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

Dear Ms. Coit:

Delaware has selected three highly qualified individuals for consideration for Delaware’s Obligatory seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council). All candidates are well known in Delaware’s recreational and commercial fishing sectors, and one is currently serving in our Obligatory seat. Staff in the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife’s Fisheries Section have reviewed the credentials of these nominees and have determined that each meet the requirements of Section 302(b)(2)(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

Delaware’s recreational and commercial fisheries are important industries in our state. We understand the importance of nominating qualified individuals to the Council to conserve our fisheries resources and restore those that are currently depleted or in decline. Therefore, I offer the following individuals, in priority order, for nomination to the Delaware Obligatory seat:

1. Paul Weston Townsend (Commercial)

I am honored to nominate Paul Weston (Wes) Townsend as Delaware’s top candidate for our Obligatory seat. Mr. Townsend is completing his second term on the Council and is on his first term as Vice Chair of the Council. Mr. Townsend is a successful commercial fisherman with over 50 years of experience fishing in both state and federal waters and whose family has lived along Delaware’s Inland Bays since the 1730s, which provides him a deep appreciation of the interactions between people and fisheries. Mr. Townsend’s involvement in fisheries management goes well beyond his fishing experience, having served on Delaware’s Advisory Council on Tidal Finfisheries as the Sussex County Commercial Fishing Councilor since 2009 and having served on both the Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass advisory panels from 2014 to 2019.
Mr. Townsend’s commercial fishing experience, combined with his effective representation of Delaware during his two Council terms, make him the ideal candidate to continue to represent Delaware on the Council.

2. Edward Allen Hale (Other)

Our second choice for Delaware’s Obligatory seat is Dr. Edward (Ed) Hale. Dr. Hale is the Fisheries & Aquaculture Marine Advisory Specialist for the University of Delaware Sea Grant program. Dr. Hale has a strong background in fisheries science, particularly with stock assessment and modeling. Dr. Hale has impressed many in Delaware’s commercial and recreational fisheries with his strong grasp of fisheries management during his time with Sea Grant. His ability to explain stock assessments and other complicated fisheries management concepts to the public make him a strong nominee for the Council.

3. Sherri Malone (Commercial and Recreational)

Our third choice for Delaware’s Obligatory seat is Sherri Malone. Ms. Malone has worked in the commercial and recreational fisheries her entire professional life, currently operating a recreational fishing and eco-tourism charter business and coordinating trips for other charters, as well as having worked in commercial fishing, seafood retail and restaurants, and shellfish aquaculture. Ms. Malone could bring a unique perspective to the Council because of her strong and varied background in commercial and recreational fisheries.

Delaware undertook a coordinated outreach effort to solicit Council applications to include from women and minority candidates through a press release, direct emails, and social media.

Enclosed are the completed application kits for the nominees.

I thank you in advance for consideration of these nominees.

Sincerely,

John C. Carney
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Shawn Garvin, DNREC Secretary
March 15, 2022

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attention: Diane Daly

Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for the notice announcing the three at-large seats on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council that will become available on August 10, 2022. The State of Maryland received applications for nominations to one seat. The State of Maryland recommends the following qualified nominees listed in order of preference for an at-large seat:

1. Mr. Scott Lenox, Recreational Sector
2. Mr. James Wommack, Recreational Sector
3. Mr. Richard Lippenholz, Recreational Sector

The provided nominees share many years of experience with conservation, management, and recreational fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region. They are also committed to promoting the long-term viability and sustainability of our natural resources and ensuring that our conservation goals are met.

The department has met all of the National Marine Fisheries Service criteria regarding solicitation for a broad spectrum of applications. Outreach included Twitter and an announcement to the departments email distribution lists for Check Stations, Coastal Commercial Fisheries, Coastal Recreation Fisheries, Commercial Fisheries, HMS-Permits-2021, Tackle Shops, and Tidal Recreational Fishing and Crabbing (23,865 recipients). Our Twitter followers and email recipients represent the broad spectrum of conservation, commercial, and recreational interest groups in Maryland, which includes minorities and women.

If you have any questions during your review of the enclosed applications, please contact Michael Luisi, Acting Director of Fishing and Boating Services. Mr. Luisi can be reached by phone at (443) 758-6547 or via e-mail at Michael.Luisi@Maryland.Gov.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor
March 3, 2022

Via email: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Attn: Morgan Corey

Dear Assistant Administrator Coit:

Enclosed please find the completed nomination materials for the pending vacancy of interest for New Jersey on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); specifically, the at-large seat currently held by Mr. Peter Hughes. The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, the Garden State Seafood Association, and numerous commercial fishing ports and recreational fishing groups throughout the State were solicited for nominations to these seats. The solicitation included an explicit request to identify qualified women and minority candidates. The candidates below belong to, or are affiliated with, some of the organizations solicited for nominations, and each has been active in state and/or federal level fishery management issues. All are highly respected within the fishing community. In priority order, I nominate the following:

Peter Hughes – Mr. Hughes has represented New Jersey at the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council since August 2016, and is New Jersey’s preferred candidate for the current nomination cycle. In conjunction with his time on MAFMC, over 30 years of experience in the commercial fishing industry, both as a harvester and a policy advocate, has afforded him a comprehensive knowledge of the federal fishery management process. A strong advocate for both sustainability and fishermen’s rights, Mr. Hughes understands the need for compromise, and is able to approach difficult management decisions with thoughtful and articulate reasoning. As such, he has gained respect from his fellow Council members, as well as both the commercial and recreational fishing communities.
Kevin Wark – Mr. Wark has been a commercial harvester for over four decades. During this time, he has advocated at the state and federal level for sustainability and harvesters’ rights and responsibilities. Mr. Wark is also actively engaged in fisheries research, collaborating with local universities and agencies to address important management issues. He is a member of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council and several advisory panels.

Jeff Kaelin – Mr. Kaelin has been involved with commercial fisheries management his entire career and has a comprehensive knowledge of the industry and associated state and federal statutes and policies. A former member of the MAFMC, he currently serves on several advisory panels and is a member of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council.

All candidates listed above are highly regarded by their peers, and would be excellent representatives to MAFMC. However, New Jersey strongly recommends the reappointment of Mr. Peter Hughes for a third term in the at-large seat.

- Mr. Hughes has a comprehensive understanding of marine fisheries management issues. He prepares thoroughly for meetings, and is well spoken and unbiased in his deliberations. These attributes have secured him respect and support for reappointment from both recreational and commercial constituents and New Jersey Marine Fisheries Administration staff.

For these reasons, my office fully supports the prioritization of Mr. Hughes in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration of my nominees for these seats on the MAFMC. If you have any questions, please contact Sam Parker at 609-777-0251.

Sincerely,

Philip D. Murphy
Governor
Via email: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov
Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Dear Ms. Coit:

I am writing to submit three qualified candidates for an at-large seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

I have worked with my Acting Secretary of Natural and Historical Resources, Travis Voyles, and staff at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, to identify and consider a number of qualified individuals, ensuring our nominees are knowledgeable in commercial and recreational fisheries and committed to the conservation and management of our fisheries and marine resources. We reached out to Virginia’s commercial and recreational fishing organizations, VMRC’s advisory panels, and those that routinely attend public hearings on both the state and regional level to solicit nominees. This year, no minority candidates expressed an interest in the at-large position, despite our recruitment efforts. Nomination kits for the top qualified candidates identified below (in order of preference) are enclosed with this correspondence:

1. Todd Janeski – Other
2. Michael P. Lightfoot – Commercial
3. Dr. Ken Neill - Other

Todd Janeski has over twenty years of professional experience in the natural resources and management field, specializing in: Regional and local planning; Policy development and analysis; Watershed and stormwater management; Freshwater, estuarine and ocean resource management; Strategic planning, community development and leading group process; Program development and management; and Science translation and communication. He has been employed by Virginia Commonwealth University for 16 years, working on a number of projects including the Virginia Healthy Waters Initiative and the Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling Program. Most recently, he has been coordinating stakeholder engagement and data acquisition to develop the Virginia Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program.
In particular, Todd Janeski is working with fishermen regarding proposed wind farms off the Virginia coast. His rapport with the commercial fishing industries is excellent and he has built trust regarding their concerns and interests.

Michael Lightfoot is an Army veteran who worked for the federal government for 34 years. The past 11 years he has been a commercial fisherman targeting striped bass, speckled trout, menhaden, spot, croaker, blue crab, cobia, oysters and blue catfish using gill nets, hook and line, and oyster cages. He serves on the Potomac River Fisheries Commission’s Oyster and Clam Advisory Committee and Finfish Advisory Committee. In addition, he has been a member of VMRC’s Finfish Management Advisory Committee since 2019. He remains engaged with the VMRC’s staff as well as members of Virginia’s fishing industries and served as a spokesperson helping individuals apply for fisheries assistance funding provided by Sec. 12005 of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act in 2020 (CARES Act).

Dr. Ken Neill is a lifelong Virginia resident with a degree in biochemistry from Old Dominion University and a Doctorate of Dental Surgery from the Medical College of Virginia. He recently completed a two-term appointment (8 years) as an Associate Commission for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and represented Virginia on the Potomac River Fisheries Commission between 2017 and 2021. He has served on a number of advisory committees with VMRC, ASMFC, and NOAA Fisheries, chairs the North American Council's Conservation Committee, and is an international representative for the International Game Fish Association (IGFA). He is a Master Angler who can always be relied upon to provide practical advice on contentious fisheries issues that lead to compromise if not consensus.

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact the Acting Secretary of Natural Resources, Travis Voyles, for any next steps or follow-up.