen, scientists, conservation experts, elected officials, and other stakeholders will be considered before decisions about the geographic scope and details of the marine protections.
- **Combating black market fishing and supporting fishermen.** The President is directing Federal agencies to develop a comprehensive program aimed at deterring illegal fishing, addressing seafood fraud, and preventing illegally-caught fish from entering the marketplace by increasing traceability and transparency.
- **The President also announced a series of actions aimed at protecting coastal communities** from the impacts of climate change, improving domestic aquaculture, and providing research to better understand the challenges facing oceans.

A fact sheet on these actions is attached (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1). National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a Town Hall meeting on the possible expansion of the protections of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument on August 11. Other than this meeting, it is unclear at this time how comments on the proposed expansion will be accepted. The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council has commented directly to the President, and has issued a press release and official reaction (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachments 2, 3, and 4). Comments by the Marine Conservation Alliance are also attached (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 5).

The Legislative Committee will discuss both the expansion proposal and the Murkowski legislation presented under Agenda Item I.1 at their September 11 meeting and develop comments (Agenda Item I.2.b, Supplemental LC Report).

### Presidential Memorandum on Establishing a Comprehensive Framework to Combat IUU Fishing and Seafood Fraud

Among other things, the Presidential Memorandum on Seafood Fraud Prevention (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 6), also issued on June 17, establishes a Presidential Task Force, co-chaired by the Departments of State and Commerce and made up of other federal agencies, which is directed to report to the President within six months with “recommendations for the implementation of a comprehensive framework of integrated programs to combat IUU fishing and seafood fraud that emphasizes areas of greatest need.”

The Task Force initiated a public engagement process to advise them in developing recommendations in compliance with the Memorandum (Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 7); however, the comment period did not include the September Council meeting. Public comments were requested through September 2, 2014. In addition, there were two conference calls, an in-person meeting in Seattle on August 20, and an in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. on August 28.

**Council Action:**

**Provide Comments on Executive Orders on Expanding the National Monuments, Seafood Fraud, and Illegal Fishing and Marketing.**

Reference Materials:

1. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 1: Fact sheet: Leading at Home and Internationally to Protect Our Oceans and Coasts.
2. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 2: WPFMC letter to President Obama.
3. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 3: WPFMC Press Release.
4. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 4: WPFMC Reaction.
5. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 5: Letter from Marine Conservation Alliance on Proposed Monument Expansion.
6. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 6: Presidential Memorandum on Seafood Fraud Prevention.
7. Agenda Item I.2.a, Attachment 7: Federal Register Notice on Public Meetings and Request for Comment on Seafood Fraud.
8. Agenda Item I.2.b, Supplemental LC Report.

Agenda Order:

- a. Agenda Item Overview Jennifer Gilden
- b. Reports and Comments of Advisory Bodies and Management Entities
- c. Public Comment
- d. **Council Action:** Provide Comments on Executive Actions, Including Consideration to Expand the National Monument in the South Pacific Region, Address Seafood Fraud, and Deter Illegal Fishing and Marketing

PFMC  
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