



**Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission**

June 12, 2009

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Commissioners  
**Rodney Barreto**  
Chair  
Miami

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Jacksonville

**Ronald M. Bergeron**  
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**Dwight Stephenson**  
Delray Beach

**Kenneth W. Wright**  
Winter Park

**Brian S. Yablonski**  
Tallahassee

Commissioner Mario Di Gennaro  
Monroe County Commission  
1100 Simonton Street  
Key West, FL 33040

*My Brother*

Dear Commissioner Di Gennaro:

On behalf of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, thank you for your support for the Vandenberg artificial reef project. As you know, the recent sinking of the decommissioned naval ship *General Hoyt S. Vandenberg* off the coast of Key West generated very positive national media attention. But as this national attention fades, the wealth of economic benefits to the people of Florida and particularly the Florida Keys will continue well into the future.

Executive Staff  
**Kenneth D. Haddad**  
Executive Director  
**Nick Wiley**  
Assistant Executive Director  
**Karen Ventimiglia**  
Deputy Chief of Staff

This dream of providing a world class diving destination and vibrant living reef system within easy reach of Key West would not have been realized without your strong support and cooperation. We truly appreciate your involvement in the success of this project that will bring enormous economic benefits to the Florida Keys when it is most needed. This is a perfect example of the amazing things that can be accomplished when everyone works together to benefit the citizens of the State of Florida and our marine fisheries resources. Thank you for working with and supporting the great team of partners and cooperators who made this dream a reality.

Sincerely,

Rodney Barreto  
Chairman

*Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.*

rb/nw/kh

cc: Commissioners  
Kenneth D. Haddad

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