

**Resolution of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on a Longline Exempted Fishing Permit and Potential Impacts to West Coast Sea Turtles**

**September 24, 2009**

*WHEREAS*, Pacific leatherback sea turtles are listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1973 and are also classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and North Pacific loggerhead sea turtles are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act with their status under review for uplisting to endangered; and

*WHEREAS*, the National Marine Sanctuaries Act directs the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary to protect the biodiversity, productivity and aesthetic qualities of the Cordell Bank marine environment by evaluating and addressing adverse impacts from human activities on sanctuary resources and qualities; and

WHEREAS, NMFS has documented that Pacific leatherbacks forage within the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary,

*NOW, THEREFORE*, the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council hereby:

*RESOLVES* to acknowledge the severe decline of Pacific leatherback and North Pacific loggerhead sea turtle populations and support efforts to recover and preserve these populations; and

*FURTHER RESOLVES* to urge the Secretary of Commerce and NMFS to deny the swordfish longline exempted fishing permit proposed in the West Coast EEZ.