



PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
GOVERNOR

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**OFFICIAL STATEMENT
FROM THE GOVERNOR OF AMERICAN SAMOA**

On the President's Proclamation Restoring American Commercial Fishing in the Pacific

Today, American Samoa regained a stronger voice in the management of fishing grounds that directly affect our economy, our fleet, and our future as a U.S. Pacific fishing community.

President Trump's proclamation restores commercial fishing access in specified Pacific monument waters, including waters around Rose Atoll, and places those fisheries back within the existing public, science-based management framework of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, NOAA Fisheries, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. That is a process where fishermen, scientists, territorial leaders, and communities have a seat at the table. Decisions about our ocean should be made with us, not handed down from afar.

This is a win for U.S. fishermen, and especially for our American Samoa longline fleet, which for years has been pushed farther from home, burning more fuel and spending more days at sea to harvest highly migratory tuna, the backbone of American Samoa's economy. This action strengthens what tuna sustains: our cannery, our workforce, our families, and the last major American tuna processing hub in the Pacific.

Let me also be clear: protections for coral reefs, turtle nesting sites, protected species, marine mammals, seabirds, and critical habitats remain in place under federal law and applicable fishery management regulations. Responsible fishing and strong conservation can, and must work together.

I thank President Trump and Secretary Lutnick for restoring access to these waters and for returning these fisheries to a management process that includes the people and communities who know them best.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pulaali'i", followed by a horizontal line.

PULAALI'I NIKOLAO PULA
Governor