



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

33 East Quay Road
Key West, FL 33040

November 8, 2019

Ms. Jessica R. McCawley
Chair
South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
4055 Faber Place Drive, Suite 201
North Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Chairperson McCawley:

Thank you for your October 16, 2019, letter requesting an extension until March 13, 2020 for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) to provide comment and consider preparing draft regulations for fishing within the exclusive economic zone of the proposed expanded boundary of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary in accordance with section 304(a)(5) of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. § 1434(a)(5)).

We view consultation with our regional fishery management council partners as critical to refining and ultimately implementing provisions of the Restoration Blueprint. Providing the opportunity for the relevant SAFMC Advisory Panels to be briefed and provide comments to the full Council is an essential part of this process.

NOAA's sanctuary regulations at 15 C.F.R. § 922.22(b) provide the regional fishery management councils with 120 days to conduct their review, make recommendations and, if appropriate, prepare draft fishery regulations and submit them to NOAA. However, consistent with NOAA policy and to provide adequate time for the SAFMC meetings, including Advisory Panel input, I concur with your request to provide us with your comments by March 13, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Fangman".

Sarah Fangman
Sanctuary Superintendent

Cc: Council Members and Staff
Carrie Simmons, Gulf Council
John McGovern and Rick DeVictor, NMFS
Monica Smit-Brunello and Shep Grimes
Clay Porch and Erick Williams

