



Chair
Clint Moore

Vice-Chair
James Wiseman

Member/Alternate
Recreational Diving
Jesse Cancelmo / Jimmie Mack
Diving Operations
Natalie Hall / Randy Widaman
Oil & Gas Production
Clint Moore / James Wiseman
Recreational Fishing
John Blaha / Scott Hickman
Commercial Fishing
Shane Cantrell / Buddy Guindon
Research
Larry McKinney/ Adrienne Simoes-Correa
Education
Brian Shmaefsky / Jacqui Stanley
Conservation
Jake Emmert / Joanie Steinhaus
BSEE
James Sinclair
EPA
Barbara Keeler
U.S. Coast Guard
LCDR Leo Danaher
NOAA Fisheries
Rusty Swafford
NOAA Office of Law Enforcement
Charles Tyer

Dear Director Armor,

We hope that this letter finds you in good health and great spirits.

As Chair of the FGBNMS Advisory Council, I am writing you today to express the Sanctuary Advisory Council's (SAC) significant concern with remarks made by House Resources Committee Chairman Robert W. Bishop, in a committee hearing held on March 15, 2017.

We are writing to you today to provide you with what we believe is important information that should be conveyed to the Chairman at your discretion, regarding the SAC of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS).

The House Committee hearing that day included discussions about the FGBNMS SAC. Many of us have had the opportunity to view the hearing video, which prompts us to reach out to you today and provide you, and potentially the committee chair, with further key information.

At about the 1:28 point in the hearing video, we heard a comment from the Chairman that inferred that the SAC members' reaction to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was that we all felt that the DEIS release in June was a "bait-and-switch" process. We would respectfully like to dissuade anyone from that understanding, because we collectively know firsthand that there are many differing views among the 2016-2017 SAC members regarding the Alternatives in the 2016 DEIS. A few might agree with that characterization, but most others would not.

As you may know, our SAC has created a new Boundary Expansion Working Group (BEWG) that is reviewing the DEIS for our SAC, and plans to issue a recommendation to the SAC as early as the September SAC meeting.

Since formed in August 2005, the SAC has always been an

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Marine Sanctuary Advisory

Council

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outstanding group of individuals dedicated to the mission of the FGBNMS and National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP), while capably representing their eight respective stakeholder groups of (alphabetically) commercial fishing, conservation, diving operations, education, oil & gas production, recreational diving, recreational fishing, and research. We were commissioned in 2005 with a voting member and a non-voting alternate present at each meeting, and then we were allowed to elevate the alternates to full voting members, which now totals 16 voting members. In addition, we have one agency (non-voting) member each from BOEM, BSEE, U.S. Coast Guard, EPA, NOAA Fisheries, and NOAA Law Enforcement. Our quarterly meetings last a full day, with good attendance, robust agendas, and thoughtful, productive, and collaborative discussions, where consensus is almost always achieved.

All of us love this work to which we voluntarily dedicate a portion of our lives, and are proud of our results. We all work collaboratively, and for the better good of the NMSP and our Nation.

Director Armor, please convey our significant concern to Chairman Bishop, should the opportunity afford itself to you in the future. We remain in your service, and honored and humbled by our roles and responsibilities. We all hope sanctuary management will take our forthcoming boundary expansion recommendation to heart and give it maximum consideration.

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clint Moore".

FGBNMS Advisory Council
By Clint Moore, SAC Chair