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2 June 2009

MRAG Americas, Inc. is currently undertaking the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) full assessment of the Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka'an lobster fisheries. MRAG Americas proposes to appoint the following scientists, listed in alphabetical order, to the assessment team:

Dr. Sara Adlerstein-González, University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources (Management systems). Dr. Adlerstein has over 20 years experience in management and scientific investigations of fisheries resources. Dr. Adlerstein's research program is in the area of applied aquatic ecology, with emphasis on population assessments and ecosystem dynamics. The goals of her work are to improve monitoring and increase the value of available information, understand processes that determine the distribution and abundance of aquatic organisms, and quantify responses of aquatic communities to stressors and management. The major contributions of her research are in applications for management, including diagnostics of environmental quality and advances in concepts related to fish movement and distribution. Her research has provided guidance for several resource management agencies, including the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Geological Surveys' Great Lakes Science Center, The International Pacific Halibut Commission, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ecological monitoring program in the Great Lakes and Groundfish Survey Working Group for International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

Dr. Mónica Valle Esquivel, Independent Fishery Consultant, Mexico City, Mexico (Stock status). Dr Valle has over 10 years experience working with stock assessments of greater Caribbean Sea fishery resources. Dr. Valle specializes in fish and shellfish population dynamics, stock assessment, design and evaluation of management strategies for exploited populations, ecosystem-based assessment, statistical analysis, risk analysis and simulation modeling for population predictions. Dr. Valle has participated in the assessment and evaluation of management strategies for a variety of fish and shellfish species in the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic Regions. She has recently performed the scientific and editorial review of the Report of the WECAF Workshop on Caribbean Spiny Lobster conducted in Merida, Mexico, 2006 and co-authored a Manual for the Assessment and Management of Queen Conch (*Strombus gigas*) Fisheries in the Caribbean;

Dr. Robert Wakeford, Technical Director, MRAG Americas, St. Petersburg FL (Ecosystem impacts). Dr Wakeford has acquired over 12 years experience with a broad range of multi-disciplinary skills in fisheries resource management and policy, including fish stock assessment, survey design and analysis, statistical and empirical modeling, database design and project management. His experience with stock assessment and fisheries management extends from high latitude industrial fisheries, such as those within Europe and the South Atlantic, to artisanal fisheries mainly within the Caribbean and Indian Ocean. He has also gained extensive experience in the design and implementation of a range of resource survey methods, including baseline dive surveys, socio-economic, ecological, and acoustic surveys for biological and fish stock assessment purposes.

These individuals collectively have knowledge of the stock status and assessment, ecosystem

impacts, and management systems applicable to this fishery. MRAG Americas seeks stakeholder comments on the suitability of the proposed team. Curriculum vitae for the proposed team are available upon request. Comments on the suitability of these scientists for the Banco Chinchorro and Sian Ka'an lobster fisheries assessment should be sent by 15 June 2009 to Dr. Robert Trumble, MRAG Americas. An announcement of the final team will be issued after the end of the comment period.

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