

September 30, 2020

Dear members of the board of directors,

I would like to express my interest to continue serving on the GCFI board of directors. The short time spent on the board has been very instructive and intense since day one, back in 2016. I was placed on and have been active on some of the committees that require great dedication and participation (program, communications, fisher engagement, ocean innovation award, etc.). It has been a great learning experience that has increased my appreciation for the institutional framework and behind the scenes work that have made the GCFI reach such high standards. Working closely with committee chairs I have learned so much by becoming engaged in discussions and deliberations that I hope have improved the board's and my professional development. I appreciate the patience of many of you that have taken the time to repeat guidance and past experiences once and again to help me understand these complexities.

Over these past four years I have listened to comments from different participants that have reached out to me and I have tried to translate their concerns to be considered to the board. I have helped translate multiple communications products to Spanish as they are prepared for the GCFI annual meeting, but also throughout the year. In order to standardize the internal discussions and have more streamlined BOD meetings I proposed a short reporting format for all committees to fill out on a yearly basis and produce metrics to determine if we are achieving our goals and objectives. I have commented on different GCFI plans and strategic documents as well as reports, evaluations and publications seeking to have a clear stand within our membership and also a strong presence in the fisheries environment. I am looking forward to help as I can to make sure the GCFI is a strong institution that can adapt to the changes that occur inside and outside our purview, focusing on diversity, inclusion and ethics. Thank you for considering my interest to continue within the GCFI.

Sincerely,



Michelle T. Schärer-Umpierre