



Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico

2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100

Tampa, Florida 33607 USA

Phone: 813.348.1630 • Toll free: 888.833.1844 • Fax: 813.348.1711

www.gulfcouncil.org

July 1, 2013

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The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman
House Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Hastings,

At its June 17-21, 2013 meeting in Pensacola, Florida, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) reviewed the issue of authorizing the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to establish a sustainable seafood certification program. Providing such authorization would require a revision to the Magnuson-Stevens Act (Act). After discussing the issue, and noting that this program is supported by commercial fishermen and by at least three other Regional Management Councils, the Council passed the following motion:

“That the Council recommend to add to the list of reauthorization priorities the need for a sustainable certification that would authorize NMFS to provide the U.S. industry with a sustainable certification program and certification mark, which would provide the industry with the ability to promote and sell its seafood products, in both domestic and export markets, as sustainable, based upon the requirements of the Act.”

Sincerely,

Douglass Boyd,
Council Chair

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C: Gulf Council, Council technical staff, MAFAC Chair Keith Rizzardi