



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

LUIS G. FORTUÑO
GOVERNOR

March 12, 2012

Dr. Alan Risenhoover
Director
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA/NMFS
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14743
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attention: Mr. William Chappell

Dear Dr. Risenhoover:

We are submitting our candidates for the Caribbean Fishery Management Council seat that will become vacant on August 10, 2012. We have selected three candidates from the recreational fishing sector and the conservation sector, in order to balance the representation of recreational and commercial sectors in the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. Our candidates have extensive experience in the field of recreational fishing and are knowledgeable in the management and conservation of the fishery resources of Puerto Rico.

Our selection was based on their interest in the management and conservation of the fishery resources. We also took into consideration their ability and willingness to make commitments and to work collectively with other members of the Council.

We are submitting the following:

1. Israel Umpierre
2. Ricardo Lefranc
3. Eugenio Piñeiro

Dr. Alan Risenhoover

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We would like to recommend Mr. Eugenio Piñeiro for nomination. Mr. Piñeiro is a retired commercial fisherman, who is active in conservation endeavors, as well as fisheries research and investigation in Puerto Rico. In fact, Mr. Piñeiro was the Captain responsible for the discovery of *Odontanthias hensleyi* at the Mona Passage on July 12, 2004.

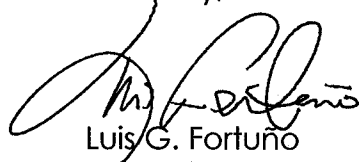
This discovery resulted in the first fish species discovered in the Atlantic Ocean in the 21st century and was achieved while trying out techniques with new experimental gear to capture deep water snappers, for a project regarding reproductive aspects of deep water snappers in partnership with NOAA Fisheries and the Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) of Puerto Rico.

Moreover, Mr. Piñeiro is an active member of the Cousteau Society and served as Chair of the MPAFAC (Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee) to the National System of Marine Protected Areas. Mr. Piñeiro is also a member of the US-International Whaling Committee and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas. He has represented the commercial sector at the Caribbean Fishery Management Council in the past and currently serves in the Puerto Rico Fisheries Board, an advisory board to the Secretary of the DNER, where he represents the conservation sector as an MPA advocate.

Mr. Piñeiro has the knowledge and experience to further advance the amendment of fishery management plans for reef fish, spiny lobster, queen conch resources, and corals and reef associated plants and invertebrates in the U.S. Caribbean for the implementation of the 2011 Caribbean Annual Catch Limit Amendment. His contributions to the consideration of a Catch Shares system for commercial fisherman who fish of the waters of the West of Puerto Rico have been remarkable. We have no doubt that his contribution to the implementation of the Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act will be valuable.

We are very pleased with the other candidates and the fact that they were willing to undergo the nomination process for; it clearly shows their commitment to the conservation and management of such important resources. We appreciate the opportunity to continue working in the management of our fishing resources in collaborative partnership with your agency and all other involved parties.

Sincerely,



Luis G. Fortuño