



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2021

Dr. Paul Doremus  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Dr. Doremus:

This letter is in response to your request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for the seat currently held by John Sanchez. Throughout the past month, my office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests, along with conservation organizations. These discussions highlighted the importance of proper management of our fishery resources that are paramount to Florida's economy. We received recommendations from numerous individuals and organizations who are deeply invested in managing our saltwater fisheries:

Captain Dan Andrews, Captains for Clean Water  
Jeff Angers, President of the Center for Sportfishing Policy  
Bill Archer, Seminole Wind Fishing Charters  
Trip Aukerman, Coastal Conservation Association Florida  
Captain Justin Bachert, Hot Water Fishing  
Gus Bilirakis, Congressman serving Florida's 12th Congressional District  
Holly Binns, Director, U.S. Oceans, Southeast, The Pew Charitable Trusts  
Eric Brazer, Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance  
Glen Brooks, President of the Gulf Fishermen's Association  
Mayor Michelle Coldiron, Monroe County  
Brett Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer for the Angler Action Foundation  
Chris Horton, Senior Director of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation  
Peter Jarvis, Chairman for the Southeastern Fisheries Association  
Bill Kelley, Executive Director for the Keys Commercial Fisherman Association  
Tony Lombardi, President for the Southeastern Fisheries Association  
Mike Merrifield, Cape Canaveral Shrimp Company  
Captain Steve Papen, Fintastic Fishing Charters  
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association  
Jerry Sansom, Executive Director for the Organized Fisherman of Florida



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Chris Sprowls, Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives  
Captain Jason Stock, JM Snooky Charters  
David Webb, Councilman for the City of Islamorada  
Blair Wickstrom, Publisher for the Florida Sportsmen's Magazine

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the seat currently held by John Sanchez. These nominees are well qualified for their sector and would make excellent candidates for appointment to the Council. I am providing my nominations in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

I am recommending **Captain Edward Walker** as the preferred choice for appointment to the seat on the Council. He has been a charter captain on the Gulf Coast for over 30 years. Captain Walker is a commercial hook and line fisherman, spear fisherman, and an avid tournament fisherman. He is a state champion free diver and an 18-time International Game and Fish Association world record holder. Captain Walker is the current chairman of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Reef Fish Advisory Panel. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida.

My second recommendation is **Robert Gill**. He is the former owner of Shrimp Landing, a dockside wholesale and retail seafood business serving the Crystal River area from 1986-2019. Gill is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Outreach and Education Committee, a member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee and Co-Founder of the Gulf Young Fishermen Program. He earned his bachelor's degree from the United States Naval Academy and his master of science in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

My third recommendation is **Bruce Irwin**. He is the owner and operator of Irwin, Inc., a commercial fishing business located in Marathon, Florida. Irwin is a lifelong commercial fisherman with over 40 years of experience on the water. He is the chairman of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Lobster Advisory board. Irwin is the President of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association and a member of Organized Fishermen of Florida.



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In summary, my recommendations for the seat are as follows:

1. Edward Walker
2. Robert Gill
3. Bruce Irwin

I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointments and look forward to seeing citizens of Florida continue their service on the Council in ways that will help ensure wise and sustainable use of our saltwater fishery resources. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

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

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

RD/sp

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR

(334) 242-7100  
FAX: (334) 242-3282

## STATE OF ALABAMA

March 11, 2021

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 4636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the Alabama Obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Susan Boggs. The work of the Gulf Council is very important to the State of Alabama. Alabama has a very large charter fleet as well as a robust recreational fishery. It is imperative to the economic and conservation interests of our state that Alabama be fairly represented on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Alabama would like to nominate the following five individuals for consideration for the Alabama Obligatory seat that is to be filled in 2021: Joey Dobbs, Jr. (recreational), Susan Boggs (recreational/charter), Edwin Lambeth (recreational), Captain Troy Frady (recreational/charter), and, Weldon Doe (recreational).

Joseph G. Dobbs, Jr., is the former owner of Landscape Workshop, LLC. Mr. Dobbs is Chairman of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board. He was also was a founding member of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. He is a current member of the Coastal Conservation Association-Birmingham, Alabama Chapter. Mr. Dobbs is an avid fisherman for inshore, offshore, and reef fish species. He spends most of his time in Coastal Alabama and has been active in the fisheries issues in our state. Mr. Dobbs has a vast knowledge of coastal fisheries and is actively involved with persons in Alabama, and other states as well, concerning coastal fisheries issues. He founded Landscape Workshop in 1986. Landscape Workshop now has four locations in Alabama and has over 300 employees. Dobbs is or has been a board member of the The Nature Conservancy, Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals, the Birmingham Construction Authority, Auburn School of Horticulture, and American Subcontractors Association - Alabama Chapter, and is on the executive committee of Magic Moments, benefiting children with life-altering and life-threatening diseases. Mr. Dobbs has relationships with commercial, recreational, and charter fishermen along the Gulf Coast. He would be very

open-minded and wants to work cooperatively with all sectors, the other Gulf States, and the federal government to use best management practices to ensure viability of our marine resources.

Susan Boggs, along with her husband, Randy, are the owners and operators of the SanRoc Cay Marina and Reel Surprise Dock Store in Orange Beach, Alabama. She sells fuel, ice, and bait to recreational, for-hire and commercial fishermen from the dock store and manages the dockage of recreational and charter vessels at the SanRoc Cay Marina. Mrs. Boggs is a current member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council and is every active in discussions. Mrs. Boggs has been involved in the recreational fishery for many years and interacts with charter and recreational fishermen daily. She is also the Chief Operating Officer of B and D Maritime, Inc., and books fishing trips for multiple for-hire vessels. B and D Maritime, Inc., owns and operates three for-hire vessels: "Reel Surprise", "Gulf Winds II", and "Wishbone." Mrs. Boggs has been an active participant in the Gulf Council process. She has great insight into the charter, head boat, and recreational fisheries sectors. Mrs. Boggs and her husband have been innovators in fisheries management ideas that have shown real promise to improve access to fisheries while maintaining sustainable management. She is a board member of the Alabama Gulf Coast Reef and Restoration Foundation, Charter Fishermen's Association, Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Tourism, and the Central Gulf Marine Trades Association. Included with her nomination application are several letters of recommendation from various organizations.

Edwin Lambeth is an attorney in the Mobile, Alabama, area. Mr. Lambeth is an active member in the Coastal Conservation Association and served as chairman of the CCA National Government Relations and Gulf Fisheries Committee. Edwin is currently a member of the Reef Fish Limited Access Advisory Panel. He is also a member of Trout Unlimited, the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Mobile Baykeepers Alliance, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation. Mr. Lambeth is an avid recreational fisherman and worked on charter boats in Orange Beach during the summers when he was in school.

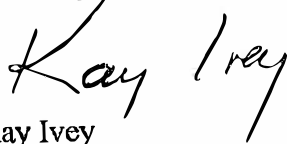
Captain Troy Frady is a full-time federal for-hire charter fisherman on the vessel *Distraction* in Orange Beach, Alabama. He considers himself an educator, in addition to being a boat captain. He provides an experience well beyond just fishing during his trips by discussing management, conservation efforts, and history of fishing. Troy has been a transportation logistics manager, bank officer, and a commercial pilot. He is also a veteran of the United States Navy. Troy rarely misses Gulf Council meetings and routinely provides comment on current and proposed fishery management plans. He has been a member of several Council advisory panels and committees and is very open-minded and involved in all aspects of the Council process. He has a B.A. in Communications from the University of Alabama.

Weldon Williamson Doe III is a resident of Montgomery, Alabama. He is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association. He is an avid hunter, fisherman, and outdoorsman. He believes that the needs of the fishery and those of all the user groups can be balanced to create sustainable resources that the public can access and enjoy. He believes this can be accomplished with proper management by a diverse set of user groups. As a steward of the resource, he would work to empower the fisheries managers with the time and tools to make the difficult decisions necessary to properly manage this public trust resource.

The nomination process is very important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD) has met with a variety of groups before selecting the above nominated individuals. The following organizations were consulted in the process: the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Alabama Seafood Dealers, Coastal Conservation Association, Alabama Coastal Fishermen Association, Orange Beach Fishing Association, Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission, University of South Alabama Department of Marine Sciences, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance, other charter fishermen, recreational fishermen, and marina operators, and other concerned and knowledgeable individuals.

To consider minority and female candidates, ADCNR/MRD discussed the nomination process with various persons and organizations. One female candidate provided a nomination application. ADCNR/MRD will continue to work with organizations in Alabama to diversify the nominations for future seats on the Council and in nominations for advisory panels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Ivey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kay Ivey

Governor of Alabama

cc: Mr. Christopher Blankenship, Commissioner  
Mr. Scott Bannon



## State of Mississippi

**TATE REEVES**

Governor

March 11, 2021

Mr. Paul Doremus  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Hwy, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
(Attention: Morgan Corey)

Dear Mr. Doremus:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit nominations for the at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) currently held by Mr. Dale Diaz. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 C.F.R. § 600.215, the State of Mississippi would like to nominate the following three individuals to the at-large seat to be filled after March 15, 2021: Dale A. Diaz, J. Read Hendon and Jennifer P. Jenkins. My top recommendation to fill the at-large seat is Dale A. Diaz.

After reviewing the education, experience, and background of each of the nominated individuals and consulting with appropriate representatives of the environmental community, the recreational, the commercial, and the for-hire charter segments of the fisheries, I feel each of these individuals meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. More importantly, their qualifications identify them not only as efficient stewards of fisheries resources but also as individuals prepared to meet the task of attaining the desired management goals of the Regional Fisheries Management Councils.

Mr. Dale A. Diaz has over twenty-five (25) years of experience in fisheries management and marine law enforcement, which includes seven years of service as the Director of the Office of Marine Fisheries at the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). In addition, he spent ten (10) years commercial fishing for shrimp, crab and oysters. He has served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council as a proxy for the Executive Director of the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources from August 2012 to July 2015 and currently sits on the Council as an at-large member, a seat he has held since August 2015. As a Council member, Mr. Diaz has been thoroughly committed to reading all material, listening, and reaching out to user groups to develop consensus for sustainable resource management decisions.

J. Read Hendon, Ph.D., has twenty-two (22) years of professional experience as a fisheries biologist and currently serves as Director of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory at the University of Southern Mississippi. He has served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management



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Council in various capacities, including membership on its Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel, and Red Drum Advisory Panel. Dr. Hendon also serves on NOAA's Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) Panel as Mississippi's citizen representative on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and as chair of the Executive Steering Committee for the Mississippi-based RESTORE Act Center of Excellence (MBRACE).

Jennifer P. Jenkins is a past member of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, for which she served on the Executive Board. A past member of the Executive Board of the Gulf Seafood Institute, she previously served as treasurer of the Gulf Seafood Foundation, held a seat on the Advisory Panel of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, and served on the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources Oyster Task Force. Additionally, Ms. Jenkins has worked at her family-owned oyster processing business for over twenty (20) years.

Of the nominees presented here, the potential success of their placement, if selected, was determined through the following preliminary consultations with individuals in the Gulf Coast's commercial, recreational, and for-hire charter fishing, and environmental community: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, Coastal Conservation Association, Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association, Southern Shrimp Alliance, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Mississippi Charter for Hire Task Force and other knowledgeable individuals including commercial, charter, and recreational fishermen.

I have provided written statements and the nominees' application kits for their consideration. Should you require any additional information, please contact my Director of Appointments, Emily Kruger, at (601) 576-2886.

Sincerely,  


Tate Reeves  
GOVERNOR

cc: Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Joe Spraggins, Executive Director, Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources



Office of the Governor  
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS  
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004  
(225) 342-7015  
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March 12, 2021

Dr. Paul Doremus  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA Fisheries  
*Attention:* Diane Daly  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
*Attention:* Diane Daly

Dear Dr. Doremus:

Enclosed, please find my nominations for the available Obligatory and At-Large Seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). Each candidate would be an asset to the Council; their qualifications and applications are enclosed. Consultations regarding these nominees were made with representatives from Louisiana's commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities, as well as other stakeholders in federal fisheries management. Please see the enclosed list of individuals consulted. Female and minority candidates have also been considered.

The following are my nominees for the Obligatory Seat currently held by Jonathan (JD) Dugas/LA (Recreational). The first name listed is my preferred nominee:

- Jonathan (JD) Dugas
- Gary Peterson
- Michael Frenette

The following are my nominees for the At-Large Seat currently held by Edward Swindell, Jr. /LA (Commercial). The first name listed is the preferred nominee:

- Harlon Pearce
- Ryan Prewitt
- Edward Swindell, Jr.
  
- Billy Broussard

I recommend this list as the most qualified. Your consideration of these nominees is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bel Edwards".

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Jack Montoucet, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries