



March 9, 2012

Mr. Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
Attention: William Chappell
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Samuel D. Rauch III
Dear Mr. Rauch:

Thank you for your letter and nomination materials regarding the upcoming Hawaii obligatory seat vacancy on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council). For the seat currently held by Mr. Sean Martin, I am nominating the following individuals: Michael Kunio Goto, Jiro John Kaneko and Edwin Ebisui, Jr.

Each of the nominees has 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. Our list reflects minority candidates; however, no qualified women were available for consideration.

Enclosed are the required documents for each nominee. Should further information be needed, please contact Mr. William J. Aila, Jr., Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources at (808) 587-0401.

Sincerely,
Neil Abercrombie
NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawaii

Enclosures

**WESTERN PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
NOMINATION RATIONALE**

The following nominees are individuals who, by reason of their occupation, experience, scientific expertise, training, or interest, are knowledgeable of Hawaii's fishery resources.

Michael (Mike) Kunio Goto is a commercial and recreational fisherman, who in his position with the United Fishing Agency, works closely with the entire local 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. Over the past five years, he has participated in the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's fisheries forum, advisory panels, plan team, SSC, and Council meetings.

Jiro John Kaneko, a project director for Pacific Management Resources, Inc., has provided technical assistance in fisheries, seafood quality and control, fish processing, marketing and research on seafood safety issues for over 16 years. He is also engaged in continuing fisheries research, outreach and education efforts. Mr. Kaneko has served as a Pelagic Plan Team Member for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, and was the Hawaii Representative for the Pacific Fisheries Technologists (1991-1994 and 1998-2000). He also was a member of the Science and Technology Committee of the National Fisheries Institute.

Edwin Ebisui, Jr., is a lawyer who has been interested in fisheries-related matters for years. Mr. Ebisui, who previously served three terms on the Council, is a part-time commercial fisherman who also fishes recreationally. He was elected president of the Pacific Ocean Research Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to research and knowledge of Pacific game fish.

INDIVIDUALS/GROUPS CONSULTED WITH/SHOWN SUPPORT OF NOMINEES

Individuals within the fishing community were consulted regarding nominations to the Council, including Sean Martin, who is currently serving in Hawaii's obligatory seat. The following individuals also provided input and/or were involved in the nomination process: Tony Benabese, Manager, State Boards and Commission; Kitty Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council; Robert Nishimoto, Francis Oishi, and Reginald Kokubun of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources; and William J. Aila, Jr., Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.