

Dear Sir,

As a U.S. citizen who enjoys fishing recreationally, I strongly oppose any efforts to try to persuade the White House or fishery management agencies or councils to prohibit recreational fishing in marine protected areas, including areas designated as or within Marine National Monuments, as being strongly urged by the Pew Environment Group. As you know the President just recently issued an Executive Memo and an Executive Order making clear that recreational fishing should be sustained in marine protected areas.

The recreational fishing constituency of the U.S. is comprised of millions of individuals who value marine resources and interact with them responsibly

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-recreational fishing is not the cause of the degradation of high seas fish stocks;

-recreational fishing is proven to be manageable in a pro-conservation sustainable manner;

-recreational fishing provides thousands of jobs to individuals in coastal areas, including in the Pacific islands and beyond;

-recreational fishing can continue in areas closed to commercial fishing gear, which is responsible for overfishing of species in conjunction with traditional and effective fisheries management tools such as bag limits, size limits, seasons and restrictions of destructive gear types; and

- those of us not responsible for overfishing should not be penalized for the acts of others using gear and practices that do not support sustainable use, or responsible conservation and management.

Sincerely,