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May 22, 2014

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
703 Hart
Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu,

We are writing to express our appreciation for your actions to find a solution to the problems plaguing federal fisheries management with the Red Snapper Conservation Act. As the executive directors of the five Gulf Coast state chapters of the Coastal Conservation Association, we have firsthand knowledge of the impacts that the current unpredictable and inappropriate management regime are having on the recreational angling sector and on the coastal economies that depend on them.

The recent announcement by NOAA Fisheries reducing the 2014 recreational red snapper season to just nine days marks a new low for management of this fishery. The great frustration felt by anglers over the shortest season in history is compounded by evidence that the current red snapper biomass may be the largest in history. The only conclusion that can be drawn from this illogical situation is that federal management of recreational fisheries is fundamentally flawed and has utterly failed Gulf red snapper.

Our members believe that your leadership is critical to find a way out of this intractable situation. It is abundantly clear that the Gulf Coast states need an alternative course of management, either a state-based solution as outlined in your legislation or some other proposal that will provide for rational management of recreational fisheries.

We encourage you to continue to take a leadership role in the efforts to find legislative options to this failed federal fisheries management system. The 80,000-plus members of

the Coastal Conservation Association along the Gulf Coast are keenly aware of your efforts and are ready to work with you to bring sense to this untenable situation.

Sincerely,

Robby Byers, Executive Director
CCA Texas

David Cresson, Executive Director
CCA Louisiana

Johnny Marquez, Executive Director
CCA Mississippi

Travis Taylor, Executive Director
CCA Alabama

Brian Gorski, Executive Director
CCA Floriday