



LOLO M. MOLIGA
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT
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LEMANU P. MAUGA
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 15, 2018

Serial #: 156

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Attention: Hannah Hafey

Dear Mr. Oliver:

It is with great pleasure that I submit qualified nominees for the vacant at-large seat for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WPRFMC). These individuals are listed by order of priority. Their general background and experience are as follows:

Vacant At-Large Seat

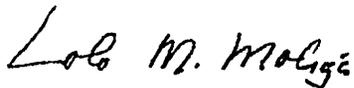
1. Peter Crispin: Mr. Crispin is a business owner, entrepreneur, a boat owner, and an avid fisherman. Mr. Crispin has been fishing the waters of American Samoa for decades and remains active in the sport fisherman scene. He also is familiar with the NOAA framework as he has served on the NOAA National Marine Advisory Council and the American Samoa Advisory Panel for the WPRFMC.
2. Taulapapa William Sword: Mr. Sword is an engineer by trade and a dedicated sports fisherman. Mr. Sword is intimately familiar with the Council process as he has already served on the WPRFMC. He is also well versed on local fishery issues as he deals with the refueling of fishing boats in his profession and he is a member of the American Samoa Fisheries Task Force.
3. Fuega Lua Moliga: Mr. Moliga is a life-long fisherman and the owner of 3 alia fishing boats. He is the Treasurer of the Fale-Leluanu'u Fisherman Co-op. As a local fisherman, Mr. Moliga would like to preserve traditional fishing practices for future generations. He currently serves as the Director of the Department of Administrative Services for the American Samoa Government.

The foregoing list of nominees was compiled by my office after consultation with Va'amua Henry Seseapasara, Director of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. Mr. Seseapasara worked with my legal counsel Alema Leota to identify qualified nominees. My legal counsel also spoke with: Mr. Solip Hong, chairman of the American Samoa Fishery Taskforce to determine viable candidates.

Every year, in compiling this list, my office is committed to soliciting applications from those who are qualified and come from diverse backgrounds and experience. My office continues to solicit applications from those who are qualified, both men and women.

I trust that from the foregoing nominees you will find persons qualified to fill the existing and pending vacancies on the WPRFMC. Each nominee is committed to the responsible management of our precious resources and has expressed a strong desire to serve on the council. I look forward to the announcement from the Secretary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lolo M. Moliga". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lolo M. Moliga
Governor of American Samoa



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 7, 2018

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

Dear Administrator:

Thank you for NOAA's letter regarding the upcoming vacancies of Hawai'i's at-large and Hawai'i Obligatory seats on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). I am nominating the following individuals in order of priority:

Hawai'i Obligatory

Roy Vitousek
Ernest Clayton
Matthew Ramsey
Edwin Watamura

At-Large

Michael Goto
Roy Vitousek
Trisha Watson
Julie Leialoha

All the nominees have expressed a desire to serve on the Council. 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 qualified women and minority candidates.

The required documents for each nominee are enclosed. If further information is needed, please contact Ms. Sharon Ibarra, Director of Boards and Commissions, Office of the Governor (808-586-0295), 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

WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL NOMINATION RATIONALE

The following nominees are individuals who, due to their occupation, experience, scientific expertise, training, or interest, are knowledgeable of Hawai'i's fishery resources.

(In alphabetic order, by last name)

Ernest Clayton has been a recreational fisherman for the past 54 years. Currently, he is retired. He previously served as the director of environment, safety, and programs for the Boeing Company. Mr. Clayton wishes to tap his career and fishing experience to further the protection and sustainability of the regions fisheries. He believes in responsible fisheries management. To him fisheries management is especially important to the islands of the Pacific because they depend so heavily on the ocean's resources. His concern includes sustainable fisheries, pollution, and the influence of land based management on water quality and nearshore fisheries. Mr. Clayton is a member of several fishing clubs and has attended numerous fisheries meetings and public hearings.

Michael Goto is currently serving-out his third year in the second term in the "Hawai'i Obligatory seat" on the WesPac Council. Additionally, he was appointed by President Obama to the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission. He is Vice President of United Fishery Agency, Ltd., which runs the fish auction at Pier 38. He also is Director of the Hawai'i Longline Association and has been involved with Hawai'i's longline industry, by far the largest sector of Hawai'i's fishery, for many years. He understands that the sustainability of our ocean resources is critical to those who are associated with marine industries and communities. He believes that generations to come deserve to appreciate the revered ocean products from Hawai'i. He recognizes the ocean as an avenue towards local food security and key to our independence from imported fish.

Although not an incumbent, **Julie Leialoha** has served for two terms on the WesPac Council in previous years. She continues to keep abreast on Council activities. She believes that the WesPac Council is weighted towards representation of the fishing industry and there is a need for balance on the Council. She is a native Hawaiian that works to ensure resource perpetuity for generations through proper management, conservation practices, and education. Throughout her adult life she has passionately working for the conservation of natural resources. Granted that she has been involved in conservation efforts, she still values use of natural resources and has been a recreation fisherwoman for 30 years. Ms. Leialoha is currently a program coordinator responsible for managing an array of conservation projects in partnership with federal agencies.

Matthew Ramsey is a lifelong recreational fisherman. He currently serves as Director for Conservation International's Hawai'i program. Prior to his current appointment, he served as the Hawai'i fisheries extension agent for NOAA, NMFS. Throughout the past six years he has worked closely with Council staff and appreciates the challenges the Council faces in creating fisheries management measures. He believes that a connection between the resources and people needs to be established to bring positive change to natural resource management. Mr. Ramsey sees both science and traditional knowledge being equally fundamental to management decision-making. He recognizes opposing views often develop when fisheries management measures are considered, but believes that mutually beneficial results can be attained when both sides truly listen to each other.

Roy Vitousek is a third-generation recreational fisherman who has 60 years of experience fishing in Hawaiian waters and elsewhere in the Pacific. Although he is a boat owner and has held a commercial fishing license for 30 years, he is a non-commercial fisherman who usually trolls for mahimahi, ahi and ono and often uses live bait. His personal interest is in the protection, preservation and restoration of marine resources through science-based regulation, education, and especially through cooperation between and among regulators, the scientific community, public and private funding sources and the people who make their living on the ocean. He believes that the protection and preservation of threatened natural and native ecosystems outweighs interests in simply maximizing commercial and recreational harvest. Professionally, he is a practicing lawyer and the resident partner at Cades Schulte's Hawai'i Island office, where he represents clients on land use, environmental and other legal matters. Mr. Vitousek has worked with people from diverse backgrounds, from native gatherers to billionaires. He also has had professional experience working in the Marshall Islands, FSM, and the Trust Territories of the Pacific.

Edwin Watamura is a long-time fisherman that has vested time and effort to understanding of fisheries. Throughout his life he has worked towards the preservation of fishing for generations to come. He has participated in numerous facets of fisheries management for the past 25 years of his life. This includes participation at the local, federal, and international level. When it comes to fisheries management he values the scientific approach, but he also believes in the bottom-up approach focusing on issues that face the fishing community. Mr. Watamura is also recognized as a leader, spokesman, and advocate for Hawai'i's fishing community. He is the lead of local organizations that serve as a liaison between fishermen and government fisheries management agencies. The organizations he is affiliated with also participate in numerous actions that contributes to the greater good of the community.

Trisha Watson holds a doctor of philosophy in American studies and a juris doctor law degree. Both degrees are from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM). She has authored numerous documents pertaining to cultural, traditional knowledge, archaeological, social, and economic matters as it relates to the management of natural resources. She is the owner and president of Honua Consulting. She is also an adjunct faculty member at the Hawai'i Pacific University where she teaches natural resource management classes in the context of culture, sustainability, and social ecology. She has also served as a lecture at UHM. As a conservationist, Dr. Watson has a background in sustainable fisheries and realizes the need to balance conservation with local economic needs. She strongly believes in traditional fishing practices and doesn't support no-take actions unless absolutely necessary.



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor Of Guam.

March 14, 2018

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
United States Department of Commerce
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Obligatory Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council Recommendation for Guam.

Hafa adai (greetings) Mr. Oliver:

I nominate Mr. Michael P. Duenas, as the obligatory seat for Guam, to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Mr. Duenas meets the requirements listed in Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which states that each nominee must be knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, as well as the commercial and recreational harvest of fishery resources, within the Council's geographical jurisdiction. Mr. Duenas is also well aware of the subsistence needs for our island community.

I recommend that Mr. Duenas represent Guam on the Council, subject to the Secretary of Commerce's approval. Since 1997, Mr. Duenas has been extremely active with the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (GFCA), a community based not-for-profit corporation, and is well versed in local fisheries issues. Mr. Duenas has been a subsistence and recreational fisherman for over 30 years.

Currently, Mr. Duenas is employed as the general manager of GFCA, and as a result, has integral knowledge of all aspects of Guam's fisheries. In the performance of his duties, he is responsible for ensuring that the Conservation Policies of GFCA are followed. Mr. Duenas also oversees science-based sustainable fisheries programs such as data collection, bio-sampling, and life-history research while continuing to pursue his life-long passion for fishing.

I respectfully request Mr. Michael P. Duenas' appointment to this obligatory position. I am confident that Mr. Duenas more than meets the qualifications listed in the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Furthermore, I believe he has shown his commitment to effective management of our resources for sustainable future use and enjoyment.



Chris Oliver
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March 14, 2018

If you have any questions concerning Mr. Duenas' nomination packet and Guam's participation in the Council, please do not hesitate to call Department of Agriculture Director Matt Sablan at (671) 747-1250 or email him at matt.sablan@agriculture.guam.gov.

Senseramente,



EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor of Guam

