



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

March 7, 2014

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

*Eileen Sobeck*  
Dear Ms. Sobeck:

Thank you for NOAA's letter regarding two upcoming at-large seat vacancies on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). For these seats, currently held by Hawaii members, I am nominating the following individuals: James Cannon, Edwin Ebisui, Jr., Sean Martin, Frederick Rice, and Edwin Watamura.

All the nominees have expressed a desire to serve on the Council; 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 minority candidates; however, no qualified women were available for consideration.

Enclosed are the required documents for each nominee. Should further information be needed, please contact Mr. William J. Aila, Jr., Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources at (808) 587-0401.

Sincerely,  
*Neil Abercrombie*  
NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
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.

James Cannon is an expert on the status of international fisheries with emphasis on fisheries sustainability, economics and environmental impacts. His educational background is in fisheries science, and he has worked in fisheries and natural resources management capacities for over 20 years. He has held various positions within Conservation International, and is currently the CEO of the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership (SFP), which provides advice to major seafood buyers worldwide on the sustainability and improvement needs of their seafood sources. SFP also advises suppliers and commercial fisheries on forming fisheries improvement projects.

Ed Ebisui, Jr. is a lawyer who has been interested in fisheries-related matters for years. Mr. Ebisui, who is seeking renomination, previously served three terms on the Council; thus, he is well versed in the role of the Council. He is a part-time commercial fisher who also fishes recreationally. In addition, he has served as president of the Pacific Ocean Research Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to research and knowledge of Pacific game fish.

Sean Martin is a former Council member who has served on various Committees and Advisory Panels, e.g. the Pelagics and Crustaceans Advisory Panels and the Pelagic Advisory Review Board. Mr. Martin possesses both a recreational and commercial fishing background, and has extensive experience in vessel and fishery operations in most Hawaii fisheries as well as many West Coast fisheries from Mexico to Alaska. He has been involved in the commercial fishing industry for over 30 years as vessel owner, operator and manager, and has participated in the Hawaii longline fishery and the NWHI lobster fishery for over 20 years.

Frederick Rice is a Council member seeking renomination. Mr. Rice is the captain of the charter boat "IHU NUI" in Honokohau Harbor, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii with over 30 years experience as a charter boat captain and a recreational fishing expert. He is also on the U.S. delegation to the Western Central Pacific Fishery Commission that handles international Pacific Ocean fishery issues. He is a member of the Honokohau Harbor Board and International Gamefish Association, and has participated in many fishing tournaments including the International Billfish Tournament in Kona. Captain Rice has been featured in articles in Marlin Magazine, Sport Fishing Magazine, Big Game Magazine, West Hawaii Today and Hawaii Fishing News.

Edwin Watamura is experienced in fisheries management (10+ years), commercial fishing (20+ years) and recreational fishing (60+ years) fishing. Currently, he is Chair of the Advisory Panel to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council and is a member of several of its Special Working Groups. In addition, Mr. Watamura is President

of the Waialua Boat Club, a Hawaii representative to the NOAA Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee Recreational Fishing Working Group, member of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission Advisory Committee, and founding member of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition. He regularly attends Council SSC, Plan Team and REAC meetings.

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

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

The following individuals also provided input and/or were involved in the nomination process: Dave Hamm; Frank Parrish; Sam Kahng; Ronald Tam; Roy Morioka; and Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. State employees involved in the nomination process included Jayson Muraki, Manager, State Boards and Commission; Frazer McGilvray, Alton Miyasaka, Jo-Anne Kushima, and Reginald Kokubun of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources; and William J. Aila, Jr., Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.