



UFISINAN I MAGA'HĀGAN GUĀHAN
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF GUAM

March 15, 2024

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
Attention: Morgan Corey
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Hafa Adai! Ms. Coit:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to the Obligatory Seat as a representative of the people of Guam on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. The nominees are listed in order of preference for selection.

Nominees:

Mr. Francisco "Frank" Perez, Recreational Fisher; Mr. Frank Perez is a local, successful small business owner who also served his country as a member of the Guam Air National Guard. Mr. Perez will be retiring from the Guard this September, after serving faithfully for 20 years yet seeks to continue giving back to his island. He has been fishing Guam's waters with his father since childhood and has dutifully, passionately and lovingly passed his culture on to his sons. Mr. Perez has conveyed his desire to give back to his community through service, as with this council, and by offering his land and resources to youth programs like 4-H. Mr. Perez has made a point to learn true management practices and engages in ridge-to-reef concepts on property he farms on Guam's eastern coast. He has built on the knowledge of his father, supplemented it with conservation measures he has learned and wants to expand on and share this with our island. He has shared ideas for projects he is interested in pursuing to promote and increase participation in youth fishing and youth management of fisheries. Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Ken Borja and Robert Koss.

Mr. Manny Duenas, Recreational; Mr. Duenas has been an outspoken advocate for fishermen and natural resources on Guam. He has nearly 30 years of direct and indirect fishery experience, serving the fishing community of Guam at the local, national, and international levels. Mr. Duenas is also a former council member and is not afraid to face issues of concern for our community. Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Victor Artero and Joaquin Naputi.

Mr. Jesse Rosario, Recreational: Mr. Rosario served his country and retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years of service. He then went on to work for the University of Guam, further serving his community for an additional 31 years. He was an avid recreational fisherman for 40 years and served first as a member and then as a board member of the Guam Fishermen's Cooperative Association for over 26 years. Mr. Rosario has lived his life in service to others and seeks to continue doing so for the people of Guam as a council member. Within the fishing community, the following individuals were consulted: Dale Alvarez and Walter Leon Guerrero.

From: Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero

To: Ms. Janet Coit

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Much consultation and effort were made to identify female candidates for nomination. Although Guam has welcomed the increase in female fishers, many are young and still learning to understand fishery. Their age and minimal experience have them not yet suited to fill a council seat at this time. All nominees listed are minorities.

All nominees are current residents of Guam, with good moral character and have demonstrated their love and interest in fishery. I have full confidence that they will participate fully to ensure that fishery issues are brought forth and that our vital natural resources are managed and available for future generations to enjoy.

Should you have any questions regarding these nominations, please contact the Office of the Governor.

Senseremente,



LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO

Maga'hågan Guåhan

Governor of Guam

Enclosures(2): Regional Fishery Management Council Application(s)



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

March 12, 2024

Ms. Janet Coit
NOAA Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Aloha Assistant Administrator Coit:

I have the honor to announce the selection of the following Hawai`i residents to serve on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WesPac) as they have all met the required criteria:

1. Matthew Ramsay – Recreational Sector
2. Ed Watamura – Recreational Sector
3. Pelika Andrade – 'Other' Sector

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D." in a cursive style.

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai`i

C: Dawn NS Chang, Chairperson, State of Hawai`i Board of Land and Natural Resources
David Sakoda, Div. of Aquatic Resources, State of Hawai`i Dept. of Land and Natural Resources

State of Hawaii's Nominations to the WesPac Council

(In alphabetic order, by last name)

Pelika Andrade is a native Hawaiian community member, fisherperson, sailor, hoā'āina, researcher, and contributor to marine management. She has 15 years of experience conducting research in the intertidal zone, co-developing a management plan for the 'opihi fishery, facilitating community outreach and information sharing, and advocating for resource sustainability and productivity. Her work in Hawaii's nearshore areas directly aligns with the Council's goals to manage the nation's fishery resources and specifically, within the Western Pacific Region, to make decisions based on science and informed by traditional knowledge and practices of the local users for the benefit of our island communities and the nation.

Matthew Ramsey is a lifelong recreational fisherman. He currently serves as Director for Conservation International's Hawaii program. Prior to his current appointment, he served as the Hawaii fisheries extension agent for NOAA, NMFS. Throughout the past years he has worked closely with Council staff and appreciates the challenges the Council faces in creating fisheries management measures. He believes that a connection between the resources and people needs to be established to bring positive change to natural resource management. Mr. Ramsey sees both science and traditional knowledge being equally fundamental to management decision making. He recognizes opposing views often develop when fisheries management measures are considered, but believes that mutually beneficial results can be attained when both sides truly listen to each other.

Ed Watamura has been fishing in Hawaii his entire life, both for recreation and sustenance, and was one of the founding members of the Hawaii Fishermen's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition (HFACT), a non-profit organization that advocates for the fishers of Hawaii. Ed has been involved in fisheries management for over 20 years, and his ultimate goal is to be able to pass down sustainable marine resources that can help feed and nourish the people of Hawaii for generations to come. He believes in a holistic approach to fisheries management that takes into account the health of the fisheries and the environment they live in. Global warming, soil runoff, and other anthropogenic threats are all connected to the health of marine ecosystems, and his holistic approach takes these all into account. Ed is also the President of the Waialua Boat Club, the oldest boat club in Hawaii, and the Club's members have volunteered time to assist with community events involving fishing, such as the Hawaii Fishing and Seafood Festival, the Fishing For Hawaii's Hungry Tournament, Haleiwa Harbor clean-up events, the Annual Boy Scout Makahiki, and participated in a tournament that donated over 700 pounds of fish to Lanakila Meals on Wheels.