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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

MAR 13 2012

Kitty M. Simonds
Executive Director
Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council
1164 Bishop Street, Room 1405
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Dear Ms. Simonds:

Thank you for your letter, regarding the FY2012 competitive request for proposals (RFP) process under the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS') National Cooperative Research Program. I recognize that the science needs of the Western Pacific are unique and that cooperative research is an important tool to address them. The issues that you raise will be discussed with the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center Director, Dr. Samuel Pooley and the other NMFS Science Directors. As FY2012 was the first year of this RFP process, there may be modifications that can be made to address these and other concerns.

I appreciate your interest in the FY2012 RFP process and the agency's cooperative research enterprise.

Sincerely,

Ned Cyr, Ph.D.
Director,
Office of Science & Technology



cc: Dr. Samuel Rauch III, Assist Administrator for Fisheries (Acting)
Dr. Richard Merrick, Director, Scientific Programs and Chief Science Advisor
Dr. Samuel Pooley, Director, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center
Dr. Gerard DiNardo, Pacific Islands Science Center Cooperative Research Coordinator