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Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.

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March 24, 2010

Dr. Robert L. Shipp
Council Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
2203 N. Lois Avenue, Suite 1100
Tampa, Florida 33607

RE: State delegation of certain species

Dear Dr. Shipp:

Thank you for your letter regarding the delegation of management of certain jointly managed species to the state of Florida. As you point out, the species that are being considered (mutton snapper, yellowtail snapper, octocorals, stone crab, Caribbean spiny lobster, and Nassau grouper) do mostly occur off of the coasts of Florida, and in some instances are considered to be more of a state species. Additionally, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute takes a lead role in the stock assessments of all of the species listed with the exception of octocorals.

You have requested that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (Commission) assist the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) in determining whether to delegate some or all of the management responsibilities for these species to Florida. The Commission welcomes the opportunity to work cooperatively with the Council and NOAA Fisheries Service and our staff stands ready to provide assistance and expertise to help determine the appropriate management of these species.

Once again, we thank you for the opportunity to collaborate with our federal partners in the management of some of Florida's most important marine fisheries. Please do not hesitate to contact Mark Robson or William Teehan at 850-487-0554, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rodney Barreto
Chairman

rb/wt/mc

cc: Commissioners
Steve Bortone
Roy Crabtree
Greg Holder
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Bill Teehan
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