



March 15, 2016

Ms. Eileen Sobeck, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Attention: Mr. Brian Fredieu
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

Thank you for NOAA's letter regarding Hawaii's upcoming obligatory seat vacancy on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). I am nominating the following individuals in order of priority: Julie Leialoha (renomination), Roy A. (Randy) Vitousek III and Dean Sensui.

All the nominees have expressed a desire to serve on the Council; and all have knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources, commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources and/or habitat and ecosystem approaches to resource management. My list reflects a qualified woman and minority candidate.

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 (808-586-0034), or Dr. Bruce Anderson, Administrator, Division of Aquatic Resources, Department of Land and Natural Resources (808-587-0100).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David K. Ige".

DAVID K. IGE
Governor, State of Hawaii

Enclosures

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 Hawaii's fishery resources.

Julie Leialoha, who possesses an extensive career in natural resource management, is being renominated for a third (final) term on the Council. In addition to her Council role, Ms. Leialoha also serves as the Vice President of the Conservation Council for Hawai'i, an organization that plays an important role in educating the public and government leaders on environmental issues. In addition, Ms. Leialoha serves as the Conservation Alternate on the Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council; and manages the Wao Kele O Puna Forest Reserve on the Big Island, a joint project between the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife. She is interested in a variety of fisheries, e.g. spiny/slipper lobster, tuna, bottomfish/seamount groundfish; and combines her cultural knowledge with a commitment to both terrestrial and marine species.

Roy A. (Randy) Vitousek III, is an avid, lifelong (60+ years) fisherman, hunter and surfer. As a third generation recreational fisher and boat owner, he applies his passion with the ocean to his profession as a natural resources attorney. Mr. Vitousek serves clients involved with ocean initiatives and environmental and ecological issues. Mr. Vitousek has fished recreationally for mahimahi, ono, ahu, papio, ulua and lobster. In addition, he previously held a commercial fishing license for over 30 years, trolling for mahimahi, ono and ahi. Mr. Vitousek, who attends federal/state fisheries meetings and/or public hearings when he is able, feels the health of the planet and future of humanity depend upon the health and vitality of the ocean ecosystems.

Dean Sensui, as Executive Producer of Hawaii Goes Fishing (television fishing show), has had opportunities to observe commercial and non-commercial fishermen, learn about fisheries management, and develop a strong understanding about how federal and state agencies' jurisdictions interact in Hawaii's waters. In addition, Mr. Sensui is active in providing testimony to the State legislature on fishery-related bills, and served as a delegate to Washington, D.C., advocating development of a national non-commercial saltwater fishing policy. Mr. Sensui is a member of the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group; the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition; and the Hunting, Fishing and Farming Association of Hawaii. He has engaged in recreational fishing for over 30 years, participated in fishery surveys, and assisted in collection of taape for scientific studies.

INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS CONSULTED WITH AND/OR SHOWN SUPPORT OF NOMINEES

The following groups within the fishing community have been consulted regarding nominations to the Council: the Pacific Islands Fisheries Group; Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition; Hawaii, Fishing and Farming Association; Maui Fishing Cooperative; Waialua Boat Club; Kauai Trollers; and Maunalua Hawaiian Civic Club.

The following individuals provided input and/or were involved in some capacity in the nomination process: Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council; Sharon Ibarra, Director of the Governor's Boards and Commissions; Bruce Anderson, Alton Miyaska, Brian Kanenaka, Michael Fujimoto, Jo-Anne Kushima, and Reginald Kokubun of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources; and Suzanne Case, Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.