



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

APR 20 2010

Lic. Ramón Corral Avila  
CONAPESCA / Comision Nacional de Acuacultura y Pesca  
Camaron Sabalo s/n esq. Con Tiburon  
Fracc. Sabalo Country Club  
82100 Mazatlan, Sinaloa  
Mexico

Dear Lic. Corral:

It has recently been brought to our attention that some shipments containing dorado (also know as dolphin fish or mahi-mahi) entering the United States may have been harvested in a manner contrary to Mexican laws and regulations. The United States and Mexico have a long history of successful cooperation on marine conservation and management issues, and we both take our marine stewardship responsibilities very seriously.

Therefore, if the Mexican government agrees, we would like to support your government's work to conserve dorado. The United States can provide investigative assistance and educate U.S. importers and consumers on Mexico's legal requirements regarding the harvest and marketing of dorado. We also would like to work with you to determine if or when it might be appropriate to restrict access to the U.S. market of fish harvested in contravention of your laws and regulations.


In order for us to better understand the issue and whether it is appropriate or possible for us to take any action, we are requesting information about the Mexican legal requirements governing the harvest, sale and export of dorado. We would appreciate any information that you can provide regarding:

- what restrictions exist under Mexican law regarding the harvest (both directed and incidental), sale and export of dorado;
- an appropriate point of contact within the Mexican government who can assist the United States in determining the source of dorado imported into the United States to verify the legality of the harvest;
- data on legal landings of dorado so that we can evaluate whether the total imports from Mexico exceed the amount that can legitimately be marketed;
- information on the primary areas of harvest for exported dorado;
- information on exporters of dorado, such as volume exported to the United States, port of embarcation, and port of landing.



We look forward to hearing you regarding this important issue. Furthermore, we stand ready to work with the Government of Mexico to conserve and manage this important trans-boundary resource.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Risenhoover". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Risenhoover  
Acting Director, Office of  
Law Enforcement

cc: Eric Schwaab, NOAA Fisheries  
Rigoberto Garcia Soto, CONAPESCA  
Tomas Camarena Luhrs, PROFEPA