



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Pacific Islands Region

NOAA IRC
1845 Wasp Blvd, Building 176
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Laurie Petreka
Friends of Mariana Trench
162 PPP Box 10,000
Saipan, MP 96950
670 483 – FOMT (3668)

Dear Ms. Petreka:

This letter is to update you on your nomination of the Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary. As you are aware, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries added this nomination to its inventory of candidate sites on December 5th, 2016. NOAA's regulations for the sanctuary nomination process indicate that any nomination in the inventory will be considered active for a five-year period. Since the CNMI nomination is now approaching that five-year period, we need to ensure it remains relevant and responsive to our criteria and considerations.

As we discussed in our initial meeting in December, the first step in our review is to give the Friends of the Marianas Trench (as the original nominating party) an opportunity to reaffirm the nomination's original intent and to identify anything that may have changed in the past five years. We appreciate your continued interest in your nomination and look forward to continue working with you in gathering additional public comment during our comment period of January 20 to February 22, 2022.

We look forward to continue working with you to add any additional information and to determine the best approach for soliciting public input on the nomination at this five-year mark.

Aloha—

Kristina Kekuwa

Kristina Kekuwa
Regional Director
ONMS Pacific Islands Region

