



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

March 9, 2015

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: Michael Goto (renomination), Alton Miyasaka and Edwin Watamura.

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 minority candidates; however, no qualified women were available for consideration.

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 Mr. Carty Chang, Interim Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (808-587-0401).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Y. Ige".

DAVID K. IGE
Governor, State of Hawaii

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.

Michael (Mike) Goto, who is currently serving his first term in Hawaii's obligatory seat, is a commercial and recreational fisher. In his position with the United Fishing Agency, Mr. Goto works closely with the entire fishing industry. He has dealt with the commercial fisheries sector, including the longline, shoreline, handline, trolling, shallow-set swordfish, and bottomfish fisheries. Mr. Goto is also a member of the Hawaii Longline Association. In the past years, Mr. Goto has participated in the Council's fisheries forum, advisory panels, Plan Teams, as well as Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Council meetings.

Alton Miyasaka, current Acting Program Manager of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, has 35 years' experience working with the State's Department of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Miyasaka has extensive knowledge of the State's commercial and recreational fishery resources; and is actively involved in the sustainability of these resources and associated habitats. Over the years, Mr. Miyasaka has served on various Council committees, working groups, and Plan Teams. He currently serves as the State's alternate representative at Council meetings.

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 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 have been 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; and Maunaloa 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; Brian Kanenaka, Michael Fujimoto, Jo-Anne Kushima, and Reginald Kokubun of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources; and Carty Chang, Interim Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.