



GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO
Pedro R. Pierluisi

March 26, 2021

Dr. Paul Doremus
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA Fisheries
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MA 20910

Dear Dr. Doremus:

It is my pleasure to submit to you four (4) nominations of qualified candidates for the Obligatory Seat of the commercial fishing sector on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC), which will become vacant this year.

For the nomination process, we carried out consultations within the commercial and recreational-sport fishing community, including the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) Fisheries Advisory Board, the Puerto Rico Recreational Fishing Association, the non-governmental organization The Pew Charitable Trusts, and leaders from the commercial fishing sector. These approaches resulted in the identification of the following candidates:

1. Vanessa Ramírez- Classification: Commercial sector

Mrs. Ramírez is finishing her first term as the Puerto Rico representative of the commercial sector in the CFMC. She has been recognized by many participants of the Council's meetings as a great leader, praising her for her work during some of the meetings that have been previously held. She has participated in many workshops and seminars that contribute to the well-being of fishers and the environment. Ramírez has demonstrated to be knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of the fishery resources within our Council's geographical area. When consulted about the referenced vacant seat with the Puerto Rico representative of the recreational fishers in the CFMC (Mr. Marcos Hanke), who is also the vice-chair of the PR DNER Fisheries Advisory Board, he recommended Ramírez to be kept in the seat. Mr. Ismael Vélez, chair of the PR DNER Fisheries Advisory Board, recommended her as well. Moreover, Mrs. Yazmin



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Vélez, Manager of the non-governmental organization The Pew Charitable Trusts, recommended Ramírez for the seat. Ramírez has always helped fishers of the southwest of Puerto Rico, including in difficult times, especially after Hurricane María. She also helped fishers filling out the Fishery Disaster forms that were required to receive the direct aid. Ramírez has shown interest in the vacant seat and completed and handed us her request.

2. Nelson Crespo- Classification: Commercial sector

Mr. Crespo is a commercial fisher in Rincón. He has led the "District Advisory Pannel" of the CFMC for years now. Therefore, he is very well acquainted with the CFMC meetings, the procedures, and current efforts and initiatives. Crespo has demonstrated to be knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of the fishery resources within our Council's geographical area. He has shown interest in the vacant seat and has always been available to help DNER with matters associated to fishers, as well as to provide feedback on ideas for the Fishery Disaster proposals.

3. Walter Martínez- Classification: Commercial sector

Mr. Martínez is a commercial fisher in Mayaguez. He is the president of the Association of Fishers Nuestra Señora del Carmen Fishing Village. He has shown interest in the vacant seat and has always been available to help DNER with matters associated to fishers, as well as to provide feedback on ideas for the Fishery Disaster proposals. He has participated in several trainings of DNER Education Program for Recreational Fishers. Martínez has demonstrated to be knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of the fishery resources within our Council's geographical area. He has shown interest in the vacant seat and completed and handed us his request.

4. Javier Arroyo- Classification: Commercial sector

Mr. Arroyo is a commercial fisher in Vega Baja. He was highly recommended by fisher leader Luis "Berto" Román for the seat. Román expressed that Mr. Arroyo has all the qualifications to do an excellent job. Arroyo has been a leader in the sector, is very responsible with regards to the DNER regulations, and is considered serious and committed to the industry. He has always been available to help DNER with matters



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associated to fishers. Arroyo has demonstrated to be knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of the fishery resources within our Council's geographical area. He has shown interest in the vacant seat and completed his request.

I am confident that these candidates have the experience, training and necessary knowledge regarding the conservation, management and commercial harvest of the fishery resources of Puerto Rico. Moreover, I am certain that they will contribute to achieving diversity in Council membership.

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rafael Machargo, Esq., Secretary of the DNR at 787-999-2200 ext. 2126 and 2455, or by email at ddelgado@drna.pr.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pierluisi".

Cc: Rafael Machargo, Esq, Secretary of the PR Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Resources



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE
Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

March 29, 2021

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-Way Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attention: Hannah Hafey

Dear Assistant Administrator for Fisheries:

Following the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other related guidance, and your letter advising of vacancies, I submit the nominee listed below for your consideration to fill the "at large" seat on the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council. The following names are submitted in order of priority:

Mr. Carlos F. Farchette
Mr. Thomas Daley
Mr. Gerson N. Martinez

Mr. Carlos F. Farchette was the Chairperson of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council from 2009-2018. He has over 47 years of experience as a recreational fisherman and serves as Secretary of the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources Fishery Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Pan Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Queen Conch, and Spawning Aggregation Working Group.

Mr. Thomas Daley has over 45 years of commercial fishing experience. He is self-employed and is the owner/operator of a vessel in the commercial fish trap fishery.

Mr. Gerson N. Martinez has over 27 years of experience as a commercial fisherman. Mr. Martinez is a member of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council District Advisory Council; the Council's Outreach and Education Committee; and U.S. Virgin Islands Fishery Advisory Committee.

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The listed nominees can fully represent the fishery management concerns of the Virgin Islands. The list represents the results of a concerted effort to allow my constituency to be considered as nominees for membership on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

The nomination documents are enclosed for each candidate.

If you have any questions, please submit them to Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (340) 774-3320. All of the nominees are residents of the Virgin Islands and are eligible to fill the required seat.

I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to have my nominees considered by you and the Secretary of Commerce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Albert Bryan Jr.', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor

Cc: Hon. Commr. Jean-Pierre Oriol