



**Western  
Pacific  
Regional  
Fishery  
Management  
Council**

July 9, 2013

Mr. George Balazs  
Marine Turtle Research Program  
Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center  
2570 Dole St  
Honolulu, HI 96822-2396

Dear George:

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (Council) voted at its 157<sup>th</sup> Meeting held June 26-28, 2013 to appoint you to the newly established Protected Species Committee. The full committee membership includes expertise in sea turtle, marine mammal, seabird, shark, coral and reef fish, as well as representation from the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) and Advisory Panel (AP). Your appointment is joined by the following members:

<b>Expertise/Representation</b>	<b>Members (Affiliation)</b>
Sea Turtle	George Balazs (NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center) Milani Chaloupka (Ecological Modelling Services)
Marine Mammal	Erin Oleson (NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center) Robin Baird (Cascadia Research Collective)
Seabird	David Hyrenbach (Hawaii Pacific University)
Shark	Carl Meyer (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology)
Coral and Reef Fish	Sam Kahng (Hawaii Pacific University)
SSC Representative	Jim Lynch (K&L Gates)
AP Representatives	Kimi Apiki (ALU LIKE) Makani Christensen (Keawe Adventures)

The Protected Species Committee will advise the Council on priorities for management, research and conservation as it pertains to protected species in the fishery management context. The committee will also advise the Council's protected species program with respect to funding priorities, as appropriate and necessary.

The committee will meet at least once a year in-person, with interim meetings by teleconference as necessary. The Council's protected species coordinator Asuka Ishizaki will be

the staff contact for this committee, and she will be in contact with you with details regarding the inaugural meeting this later this year. In the interim, please do not hesitate to contact Asuka (asuka.ishizaki@noaa.gov or 808-522-8224) for any questions about the Council or the committee.

Please confirm your membership acceptance with Asuka (asuka.ishizaki@noaa.gov) by July 22, 2013. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Kitty M. Simonds  
Executive Director