



FLOWER GARDEN BANKS

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

May 15, 2014

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Matt Johnson

EPA

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LCDR Jason Brand

NOAA Fisheries

Rusty Swafford

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

Charles Tyer

Mr. John Nau, Chair

Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area Steering Committee

c/o National Parks Conservation Association

9654 C Katy Freeway, #252

Houston, TX 77055

Re: Support for the Creation of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area and Partnership with the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Dear Mr. Nau,

On behalf of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS), I am writing to inform you of our full and committed support of the formal formation of the Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area (LSCNRA). The SAC approves of and recommends to NOAA that FGBNMS be a partner in the initiative. All council members have agreed a partnership with the LSCNRA is a meaningful and important way for the sanctuary to help the Upper Texas Coast realize its full economic and recreational potential. Being a partner will highlight the sanctuary's role in environmental conservation, marine resource management, recreational and research diving, and recreational fishing. We further recognize the LSCNRA's ability to assist with the vision of FGBNMS achieving status as an international recreational diving destination as the most pristine coral reef in the United States.

The Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary Advisory Council is composed of key stakeholders using and benefiting from the sanctuary. It advises the sanctuary's management on conservation and governance issues, and how the public and users of the Gulf of Mexico may be impacted by management actions. The LSCNRA will provide an important opportunity for FGBNMS to engage with the users of coastal and marine resources of the region to enhance the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. The LSCNRA provides a unique

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

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409-621-5151 * 409-621-1316 fax

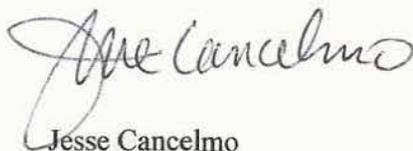
<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov>

opportunity for the Sanctuary and its NOAA colleagues in Galveston to integrate their knowledge and stewardship of local marine ecosystems and submerged cultural resources, as well as their historic office facilities at Fort Crocket in Galveston, with the National Park Service's expertise in preservation of the nation's special natural and historic places.

We believe that the designation of a coastal national recreation area will bring greater recognition to the Galveston region as a destination for tourists from around the nation and world. The inclusion of FGBNMS within the LSCNRA will help expand the offshore vision for the national recreation area and inspire people to view the sanctuary as an ambassador for the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem. Please contact G.P. Schmahl, Sanctuary Superintendent (George.Schmahl@noaa.gov or 409-621-5151 ext. 102), with any questions or directions regarding the steps you require for our participation in the LSCNRA that will foster its formal designation. The SAC is in full support of the LSCNRA designation and a partnership with FGBNMS.

The council is an advisory body. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sincerely,



Jesse Cancelmo
Chair, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council