

Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholder's Alliance
4415 Avenue S
Galveston, Texas 77552

November 12, 2008

President-elect Obama
Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-elect Obama,

I write to express our support for *Oceans of abundance: an action agenda for America's vital fishing future*, on behalf of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance. We are a Gulf-wide organization of commercial fishermen and allies seeking the economic, conservation and social benefits of a viable and modern fishing industry.

As shareholders in the Gulf of Mexico's Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) Program, we already reap the benefits of a successful catch share program – the management tool that this report recommends. We are seeing the fishery become more profitable even as we save millions of fish.

Your administration and the 111th Congress should quickly act on the recommendations in the *Oceans of abundance* report. Most Gulf of Mexico fisheries are not yet managed under catch shares and many are still experiencing overfishing. Under the long season closures and other outdated regulations, we see many struggling families and coastal economies, including the seafood, recreation and other businesses the Gulf supports. There is no time to lose.

Sincerely,



Keith "Buddy" Guindon
Treasurer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholder's Alliance