



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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