

TAB K NO. 1(a)



GULF STATES MARINE FISHERIES COMMISSION

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Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director
July 19, 2007

The Honorable Ted Stevens
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Stevens:

The Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission (GSMFC) was established to provide for the conservation, development, and full utilization of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The Coastal and Ocean Protection Plan Implementation Act would assist the Commission in accomplishing these goals. Therefore, the Commission fully supports the passage of this bill.

With the expanding population in coastal areas, the pressure on living marine resources is increasing and the need for appropriate management is essential. In order to effectively manage these resources, significant increases of funds are necessary to address these critical issues as called for in the Oceans Policy Report. This Act would provide for this influx of funds and would assist the states to adequately and effectively manage the marine fisheries resources in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, the GSMFC and its member states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida) believe it is appropriate to utilize outer continental shelf energy revenues for the enhancement of marine fisheries management and have supported and continue to support this concept.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for this important initiative that will conserve and improve the management of our Nation's marine resources.

Sincerely,

Larry B. Simpson
Executive Director

LBS/mt