



June 6, 2021

Alexa Cole  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries  
NOAA Fisheries  
1315 East-West Highway, 13th Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Michael Tosatto, Regional Administrator  
NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1845 Wasp Boulevard, Bldg 176  
Honolulu, HI 96818

**RE: Western and Northern Pacific Ocean Striped Marlin**

Dear Ms. Cole and Mr. Tosatto,

As leading local, national, and international recreational and small-boat fishing and ocean conservation organizations, **we are writing to express our support for the United States' continued commitment to negotiating strong international conservation measures for Western and Central North Pacific Ocean (WCNPO) striped marlin necessary to replenish the spawning stock and restore opportunities for small-boat fishermen and recreational fishermen in Hawaii and the eastern Pacific.**<sup>1</sup> The Pacific's largest predatory fish have been drastically impacted by industrial fishing. WCNPO striped marlin are no exception. The stock has been experiencing overfishing since 1977, and fishing is impeding rebuilding. A pending stock assessment in 2022 should not postpone this priority.

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<sup>1</sup> The boundary of the WCNPO striped marlin and Eastern North Pacific striped marlin stock is defined as the waters of the Pacific Ocean west of 140°W and north of the equator. However, studies indicate that striped marlin caught in southern California are genetically linked to the WCNPO striped marlin stock representative in Hawaii, Japan, and Taiwan. Therefore, supporting a rebuilding plan for WCNPO striped marlin may improve the availability of striped marlin to southern California recreational fishermen.



