



John Connelly
President

13 March 2017

Cathy Liss	Kieran Suckling	Michael D. Jasny
President	Executive Director	Director, Marine Mammal Project
Animal Welfare League	Center for Biological Diversity	Natural Resources Defense Council

Dear Ms. Liss and Messrs. Suckling and Jasny:

Several NFI members have received your 3 March 2017 letter regarding protection of vaquita in Mexican waters. As the issues raised in the letter and any solutions are industry-wide, they have asked me, as the President of the National Fisheries Institute, to respond.

The companies to whom you wrote have a tradition of ensuring long-term supply of seafood is available for American consumers. As such, they have taken and continue to take steps to ensure that fish and seafood they provide is farmed or harvested sustainably. Specific to the Upper Gulf of California, individually or collectively, the companies have:

1. Encouraged and continue to urge the Government of Mexico to fully enforce its fishing laws and regulations, to include a "whole of government " approach to ensure multiple agencies are engaged in enforcement
2. Encouraged and continue to urge the Government of Mexico to fully enforce its ban on gillnetting by boats of any size in the Gulf of California vaquita protection zone
3. Supported adoption of vessel monitoring or like systems on vessels operating in the Upper Gulf of California
4. Encouraged the Government of China to review what steps it should take to stop the import of maws from totoaba caught in the Upper Gulf of California
5. Urged the International Committee for the Recovery of the Vaquita (CIRVA) to conduct research and implement creative solutions to protect vaquita
6. Worked with a variety of U.S.-based and Mexican non-governmental organizations to develop credible Fishery Improvement Projects, to include mitigating or eliminating bycatch, for the Gulf of California shrimp fishery
7. Diversified their supply to include farmed Mexican shrimp to meet consumer preferences and reduce pressure on harvesting of Mexican wild shrimp
8. Worked with suppliers in Mexico to adjust areas from which some shrimp is sourced

We urge you to continue to work with the Government of Mexico to ensure they fully understand your interest in the vaquita, especially, as you note, the impact of fishing for totoaba has had.

As you may be aware, the Seafood Expo North America is an extraordinarily busy time for seafood companies and the leaders with whom you communicated already have full schedules.

Thank you for your interest in seafood sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Connelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small loop at the end.

John Connelly
President