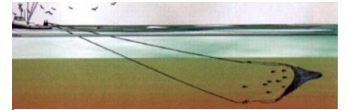
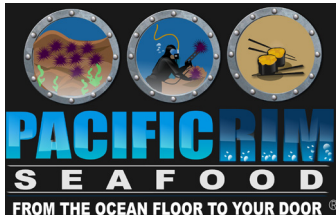


MR. PRESIDENT, WE OPPOSE THE DESIGNATION OF CALIFORNIA OFFSHORE MONUMENTS THAT PROHIBIT FISHING.

We agree that fishery management in the US EEZ is best implemented under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The MSA has been heralded worldwide for its success in conserving fishery resources.

We oppose the designation of California offshore marine monuments that prohibit fishing under the Antiquities Act because monument status is irreversible, and the Antiquities Act process involves no public peer-reviewed scientific analysis, no NEPA analysis, no public involvement or outreach to parties most impacted — no transparency.





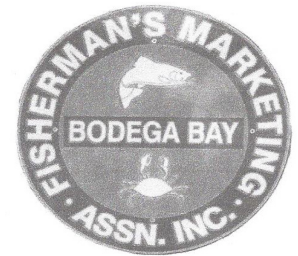
Southern California Trawlers



Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Organization



Monterey Commercial Fishermen's Association



July 6, 2016

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

We are writing to express our opposition to the recent proposal to declare virtually all offshore seamounts, ridges and banks off the coast of California as monuments under the Antiquities Act, and permanently close these areas to commercial fishing. The document “The Case for Protecting California’s Seamounts, Ridges and Banks” was drafted and advanced behind closed doors with no public peer-reviewed scientific analysis, no NEPA analysis, and virtually no public engagement.

We discovered this secret effort after pursuing rumors, and found the justification for this proposed action is filled with sensational, inaccurate statements and omissions. The economic analysis for the proposed closures grossly understates the importance and value of the identified seamounts, ridges and banks to fisheries and fishing communities. Beyond simple ex-vessel value is the opportunity cost of losing these productive fishing grounds forever.

All the seamounts and banks in the proposal are important for fisheries. Fisheries provide healthy food for people, and our fisheries are a well-managed renewable resource. Tanner and Cortes Banks, in southern California, are critically important for many fisheries: tunas, swordfish, rockfish, spiny lobster, sea urchins, white seabass and coastal pelagic species including mackerels, bonito and market squid. In northern California, Gorda and Mendocino Ridges provide important albacore tuna fishing opportunities to portfolio fishermen who, for the past few seasons, have been unable to rely on Chinook salmon and Dungeness crab fisheries. Moreover, these areas are essential for the Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (CPFV) fleet, which are licensed commercial fishing boats. Closure of these important areas to commercial fishing would also deny access to the CPFV fleet and would cause disastrous economic impacts to fishermen, seafood processors and allied businesses, fishing communities and the West Coast fishing economy.

California has the most strictly regulated fisheries in the world. Precautionary policies for protecting resources in federal waters exist under the federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), and many other bipartisan laws, such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, which require science-based analysis conducted in a fully public and transparent process.

In contrast, the Antiquities Act is a unilateral action. This proposal was developed with no outreach to fisheries managers in NOAA, NMFS, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, or fishermen. Further, the use of the Antiquities Act to designate marine protected areas as monuments in open ocean waters is inconsistent with the nation’s ocean policies set forth in the panoply of Federal laws in the US – even this Administration’s own National Ocean Policy Plan, which promises “Robust stakeholder engagement and public participation. “ Adopting the proposed monuments using a land-oriented Presidential order goes against the bipartisan legacy of the nation’s ocean environment laws, programs and policies, whose hallmark is transparency, and which have a long track record of working successfully to protect marine resources.

We ask you to stop the creation of these California offshore monuments under the Antiquities Act because monument status is irreversible, and the Antiquities Act process involves no science, no public involvement nor outreach to the parties who will be most affected by this unilateral action – no transparency.

We ask you to inform the White House Council on Environmental Quality as well as the Secretaries of Commerce and Interior that you oppose the creation of these monuments and support the resolution of the Council Coordination Committee, signed by all eight regional Fishery Management Councils, that fishery management in the US EEZ should continue to be implemented under the MSA.

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully,

/s/

James M. Haussener  
Executive Director  
California Marine Affairs &  
Navigation Conference

Oscar Peña  
General Manager  
Ventura Port District

for Michael McCarthy  
City Manager  
City of Monterey

Linda G. McIntyre, Esq.  
General Manager/Harbor Master  
Moss Landing Harbor District

Ryan Mullany  
President  
California Association of Harbor  
Masters and Port Captains

Elise Swanson  
President / CEO  
San Pedro Chamber of  
Commerce

Sharon Bernie-Cloward  
President  
San Diego Port Tenants  
Association

Nancy Lindholm  
President / CEO  
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce

Sandy Smith  
Board Chair  
Ventura County Economic  
Development Association

Ken Oplinger, President / CEO  
The Chamber of the Santa  
Barbara Region

Bruce Stenslie  
President / CEO  
EDC Ventura County

Lori L. Steele  
Executive Director  
West Coast Seafood Processors  
Association

Kathy Fosmark, Chair  
Alliance of Communities for  
Sustainable Fisheries

Tim Sloane, Executive Director  
Pacific Coast Federation  
of Fishermen Associations

Rob Ross  
Executive Director  
California Fisheries & Seafood  
Institute

Wayne Heikkila, President  
Western Fishboat Owners Associa-  
tion

Natalie Webster  
Director of Operations  
American Albacore Fishing Assn.

Peter Halmay  
President  
San Diego Fishermen's  
Working Group

Dave Rudie, President  
Catalina Offshore Products

Anthony Vuoso, President  
TriMarine Fish Company

Ken Franke, President  
Sportfishing Association of  
California

Diane Pleschner-Steele  
Executive Director  
California Wetfish Producers  
Association



Tom Trumper  
President  
Pacific Rim Seafood



Don Brockman  
President  
Davey's Locker Sportfishing &  
Whale Watching



Mike Thompson  
President  
Newport Landing Sportfishing



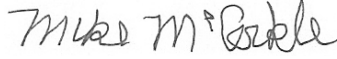
Shad Catarius  
President  
San Diego Oceans Foundation



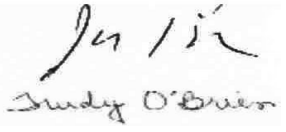
David Goldenberg  
Executive Director  
California Sea Urchin  
Commission



Milo Milkotin  
Executive Director  
California Sportfishing League



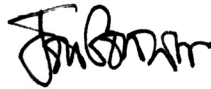
Mike McCorkle  
President  
Southern CA Trawlers Association



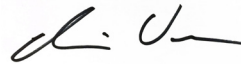
Jeremiah & Trudy O'Brien  
Morro Bay Commercial  
Fishermen's Association



Mike Conroy, Board of Directors  
California Lobster & Trap  
Fishermen's Association



Jonathan Gonzalez  
President  
Ventura County Commercial  
Fishermen's Association



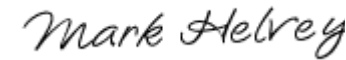
Chris Voss  
President  
Commercial Fishermen of  
Santa Barbara



Tom Hafer  
President  
Morro Bay Commercial  
Fishermen's Organization



Larry Collins  
President  
Crab Boat Owners Association  
San Francisco



Mark Helvey  
Principal  
Sustainable Seafood Consultants



Mike Ricketts  
President  
Monterey Commercial  
Fishermen's Association



Pete Leipzig  
Executive Director  
Fishermen's Marketing  
Association



David Schulken  
Apex Wild Seafoods  
San Diego



Nancy Fitzpatrick  
Executive Director  
Oregon Salmon Commission



William Fakner  
President  
Salmon Trollers Marketing  
Association



Lorne Edwards  
President  
Fishermen's Marketing Assoc.  
of Bodega Bay



Bob Vanasse  
Executive Director  
National Coalition of  
Fishing Communities