



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.



Gulf of Mexico  
Fishery  
Management  
Council

Sincerely,

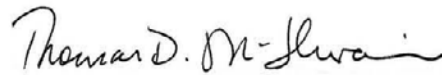
John W. Pappalardo, Chair

Richard B. Robins, Jr., Chair

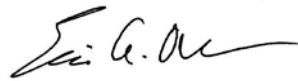
New England FMC



Charles Duane Harris, Chair  
South Atlantic FMC



Thomas McIlwain, Chair  
Gulf of Mexico FMC



Eric Olson, Chair  
North Pacific FMC

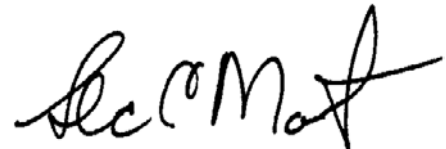
Mid-Atlantic FMC



Eugenio Piñero-Soler, Chair  
Caribbean FMC



Donald K. Hansen, Chair  
Pacific FMC



Sean Martin, Chair  
Western Pacific FMC

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