



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

March 13, 2017

Mr. Ignacio Cabrera
Friends of the Mariana Trench
PO Box 7048 SVRB
Saipan, CNMI 96950

Mr. Angelo Villagomez
The Pew Charitable Trusts
901 E St. NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Cabrera and Mr. Villagomez,

Thank you for submitting the nomination for the proposed Mariana Trench National Marine Sanctuary on December 5, 2016. We greatly appreciate the interest expressed through this nomination. It is clear that many care deeply about this special place.

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has completed our detailed reviews and determined that this nomination meets the national significance criteria and management considerations. Thus, we have added the nomination to the inventory of areas NOAA may consider in the future for national marine sanctuary designation. We look forward to working with you and the community as we consider possible designation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact myself or Allen Tom, Pacific Islands Regional Director.

Sincerely,



John Armor
Director

cc. Allen Tom, Pacific Islands Regional Director

