March 22, 2022

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service 1315
East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Subject: Nominations to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council

It is with great pleasure that I submit three (3) nominees for the American Samoa vacant Obligatory Seat and three (3) nominees for the American Samoa At-Large seat on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. These individuals are listed by order of priority. Their general background and experience are as follows:

**Obligatory Seat**

1. William Sword: Mr. Sword is an engineer by profession and a dedicated recreational sports fisherman. He is intimately familiar with the Council process and has served as a Council member in the past. He is well versed on local fishery issues as he supplies fuel for the fishing fleet in his profession, and is also a member of the Governor’s Fisheries Task Force.

2. Keith Ah Soon: Mr. Ah Soon goes fishing on a daily basis to provide food for his family and sells his catch to residents of his small community of Faleasao in the outer island of Ta’u, Manu’a. He is a leader in his village aumaga (untitled men) and is also employed by the Office of Samoan Affairs as a Village Policeman. Mr. Ah Soon serves on the American Samoa Fisheries Task Force, and his knowledge of the ocean and fishing would be beneficial to the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council.

3. Brian Thompson: Mr. Thompson is currently on the Advisory Panel of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council and is a member of the Luanu’u Fishing Coalition based on the island of Ofu, Manu’a. His proven leadership in the workplace and his experience in Public Administration makes Mr. Thompson a great candidate for the council.
At-Large Seat

1. Petti Matila: Ms. Matila has served as the Director of the American Samoa Government Department of Commerce since January 2021. One of Ms. Matila’s responsibilities as Director is to oversee that accurate data collection and statistics are compiled for appropriate GDP enumerations, as well as determine the economic contribution of the tuna/fishing industry to the territory of American Samoa. Ms. Matila is spearheading the long-awaited Super Alia project, funded by a $4.4 million grant from the US-EDA, to provide support to the local fishing fleet.

2. Tamiano Gurr: Mr. Gurr is the Marketing and Media Manager for the American Samoa Visitors Bureau. He is an avid recreational fisherman who is well versed in all types of fishing. He is a well-rounded, self-motivated entrepreneur, volunteer, and leader in the community. He founded an island-wide open mic competition where youth from around the Territory are able to showcase their talents in the performing arts. He enjoys sharing his knowledge on fishing as well as how to protect and sustain our ocean resources with locals and visitors.

3. Nofoaiga Sualevai: Mr. Sualevai is a retired Navy Veteran who is now the Manu’a Operations Manager in the Office of the Governor. He is responsible for arranging transportation and logistics to and from the outer islands of Manu’a. Prior to joining the United States Navy, Mr. Sualevai grew up on the islands of Manu’a during a time where there was limited electricity, no running water, and fishing was required in order to survive. His passion to serve his family, village, and Territory is remarkable and he would bring the same energy to the council if selected.

The above list was compiled by my office after consultation with the Fishery Task Force and local fishing community. I am confident that they are fully qualified to fill the vacant Council seats, and offer them for your consideration. They are of good moral character and have demonstrated their love and interest in our Fisheries, both commercial and recreational. I have full confidence that they will participate fully and faithfully to ensure that our fishery issues are prioritized, and that our vital natural resources are managed, preserved and made available for future generations to enjoy.

Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

[Signature]
Governor
March 31, 2022

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Attention: Morgan Corey
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Hafa Adai! Ms. Coit:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to the At Large Seat as a representative of the people of Guam on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The nominees are listed in order of preference for selection.

Nominees:

Mr. Francisco “Frank” Perez, Recreational Fisher; Mr. Frank Perez is a local, successful small business owner who also serves his country as a member of the Guam Air National Guard. Mr. Perez will be retiring from the Guard this September, after serving faithfully for 20 years yet seeks to continue giving back to his island. He has been fishing Guam’s waters with his father since childhood and has dutifully, passionately and lovingly passed his culture on to his sons. Mr. Perez has conveyed his desire to give back to his community through service, as with this council, and by offering his land and resources to youth programs like 4-H. Mr. Perez has made a point to learn true management practices and engages in ridge-to-reef concepts on property he farms on Guam’s eastern coast. He has built on the knowledge of his father, supplemented it with conservation measures he has learned and wants to expand on and share this with our island. He has shared ideas for projects he is interested in pursuing to promote and increase participation in youth fishing and youth management of fisheries. Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Michael Duenas, Ken Borja, and Robert Koss.

Timothy G. Perez (Tim), Commercial and Recreational; Mr. Tim Perez has been active in Guam’s and the region’s marine industry and fisheries. As the General Manager of the region’s largest marine equipment sales and service, including the fabrication of kayaks, canoes and boats, Tim is well immersed with the fishing communities on Guam, the CNMI and the Micronesian Islands. He understands the needs and challenges of the fishing industry, both recreational and commercial. A longtime member of the Guam Fishermen’s Cooperative, he managed the Guam International Fishing Derbies for many years and is well acquainted with the concerns of fishermen. He works diligently to ensure proper management of fisheries for future generations. Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Eric Flores and Sara Pleadwell.
Dr. Judith Guthertz, Recreational; Dr. Guthertz has spent her professional career in public service. She continues this service as a faculty member of the University of Guam as the instructor for the Regulatory Administration and Public Policy courses at the School of Business and Public Administration. She has helped to develop environmental policies and marine resource policies for Guam. She is passionate about promoting science-based policy making in fisheries and ecosystem resource management. She has fished all her life, explored and engaged in recreational activities in Guam’s waters. Dr. Guthertz is committed to working toward a balanced approach to fisheries management, ethical fishing practices, respect for cultural and traditional fishing practices, and ensuring that marine resources are available for future generations. Those consulted in the fishing community: Catalino Bejado and Derrick Meno.

Much consultation and effort were made to identify female candidates for nomination. Although Guam has welcomed the increase in female fishers, many are young and still learning to understand the fishery. Their age and minimal experience have them not yet suited to fill a council seat at this time. All nominees listed are female or minorities.

All nominees are current residents of Guam, with good moral character and have demonstrated their love and interest in Fishery, both recreational and commercial. I have full confidence that they will participate fully to ensure that fishery issues are brought forth and that our vital natural resources are managed and available for future generations to enjoy.

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations, please contact the Office of the Governor.

Senseremente,

LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO
Maga'hågan Guåhan
Governor of Guam

Enclosure(s): Regional Fishery Management Council Application(s)
March 14, 2022

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: Janet Coit
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Administrator:

Thank you for NOAA’s letter regarding the upcoming obligatory At-Large vacancy seats on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). I am nominating the following individuals in order of priority:

At-Large (recreational sector)  At-Large (commercial sector)
Shaelene Kamakaala            Shaelene Kamakaala
Solomon Kaho’ohalahala        Solomon Kaho’ohalahala
Bradford Winter               Bradford Winter

All nominees have knowledge of or experience in the conservation and management of marine resources, commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources, or habitat and ecosystem approaches to resource management. My list reflects a qualified woman and minority candidates.

The required documents for each nominee are enclosed. If further information is needed, please contact Mrs. Linda Chu Takayama, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor (808-586-0005), or Ms. Suzanne Case, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (808-587-0401).

Sincerely,

David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai‘i