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From: **Michael Seki - NOAA Federal** <michael.seki@noaa.gov>

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2019

Subject: New FRMD Director

To: **_NMFS PIC** <nmfs.pic@noaa.gov>

Good morning everyone,

We are extremely pleased to announce that we have selected Dr. T. Todd Jones to be the Director of the Fisheries Research and Monitoring Division (FRMD). T. Todd currently is and for several years has been the leader and supervisor of our Marine Turtle Biology and Assessment Program (MTBAP) in the Center's Protected Species Division (PSD). T. Todd has obtained a wide range of experience while working at PIFSC, starting out in the Fish Biology and Bycatch Program of the Fisheries Biology and Stock Assessment Division (a previous incarnation of FRMD) of the Honolulu Laboratory as a JIMAR employee. He then moved over to the Protected Species Division (50% of him at least) as an ecological researcher and ultimately was selected as the program manager for the turtle Program within PSD. T. Todd has a background in highly migratory species and bycatch; he received his Doctorate from the University of British Columbia and holds a Graduate Certificate in Quantitative Fisheries Research from the University of Florida.

T. Todd's career here at PIFSC has been centered on leading science to understand protected species life history, ecology, and behavior, and how this information can be used to minimize bycatch. In recent years, T. Todd has had an increased role in the Council process, being a key lead for working with the Regional Office and Council on high visibility issues such providing key science products to support the recent shallow set biological opinion. For many years, he's led or been a member of the Council's Pelagic and Archipelagic Plan teams and has been active with many of the Council's working groups. T. Todd has also led one of the PIFSC inaugural transformational EBFM projects that examined the ecological drivers of protected and incidentally caught species interactions and target catch in the Hawaii and American Samoa-based longline fisheries.

In his role as the Program Manager for MTBAP, T. Todd has worked steadily to enact his vision to create a research-based, quantitative program that was agile and flexible enough to handle the vast array of fisheries issues in the Pacific Islands Region.

For the folks in FRMD, we appreciate your patience in the Division while we plodded our way through the extended process in finding the next Director. As you are aware, during this time we also went through our year-long journey using the 'Appreciative Inquiry' method to identify from a staff level where we collectively felt the Division needed to go and grow. We felt that this was an important discovery step for us, as it allowed us to capture direct feedback from the Division that helped us shape our selection of the FRMD Director. We selected T. Todd with confidence that he will come into the Division embracing the results of this process, and working with the Division to meet the aspirational goals set forth by the process, and upholding the values in practice you established. We're very excited to have Todd take on this new challenge and we look forward to his vision and great things to come from FRMD. T. Todd will assume his new position effective on Sunday, 27 October 2019. Thank you to Joe O'Malley, Beth Lumsden, and Keith Bigelow who have each served 90-day cycles as the acting FRMD Director since Chris Boggs retired.

Having said that, Todd's move to FRMD does create a void within PSD, we are very happy that Dr. Summer Martin will be stepping in as the acting program lead for 120 days while we initiate the process to permanently find a new MTBAP leader. Thank you Summer for being willing to take on this great responsibility; we are confident that with your oversight, the program will continue to operate seamlessly moving ahead.

Aloha ka kou,
Mike and Evan

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Michael P. Seki, Ph.D.

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