



Gulf of Mexico
Fishery
Management
Council

June 2, 2009

Dr. Jane Lubchenco, Administrator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 5128
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Dr. Lubchenco:

In your remarks at our May Council Coordination Committee meeting in Boston, MA, you announced the creation of a new NOAA task force to develop a strategy to make catch share management programs more available to U.S. fisheries. You outlined five specific goals for the task force and mentioned that members would be named by the end of the month. Additionally, you stated that you have directed the task force chair to consult fully with the eight Council Chairs, NOAA leadership, staffs, and the Council Executive Directors.

We applaud this effort and stand ready and willing to help. We believe that the Councils and their staffs have the experience and expertise to provide invaluable input to meet the task force goals. Additionally, the Councils in section 303A (a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act have the authority to submit catch share programs for Secretarial approval. Accordingly, we ask that you select representatives from the Councils and their staffs to your task force. We believe that to avoid unnecessary pitfalls our input should be provided earlier during policy development, rather than later.

We would like nothing better than to partner with you in developing NOAA's policy and strategy to move forward with catch shares. Either as members of the task force or as partners in the management process, we are committed to working with NOAA to make catch shares not only a priority, but a successful initiative that will benefit both fishermen and the marine environment on which we all depend.

If you have any questions, please call Paul Howard, Executive Director, New England Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

John W. Pappalardo, Chair
New England FMC

Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chair
Mid-Atlantic FMC



Charles Duane Harris, Chair
South Atlantic FMC



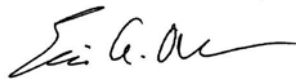
Eugenio Piñero-Soler, Chair
Caribbean FMC



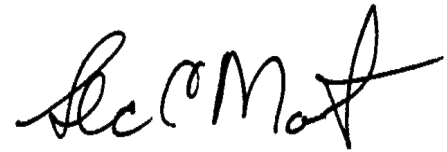
Thomas McIlwain, Chair
Gulf of Mexico FMC



Donald K. Hansen, Chair
Pacific FMC



Eric Olson, Chair
North Pacific FMC



Sean Martin, Chair
Western Pacific FMC

cc: Dr. James W. Balsiger
Samuel D. Rauch III
Council EDs