EDDIE BAZA CALVO
Governor

RAY TENORIO
Lieutenant Governor

Office of the Governor of Guam

March 9, 2015

Ms. Eileen Sobeck
Acting 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 20810

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

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

Hafa Adai! It is with great pleasure that I submit my three nominations as required by the Obligatory Seat for Guam to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council: Mr. Michael P. Duenas, Mr. James Borja, and Mr. Peter Perez. Each nominee meets the requirements listed in Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which states that each nominee should be knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, as well as commercial and recreational harvest of the fishery resources within the Council's geographical jurisdiction. Additionally, all are very well aware of the subsistence needs of our island community.

I recommend that Mr. Michael Duenas continue to represent Guam on the Council, and recognizing such is subject to the Secretary of Commerce's approval. Mr. Duenas has represented our island as Council member since 2012 and prior to his term, he served as an advisory panel committee member since 2006. Mr. Duenas has been extremely active with the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association (GFCA), a community based not for profit corporation, since 1997 and is well versed in local fisheries issues. Mr. Duenas has been a subsistence and recreational fisherman since childhood (30 years). Currently, Mr. Duenas is employed as General Manager of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, 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 the 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 lifelong passion for fishing.

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Mr. Peter Perez has been an active subsistence fisherman since childhood, and comes from a well-respected fishing family. His fishing experience extends from shoreline to offshore. Mr. Perez presently serves as an advisory committee member on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. He is currently employed as the Civilian (Civil Service) Administrator for all Guam Based Military Transportation.

Mr. James Borja is President of the Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation, and was part of the core team that established the organization in 1997. He is an active fisherman and fishes both inshore and offshore. Mr. Borja has served on the advisory panel for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. He is also a current board member for the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association. Mr. Borja is currently employed with the Guam Power Authority as a Personnel Specialist IV.

Over the past couple of months, Lt. Governor Ray Tenorio and I have consulted Mr. Manuel P. Duenas, President of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association, Mr. James Borja, President of the Marianas Underwater Fishing Federation, and Mr. Thomas Camacho, President of the Guam Organization of Saltwater Anglers, as well as others in the fishing community, and we are comfortable with our nominations.

While all three are very well qualified for this vacancy, I respectfully request the appointment of Mr. Michael P. Duenas 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.

Should you have any questions concerning the nomination packets of Guam's participation in the Council, please do not hesitate to contact Franklin P. Arriola at 472-8931 or by email at franklin.arriola@guam.gov.

Sinseru yan Magåhet,

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