



PEW ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Comments Addressed to:
Caribbean Fishery Management Council

March 25, 2009

Good morning, Chairman and Caribbean Council members. My name is Sera Harold Drevenak and I am representing the Pew Environment Group's Ending Overfishing in the Southeast Campaign. Pew Environment Group is the conservation arm of the Pew Charitable Trusts. Our aim is to strengthen environmental policies and practices in ways that produce significant and measurable protection for the natural environment and the rich array of life it supports.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input regarding the formation of Annual Catch Limits and accountability measures for the fisheries of the US Caribbean. We are pleased to see the Council moving ahead with amendments to the appropriate fishery management plans to comply with the reauthorized Magnuson Act. In 2006, Congress mandated an end to overfishing in all US waters by 2010. We recognize that this is no easy task, and that the Caribbean Council faces particular challenges. We believe that all of the necessary data and structure is before you, however, and all that is necessary is the foresight and dedication of this body to conserve the public trust resource of our fisheries for generations to come.

It is clear that delaying fisheries cuts only worsens the hardship on fishermen and local economies, and that short term economic losses cannot preclude a long-term sustainable fishery. I'm sure I'm not the only one who can remember snorkeling here at Davis Bay 20 years ago before the hotel went in, and seeing Nassau grouper, mutton snapper and endless stands of healthy coral. I believe that we violate the public's trust when we do nothing to conserve their fisheries.

We look forward to seeing our islands' marine resources sustainably managed. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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