



# Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

*Managing Fishery Resources in the U.S. Federal Waters of the Gulf of Mexico*

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January 4, 2021

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Andy Strelcheck  
Deputy Regional Administrator  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
263 13th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

Dear Mr. Strelcheck:

During the September 2020 Council meeting, the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) received an initial presentation from NOAA Fisheries on the aquaculture aspects of Executive Order 13921. The Council also had the opportunity to receive a follow-up presentation providing an update on aquaculture opportunity areas (AOAs) at its November 2020 meeting.

Council members, as well as fishery stakeholders, expressed strong interest in the development of AOAs, particularly in the process to identify these areas in the Gulf of Mexico. The Council's Shrimp Advisory Panel illustrated its interest by unanimously approving a motion requesting its involvement in the AOA process. The Council followed suit and approved a motion recommending the establishment of a fishery stakeholder advisory panel to inform the process of identifying aquaculture opportunity areas. If such an advisory panel is established, it could also consider and comment on other aquaculture-related issues that may arise in the future.

Thank you for the agency's efforts and commitment to keeping our Council informed on the development of AOAs. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas K. Frazer  
Council Chair

cc: Council Members  
Council Staff  
John McGovern, Ph.D.  
Danielle Blacklock  
Jennifer Lukens (Attn: MAFAC)