



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
MARINE FISHERIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

July 22, 2003

Honorable Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear ADM Lautenbacher:

In November 2001, at the suggestion of Dr. Hogarth, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC) created an Ecosystem-based Approach Task Force to examine ecosystem principles as they relate to fisheries management. The Task Force, working with a consultant from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), assembled a working group to provide technical information on an ecosystem-based approach. With that information in hand, the Task Force developed a report which was presented to MAFAC at our May, 2003 meeting. After discussion, MAFAC unanimously adopted a motion setting out some specific recommendations on ecosystem-based management of fisheries.

As Industry Vice-Chair of MAFAC, it is my privilege to forward that motion and its recommendations to you. I have also included a copy of the technical report that was developed by our Task Force. We believe that the recommendations will be useful to you at such time as begin working on ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries management. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Alvin Osterback  
Industry Vice-Chair, MAFAC

Encl (2): Motion on Ecosystem-based Management  
Technical Guidance

cc: Dr. William Hogarth, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
Jack Dunnigan, Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

