



**Western  
Pacific  
Regional  
Fishery  
Management  
Council**

March 27, 2017

Phil Fernandez  
President  
Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition (HFACT)  
1082 Lunalilo Home Rd  
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear Mr. Fernandez,

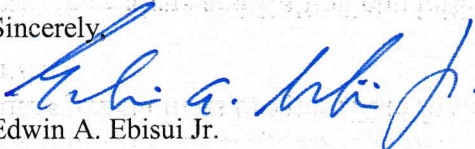
Thank you for your March 19, 2017, letter to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) regarding its support of the Hui Mālama o Mo'omomi proposal for a Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA).

While the Council's management jurisdiction is fisheries seaward of state waters, i.e., beyond 3 miles from shore in Hawai'i, the Council's management responsibility is for the entire range of the species and the fisheries. The Council utilizes an ecosystem-approach to fisheries management and supports community-based management in its Program Plan for 2015-2019, as approved by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Mo'omomi proposal is different from the Ha'ena and Ka'ūpūlehu initiatives. The latter projects do not provide a management plan nor did they ask for the Council's support. When Mo'omomi requested the Council's support, it was with the understanding that this was the first step in the process and that there would be more opportunities for public comment before and during the State's regulatory process is completed. The full support of the Council was based on the history of working with the Mo'omomi community and the management proposal that was provided at that time.

At its 169<sup>th</sup> meeting last week, the Council voted to support a meeting, following the ongoing public scoping meetings, of the State of Hawai'i with Hui Mālama o Mo'omomi and the impacted fishing community to provide an opportunity to discuss proposed management measures, review relevant fishery data, and provide comments in order to identify management measures that are acceptable by the whole community. HFACT will be contacted in the coming weeks to determine your availability for this meeting. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact the Council's executive director, Kitty Simonds, at (808) 522-8220.

Sincerely,

  
Edwin A. Ebisui Jr.  
Chair