



Chair

*Larry McKinney*

Vice-Chair

*Jesse Cancelmo*

Member

Recreational Diving

*Jesse Cancelmo/Jimmi Mack*

Diving Operations

*Cher Walker/Frank Wasson*

Oil & Gas Production

*John Hoffman/James Wiseman*

Recreational Fishing

*Irby Basco/Keith Love*

Commercial Fishing

*Mike Jennings/Patrick Riley*

Research

*Will Heyman/Larry McKinney*

Education

*Dale Loughmiller/Jacqui Stanley*

Conservation

*Ellis Pickett/Page Williams*

Minerals Management Service

*James Sinclair*

U.S. Coast Guard

*LCDR Jason Brand*

NOAA Fisheries

*Rusty Swafford*

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

*Charles Tyer*

Nelson Andrade Colmenares

Coordinator

UNEP-CAR/RCU

14-20 Port Royal Street

Kingston, Jamaica

October 12, 2012

Dear Mr. Colmenares,

On behalf of the Advisory Council for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, I am writing to inform you of our strong support for the submission to list the sanctuary to become part of the Special Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol. At our Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting held on September 12, 2012, our members voted unanimously to support the listing and we look forward to the sanctuary becoming part of the SPAW Protocol network of marine protected areas.

The Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary Advisory Council is composed of key stakeholders and users of the sanctuary's marine resources. It advises the sanctuary's management on conservation and governance issues, and how the public and users of Gulf of Mexico resources may be impacted by management actions. We see the SPAW Protocol as an important opportunity for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary to engage with marine protected areas throughout the Wider Caribbean to better protect and manage the ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. We look forward to assisting the sanctuary's staff to share their experiences and expertise with the SPAW Protocol, and to learn from other listed sites in the SPAW Protocol network.

Sincerely,

Dr. Larry McKinney

Chair, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Director, Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies

Corpus Christi, TX

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

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