Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit nominations for the obligatory Mississippi seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council ("Gulf Council") currently held by Mrs. Leanne Bosarge. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR § 600.215, the State of Mississippi would like to nominate the following three individuals to the obligatory seat to be filled after March 15, 2022: William S. "Corky" Perret, Michael B. McDermott and Clarence R. Seymour. My top recommendation to represent Mississippi as a Gulf Council member for the obligatory seat is Mr. Corky Perret.

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 meets 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.

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. Efforts were made through these consultations to identify qualified women, people of color and representatives of historically underserved communities.

Mr. Corky Perret has over 45 years of experience in fisheries management, which includes a variety of leadership and management positions, including two terms of service to the State of Louisiana as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and approximately
13 years of service to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, as the Director of Marine Fisheries and two years as the agency’s Deputy Director. He served on the Gulf Council for approximately 29 years (first as the State of Louisiana agency designee, then as the State of Mississippi agency designee, lastly as an At-Large member). Additionally, Mr. Perret was appointed to a wide variety of leadership positions on various fisheries-related commissions and councils throughout his career as well as in retirement. Finally, Mr. Perret has extensive experience dealing with the Vietnamese community, as well as women in the industry.

Mr. Clarence Seymour has 24 years of experience as an owner/captain of a charter-for-hire fishing business that fishes primarily for reef fish and coastal migratory pelagics. He currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Charter Fisherman’s Association, is the Chairman of the Mississippi For-Hire Task Force and has previously sat on the Gulf Council’s Reef Fish AP. Mr. Seymour is active in attending federal and state fisheries management meetings.

Mr. Michael McDermott is the owner of a full-service recreational marina and dry dock, as well as an avid sports fisherman. He has been participating in the recreational fishing for 30 years competing in many tournaments and working on numerous sportfishing vessels throughout the Gulf of Mexico, Atlantic Seaboard, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands and Mexico. Mr. McDermott also is a past member of the Gulf Council’s Red Snapper Ad-Hoc Advisory Panel.

I have provided written statements and the nominees’ application kits for their consideration. Should you require any additional information from my Office, please contact my counsel, Joseph Sclafani at (601) 668-0438.

Sincerely,

Tate Reeves
Governor

cc: Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Joe Spraggins, Executive Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources
March 11, 2022

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Coit:

In response to the request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), I wish to submit the following nominees to be considered in the following order of priority for the one obligatory seat for the State of Texas and the one at-large seat, which will become vacant on August 10, 2022. The three candidates should be considered for both seats.

Troy B. Williamson, II, Portland, Texas – Recreational Fisherman
Brenda G. Ballard, Kingsville, Texas – Recreational Fisherman
Elizabeth “Liz” Hewitt, San Antonio, Texas – Recreational Fisherman

Enclosed are the nomination packets for the three nominees. These individuals are all knowledgeable of the conservation and management of fishery resources and each possesses a unique background and experience as it relates to resource management.

Troy B. Williamson, II is the preferred nominee for the State of Texas obligatory seat. He is an attorney in private practice in Corpus Christi. He has demonstrated his concern and commitment to fisheries management issues through his service on numerous panels and commissions. He was first appointed to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in 2011 by Governor Perry and reappointed in 2014, and was reappointed to a third term by Governor Abbott in 2017. Additionally, he previously served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council’s Red Drum Advisory Panel, the Reef Fish Advisory Panel (which includes red snapper), the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Panel, and the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter for Hire Advisory Panel. Williamson is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Harte Research Institute’s Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation at Texas A&M – Corpus Christi. Additionally, he is an active member of Coastal Conservation Association and Ducks Unlimited.
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Nominations  
March 11, 2022  
Page 2

**Brenda G. Ballard** is a program coordinator at The Center for Continuing Education at Texas A&M Kingsville. She is president of the Brush Country Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and a member of the CCA Board of Directors, Texas Wildlife Association, and the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Parks and Wildlife Commission. She and her husband are avid recreational anglers, and her father was in the commercial shrimping business.

**Elizabeth “Liz” Hewitt** is a self-employed business woman from San Antonio, managing her family’s machine shop and property assets. She serves on numerous committees in the Coastal Conservation Association, including the Executive Board and Government Affairs Committee and is the former San Antonio Chapter president. Additionally, she also serves as a member of the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. She is an avid recreational angler.

In compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, we have conferred with representatives from the recreational and commercial fishing communities regarding the nominees. In addition, my staff has also consulted with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which has a significant number of public advisory groups on marine related issues. My appointments staff actively encouraged and sought qualified nominees from diverse backgrounds and various areas of the state.

I recommend these nominees for the available seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. I believe each is highly qualified and possesses the talent and experience necessary to make them an effective council member. I appreciate your consideration of Texas’ nominees.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:pv

Enclosures
March 15, 2022

Ms. Janet Coit  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910  

Dear Ms. Coit:

This letter is in response to your request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for the seat currently held by Dr. Thomas “Tom” Frazer. 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:

American Sportfishing Association  
Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conservation Association  
Aaron Bean, Member of the Florida State Senate  
Holly Binns, The Pew Charitable Trust  
Erik Brazer, Deputy Director of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance  
Jon Paul Brooker, Director of Ocean Conservancy  
Jason Delacruz, WildSeafood Company  
Captain Gary Jarvis, Mayor of Destin  
Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen’s Association  
Kellie Ralston, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust  
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fishermen of Florida  
Captain Ed Walker, Light Tackle Charters  
Bob Zales, President of NACO and PCBA, Fishery Management Consultant for Southern Offshore Finishing Association

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the seat currently held by Dr. Thomas “Tom” Frazer. 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 Dr. Thomas “Tom” Frazer as the preferred choice for reappointment to the at-large seat on the Council. Dr. Frazer has a long history of engaging in research and conservation of the fishery resources of the Gulf of Mexico. He is currently Dean of the College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida. Before this appointment, he served as the Chief Science Officer for the State of Florida. Dr. Frazer recently served as the Chair of the Gulf Council, and he currently serves as a member of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel for NOAA Fisheries. He previously worked at the University of Florida, conducting research on water quantity and quality, nutrient dynamics, fish population, food web interactions, and ecological restoration. Dr. Frazer is dedicated to managing the fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico in a way that will yield sustainable benefits for today’s population without comprising the potential for those same natural resources to meet the needs of future generations. His proven Council involvement, extensive research, and fifty-five years of recreational fishing experience are all reasons to believe that Dr. Frazer will continue to enhance the Council. Dr. Frazer represents the “other” sector.

My second recommendation is Stephen Heese. He is the president and Chief Executive Officer of the 145-year-old boat manufacturing company, Chris-Craft Corporation. Mr. Heese represents both the recreational and “other” sectors. He loves to fish for grouper and red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico as well as inshore species such as snook, sheepshead, and tarpon. His love for fishing has led him to take an active role in supporting the work of the Coastal Conservation Association. Mr. Heese currently serves as Chairman of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), the nation’s largest marine industry advocacy organization. He believes the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico need to be protected and actively managed to safeguard the enduring economic, conservation and social values of recreational fishing for the benefit of all Americans as well as future generations of fishermen and women.

My third recommendation is Steven “Dean” Asher. He is a Florida native and life-long, avid recreational angler who enjoys both inshore and offshore fishing. Mr. Asher’s passion for conservation began as an Eagle Scout and he’s put his passion to practice as a Legacy member of the Coastal Conservation and a member of Bonefish Tarpon Trust. Just as he has shared his passion for fishing and conservation with his children, he would work to ensure that all generations to come will be afforded the same opportunity to access our important marine fisheries resources.
Ms. Janet Coit  
March 15, 2022  
Page Three

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

1. Dr. Thomas "Tom" Frazer  
2. Stephen Heese  
3. Steven "Dean" Asher

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. Florida continues to include quality candidates for the Gulf Council and has had female and minority representation on the Council as well as two women serving on the South Atlantic Council. We continue to solicit applications from all qualified individuals for appointments across the state, including women, minorities and underserved communities. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

RD/kk
March 8, 2022

Ms. Janet Colt  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Colt:

Enclosed are nominations for the available at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Consultations regarding these nominees were made with representatives from Louisiana’s commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities and with female and minority candidates considered at all times.

Below is my list of nominees for the at-large seat currently held by Dr. Thomas Frazer of Florida. Each of the following candidates would be an asset to the Council; however, I have listed the candidates in order of preference:

Ryan Prewitt  
Harlon Pearce  
Edward Swindell, Jr.

Your consideration of our Louisiana nominees is appreciated.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John Bel Edwards  
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Jack Montoucet  
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Qualifications of 2022 Nominees, Listed Alphabetically by Last Name

Harlon Pearce
- Former Voting Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- 50-plus years' experience in the seafood industry as a processor and distributor of Gulf of Mexico seafood species
- 50-plus years as a recreational fisherman for all northern Gulf of Mexico species and freshwater species
- United States Champion of Change Presidential Award
- Member, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MFAC)
- Chair, Gulf Seafood Institute
- Vice Chair, Gulf Seafood Foundation
- Vice Chair, Lake Pontchartrain Fishermen's Association
- Member, Mariculture Task Force of Louisiana
- Member, Louisiana Seafood Advisory Board
- Co-chair, Louisiana Fishing Community Rebuilding Coalition
- Member, Louisiana Restaurant Association
- Member, Joint Natural Resources Seafood Task Force of Louisiana

Ryan Prewitt
- Award-winning chef and owner at Peche Seafood Grill in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Participant in numerous policy, sustainable seafood, and fisheries management workshops including the James Beard Foundation’s Chefs Boot Camp for Policy and Change and Sustainable Seafood Summit, Dauphin Island Sea Lab’s Solving for Seafood Sustainability in the Gulf, Gulf of Mexico Shellfish Initiative Stakeholder Workshop, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Highly Migratory Species Stakeholder Workshop
- Member, Audubon Nature Institute’s Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (GULF) Chef’s Council
- Member, Gulf Restoration Network’s Gulf Fish Forever
- Member, Share the Gulf
- Member, Oyster South
- Member, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- 15-plus years as a recreational fishermen for both inshore and offshore species

Edward Swindell, Jr.
- Voting Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- 39-year career in menhaden industry as engineer and manager; retired from Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. in 2007 as Vice President of Production, following rebuild effort after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
- Current owner and fish processing consultant, Marine Process Services, LLC
- Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Licensed Professional Engineer
- Member, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel
• Former Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum Advisory Panels
• Former Commissioner, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
• Member, CCA and longtime coastal and offshore recreational fisherman
Persons Consulted Regarding 2022 Nominations

The following persons from Louisiana’s commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities were consulted regarding 2022 nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

- Ashford Rosenberg, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders’ Alliance
- Bill Butler (marina owner)
- David Cresson, Executive Director, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) – Louisiana Association
- Jeff Barger, Ocean Conservancy
- Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- Representative Jean-Paul Coussan, State Representative, District 45
- Richard Fischer, Executive Director, Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Senator Bob Hensgens, State Senator, District 26
- Sepp Haukebo, Environmental Defense Fund
- Stan Harris, Louisiana Restaurant Association
2022 Statement on Effort to Consider Qualified Women and/or Minority Candidates

A high level of importance was placed on soliciting applications from and considering qualified women and/or minority candidates for nomination to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. After thorough review of potential candidates’ qualifications, no woman and/or minority candidate was selected.