



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Acting Director, DCRM

September 10, 2021

Ref No: PLN21-094

Mr. Michael D. Tosatto
Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Region
1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 176
Honolulu, Hawaii 96818

Re: Proposed Longline Gear and Release Requirements for Pelagic Fisheries

Dear Mr. Tosatto,

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) has reviewed the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) consistency determination for proposed regulations of gear requirements for pelagic longline fishing operations. These include prohibiting the use of wire leaders in Hawaii longline fisheries, and requiring fishers to remove trailing gear from oceanic whitetip sharks caught to increase post-hooking survival.

DCRM concurs that this action is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI coastal management program. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact Arthur Charfauros at (670) 664-8314 or fedcon@dcrm.gov.mp.

Sincerely,

RICHARD V. SALAS
Acting Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

cc: Mark Fox – NOAA Fisheries, PIRO