



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JAN 20 2006

Zenen Ozoa  
Owner Bottom Fishing Vessel  
KA IMI KAI  
4300 Waialae Avenue 1202B  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

Dear Mr. Ozoa:

Thank you for your letter to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA), regarding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. I appreciate your views supporting complete protection of the resources as advocated by both Representative Ed Case and Governor Lingle and your thoughts on "buy outs" for bottomfish permits.

NOAA shares your concern about how to best protect the valuable and unique marine resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. NOAA, working with the State of Hawaii, other agencies and other interested stakeholders, is developing a Draft Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/EIS) that will describe alternative management approaches to protecting the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and proposed draft regulations to implement those protections. NOAA anticipates that the DMP/EIS and draft regulations will be released for public review and comment in June 2006 and NOAA will hold a series of meetings in Hawaii to receive public comment in July.

I hope you will continue to participate in this discussion and share your views on the DMP/DEIS. If you have any additional questions contact Aulani Wilhelm (808) 397-2660, Extension 223.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Challstrom  
Acting Assistant Administrator