In Reply Refer To:
FWS/IR01/NWRS/076255

American Sword & Tuna Harvesters
1518 K Street, NW, Suite 303
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear American Sword & Tuna Harvesters,

Thank you for your June 29, 2021 letter regarding commercial fish harvesting within the boundaries of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.

On October 8, 2021, President Biden signed Presidential Proclamation 10287 “Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument” which restored the prohibition on commercial fishing within the Marine Monument’s boundaries and aligned with the commercial red crab and lobster harvesting phase out period found in the 2016 Presidential Proclamation 9469 “Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument” signed by President Obama. This decision was made to ensure that the unique, fragile, and largely pristine canyons and seamounts, and the dynamic ocean systems and marine life they support, continue to serve as objects of historic or scientific interest under the protections of the Antiquities Act.

As outlined in Presidential Proclamation 10287, we are embarking on a joint management planning process between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which will be used to gather input. We look forward to working with you as we develop the management plan for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. The Monument management plan is expected to be finalized by September 2023.

If you would like to be included in updates and learn how to be involved in the management planning process or have questions regarding the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, please contact the Superintendent, Brittany Petersen, at Brittany_Petersen@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

MARTHA WILLIAMS

Martha Williams
Principal Deputy Director
Exercising the Authority of the Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service