



THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 20, 2005

Reverend Deborah Streeter
Chairman, Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
c/o Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Madam Chairman:

Thank you for the letter of welcome, and for your insights into the national marine sanctuaries and their advisory councils. I am impressed by the level of volunteerism and service that you, your fellow Chairs, and all the advisory council members provide to the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP).

National marine sanctuaries are indeed national treasures, protecting vitally important marine and Great Lakes natural and cultural resources. I look forward to visiting a national marine sanctuary during my tenure and seeing for myself the resources we are protecting and the important work conducted by our staff and volunteers.

The Bush Administration fully supports reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. We are currently considering our own reauthorization bill, and will be happy to share it with you if it is introduced.

Once again, thank you for your warm welcome and invitation. Your dedication and service are an inspiration to all of us.

Sincerely,

Carlos M. Gutierrez