



Mr. Dale Diaz, Chairman
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
4107 West Spruce Street, Suite 200
Tampa, FL 33607

March 10, 2022

Dear Chairman Diaz,

Please accept this letter of recommendation from the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance for Ms. Alison Johnson's application to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's (Gulf Council's) Coral Advisory Panel.

I first met Ms. Johnson at the Gulf Council meeting in Biloxi, MS in October 2016 while she was working as the Southeast Campaign Manager for Oceana. At this meeting and at subsequent meetings, she provided public comment on a topic that was of interest to us – Deep Sea Coral Amendment 9. In her coral advocacy work, she has always shown much consideration to fishermen and their livelihoods, and we were able to work closely with her on this issue.

Ms. Johnson has an extensive background in coral biology having worked as the Coral Operations Manager at the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Coral Restoration Specialist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. During that time, she investigated the cause and extent of stony coral tissue loss disease, managed coral outplanting projects and organized coral spawning gamete collection.

Currently, Ms. Johnson is the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Manager with the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). One of her biggest roles at the MSC is working directly with fishermen and fishing organizations in this region to minimize fishing impacts on ocean habitat in an effort to meet conditions set forth in the MSC fisheries standard.

As a Florida Keys resident for 14 years, Alison is passionate about our reefs and has the experience and knowledge to back that up. She is also an avid fisherman, PADI dive master and a 50-ton USCG captain.

Our organization endorses Ms. Johnson for a seat on the GMFMC coral AP because of her background, expertise, and ability to work closely with the commercial fishing industry. We think she will bring local expertise, reliability and fairness to this very important role.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Eric Brazer
Deputy Director, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
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Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association

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March 4, 2022

Dr. Thomas Frazer
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
4107 West Spruce Street
Tampa, Florida 33607

Re: Ms. Alison Johnson, Candidate for Appointment to the GMFMC Coral Advisory Panel

Dear Dr. Frazer,

Ms. Alison Johnson of Key West, Florida has made application for a seat on the GMFMC Coral Advisory Panel. Alison presently holds the position of GOMEX Manager with the Marine Stewardship Council. Prior to joining MSC, Alison held positions with the FKNMS and the FFWCC as a marine biologist directly involved in coral research and restoration. Her duties included researching causes and extent of stony coral tissue loss disease and coral bleaching. Those duties included coral spawning surveys and out-planting. As the former Southeast Campaign Manager for Oceana, Alison worked with Gulf Council members and staff in the development of Amendment 9 to create more than 300 square miles of HAPC. Rounding out her aquatic credentials, Alison is an avid angler, PADI Certified Dive Master and holds a 50-Ton USCG Merchant Mariner's Certificate.

The Board of Directors of our Association fully endorse and highly recommend Alison Johnson for appointment to the Coral AP.

Sincerely,

s/ Bill Kelly

Capt. Bill Kelly
Executive Director

C: Dr. Carrie Simmons, GMFMC, Executive Director