



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

March 11, 2015

Mr. William Chappell  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Chappell:

This letter is in response to your request for nomination to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. My office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests and these discussions highlighted the importance of saltwater fishing that support jobs and economic vitality in Florida, particularly in our coastal communities. We received recommendations and endorsements from numerous individuals and organizations who care deeply about the management of our saltwater fisheries:

Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association  
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association  
Janie Thomas, Shrimp Producers Association  
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fisherman of Florida  
John Jolley, Former Atlantic Council Member  
Russell Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc.  
Tom Twyford, Jr., West Palm Beach Fishing Club  
Tripp Aukeman, Coastal Conservation Association

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the obligatory seat, currently held by Benjamin Hartig III. These nominees are well qualified for their sector and would make excellent candidates for appointment to the Council. Given the serious challenges facing saltwater fishery management in the State of Florida, I am providing my nominations in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

I am recommending **Mr. Benjamin Hartig III** as the preferred choice for reappointment to the obligatory seat on the Council. Mr. Hartig has been a full-time, hook and line commercial fisherman for over 31 years, specializing in king and Spanish mackerel and snapper/grouper species. He has proven council experience and leadership, combined with a familiarity of current management plans, serving as a member on the Council for 6 years and as Chair for the past year. Targeting a wide variety of species commercially, combined with a long-term view of resource sustainability, Mr. Hartig has contributed to a significant role in the management

process of the Council. He has also been involved this past year in the Keep Martin Beautiful Coastal Cleanup, and is currently a member of the Port Salerno Commercial Dock Authority. Mr. Hartig believes in a simple construct for managing our nation's fisheries, if you manage sustainably and are able to balance the needs of the fish with the needs of the fishermen, the fishermen reap the rewards of healthy fisheries.

My second recommendation is **Captain Robert Johnson**. He is the owner and operator of Jodie Lynn Charters, LLC in St. Augustine. Captain Johnson has been an avid recreational angler and charter boat operator for the past 34 years. He has extensive experience working with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, designing and implementing a tagging program involving Red Snapper and spawning aggregations. He is also a member of the South Atlantic Dolphin Wahoo AP and SEDAR Pool, and has served as past chair of the Snapper Grouper AP. Captain Johnson has been a lifelong recreational saltwater fisherman and has a strong desire to protect the South Atlantic fisheries for future generations.

My third recommendation is **Captain Scott Taylor**. He has 40 years of experience in the commercial sector and operates a fleet of twelve longline swordfishing vessels based within the North Atlantic Fishery. Captain Taylor currently serves as a member of the Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association. Last year, he advised and worked with Pew Charitable Trusts in the design of the ICCAT approved electronic tagging system for bluefin tunas. Captain Taylor believes that proper management, hard work with a full dose of transparency, and open mindedness will be the ingredients for continued success in the conservation of our precious marine resources.

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

1. Mr. Benjamin Hartig III
2. Captain Robert Johnson
3. Mr. Scott Taylor

I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointment 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 valuable saltwater fishery resources. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", written in a cursive style.

Rick Scott  
Governor



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
March 10, 2015

Eileen Sobeck  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

ATTN: Brian Fredieu

Dear Mrs. Sobeck:

In response to your request, I am pleased to submit nominations for appointments to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to fill the Georgia obligatory seat held by Mr. Zachary Bowen, a saltwater fishing guide, and the at-large seat held by Mr. Charles M. Phillips, a Georgia commercial fisherman. I respectfully decline to nominate individuals for the at-large seat presently held by Mrs. Anna Beckwith of North Carolina.

Pursuant to §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, on my behalf, consulted with interested parties to generate a list of potential nominees, including women and minorities. A total of 306 fishing and diving industry contacts, environmental organizations, academic institutions, advisory councils and interested persons were canvassed for candidates (Attachment 1). Six nominations were subsequently received, none of which were women or minority. As it so happens, of the nominees submitted for consideration, three represent commercial fishing interests and three represent recreational or for-hire fishing interests. An initial background check has been favorably completed on each of these nominees by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section.

For the Council at-large seat currently held by Charles M. Phillips, I wish to nominate Mr. Phillips as my preferred candidate for re-appointment to a third and final term. A resident of McIntosh County, Georgia, Mr. Phillips has extensive experience as a commercial fisherman, boat owner, processor, and broker in several South Atlantic fisheries. He owns and operates Phillips Seafood/Sapelo Farms, a business that handles a large portion of Georgia's offshore finfish landings. Thus, he is very knowledgeable about the status and trends in state and federally-managed marine fisheries. Mr. Phillips has admirably served two terms on the Council, has chaired the Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) and served on the Marine Protected Area AP. Mr. Phillips will faithfully fulfill his final term, I am sure.

Additional nominees for this at-large seat are as follows:

Mr. John Wallace. A native of McIntosh County, Georgia Mr. Wallace has worked in the commercial fishing industry aboard vessels and in seafood production. He is a former president of the Georgia Shrimp Association and Marketing Program Director for the Wild American Shrimp initiative. Mr. Wallace previously served two terms on the Council beginning in 2003. In 2009, Mr. Wallace recognized the issues coming before the Council were better suited to a commercial fisher with knowledge and experience with finfish and requested that Mr. Phillips be nominated to the at-large seat. Mr. Wallace served the Council well during each of his previous terms.

Mr. Richard A. Vendetti, Jr. A resident of Brunswick, Georgia, with experience in Georgia's commercial fisheries, Mr. Vendetti is an economist by training. Mr. Vendetti worked for many years as a Fishery Resource Specialist with the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service and Georgia Sea Grant College Program. During this time, he served in various state and regional capacities as a fisheries coordinator, a fisheries economist, a marketing coordinator, a shrimp certification program coordinator, a fishing vessel safety instructor, and a marine resource and fishing gear specialist. Mr. Vendetti has also produced papers and videos related to Georgia's commercial fisheries. He has served on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Device Ad Hoc Advisory Panel for many years. Mr. Vendetti currently is self-employed with Vendetti Brothers Consulting.

For the Council obligatory Georgia seat currently held by Zachary Bowen, I wish to nominate Mr. Bowen as my preferred candidate for reappointment to a second term. A veteran offshore and inshore charter fisherman, Bowen owns and operates Guess Hoo Charters out of Savannah, Georgia. He has owned Guess Hoo outright since 2005 and has been a fishing guide since 1999 for species including snapper and grouper, amberjack, wahoo, and billfish. Mr. Bowen previously served as Vice-Chair of the Council Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) and on the King and Spanish Mackerel AP.

Additional nominees for the obligatory Georgia seat are as follows:

Wendell Harper. As owner of Free Spooling Charters, Mr. Harper has been a full time fishing guide in coastal Georgia for over 30 years. He currently serves on the GADNR Coastal Resources Division Finfish Advisory Panel and Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. He is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Southern Kingfish Association (SKA), Two-Way Sportfishing Club, Ducks Unlimited, and National Wild Turkey Federation. He is on the pro staff for Bass Pro Shops where he delivers informational seminars to the general public. He has been featured on over 30 television programs and outdoor shows. Mr. Harper has participated in many resource management projects with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources including fish tagging and fish carcass recovery.

Dr. John Marr. Dr. Marr received his Ph.D. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming in 1994. He moved to Georgia in 2012 to become the General Manager of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. He is also the former Executive Director of the Perry Institute for Marine Science. He has served in various leadership positions with National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and as an adjunct professor at several southeastern universities. He is an accomplished researcher with more than a dozen scientific publications to his credit.

The packages for all nominees are included herein. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate these fine Georgians for appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Nathan Deal

Attachments

cc: Mark Williams, Commissioner of Natural Resources  
Spud Woodward, Director, GADNR Coastal Resources Division



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrory  
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2015

Ms. Eileen Sobek, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Sobek:

Thank you for your agency's letter of Jan. 28, 2015 requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. General Statute 113-259 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the governor for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The commission provided the names of Mrs. Anna B. Beckwith, Mr. Robert J. Lorenz and Mr. Charles "Bernie" McCants for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the commission recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. I have selected Mrs. Anna B. Beckwith as a preferred nominee.

As a result of the statutory makeup of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (please see enclosed list), compilation of the list of nominees by that body meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Section 302(b)(2)(C), that each nomination be made in consultation with the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the state. The commission makes every effort to encourage and seek out qualified women and minority candidates during this process. All of the nominees are residents of North Carolina. All nominees, by reason of their occupational or other experience, scientific expertise or training, are knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of the commercial or recreational harvest of the fisheries resources of North Carolina.

Following is a brief summary of the experience that qualifies each nominee to serve as a member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

**Mrs. Anna B. Beckwith.** Mrs. Beckwith holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Florida International University in Miami, FL and a M.S. degree in Biological Oceanography with a Minor in Geographic Information Science from N.C. State University in Raleigh, NC. Mrs. Beckwith currently serves in an at-large seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and is chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo, Highly Migratory Species (HMS), and the Information and Education Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee she also serves on the HMS Advisory Panel for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Mrs. Beckwith has served

on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission since 2009 and as Vice-Chair since 2011. Mrs. Beckwith and her husband own Down East Guide Service, a North Carolina recreational fishing guide service and international travel agency for sport fisherman specializing in Costa Rica, Argentina, and Belize. They are the managing partner of Dragin Fly Sportfishing based out of Los Suenos Marina Costa Rica.

Prior to 2007 Mrs. Beckwith taught Environmental Science and Biology at the high school level and was a research consultant (post-graduate work) from 2004 through 2006. Previous to pursuing her graduate degree Mrs. Beckwith was employed as Program Manager (1999-2001) for the American Farmland Trust in Washington, DC and was a marine fellow for The Nature Conservancy (1999).

**Mr. Robert J. Lorenz.** Mr. Lorenz received a B.S. degree in Biological Science-Marine Biology from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1975. He retired in 2005 from a 29 year career in pharmaceutical research and development, and manufacturing. For the past 11 years has actively engaged in volunteer work and activism for good stewardship of the ocean and environment, with a focus on marine fisheries. Mr. Lorenz has had a lifelong interest in environmental science, conservation, and fisheries. He is an avid saltwater recreational angler and scuba diver. He fishes and dives primarily from southern North Carolina through the Florida Keys and targets the snapper/grouper complex, wahoo, dolphin (mahi), and the mackerels. Mr. Lorenz has worked as a volunteer on fisheries projects such as submerged aquatic vegetation surveys, water/seine sampling, and at the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher (3 years). He worked as crew on a shrimp boat in summer, and occasionally pulling a beach seine in winter, in northern Florida while in college.

Mr. Lorenz is the 2014 President and Board Chairman of the Wilmington Investors Roundtable (160 investors). He serves on the advisory board of Cape Fear River Watch and Striper Foundation. Mr. Lorenz served as the Chairperson for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Sea Turtle Advisory Committee from 2011 through 2013 and currently serves on the Southern Advisory Committee for the division. Mr. Lorenz has been a frequent attendee of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meetings, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meetings and public forums, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meetings and public forums.

**Mr. Charles "Bernie" McCants, Jr.** Mr. McCants graduated from N.C. State University in 1971 with a B.S. degree in Zoology. He recently retired with 41 years of experience in clinical research at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Mr. McCants is an avid recreational fisherman and is a member of the Raleigh Salt Water Sportfishing Club, the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club and the N.C. Beach Buggy Association. Mr. McCants served as a recreational representative on the Inland Advisory Committee to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2002-2004 and on the N.C. Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee from 2007-2008. He has also served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee (2004-2009) and from 1982-1985, participated with N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries staff in a red drum tagging program.

Mr. McCants has also served as a meeting-specific proxy for the N.C. Governor's Appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and has participated in public hearings regarding commission-managed species. Likewise, he has attended and participated in public input events conducted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including most recently the Visioning Project port meeting held in Raleigh in March 2014.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for a N.C. at-large seat to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCrory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

Pat McCrory

Enclosures

PC:md

cc: Donald van der Vaart  
Sammy Corbett  
Louis Daniel  
Charles Duckett

**N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission**

**Sammy Corbett**

*Chairman*

910-620-1804

[samjcorbett3@gmail.com](mailto:samjcorbett3@gmail.com)

*Commercial*

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/17

**Anna Barrios Beckwith**

*Vice Chairman*

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*At-large*

A – 07/29/09

E – 06/30/15

**Mikey Daniels**

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*Commercial Fisherman*

A – 02/07/07

E – 06/30/15

**Kelly L. Darden, Jr.**

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*Recreational Fisherman*

A – 08/06/12

E – 06/30/15

**Mark Gorges**

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*Recreational Representative*

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/16

**Chuck Laughridge**

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*At-large*

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/16

**Joe Shute**

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*Recreational Industry*

A – 07/26/11

E – 06/30/17

**Mike Wicker**

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*Scientist*

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/17

**Alison Willis**

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*Commercial Industry*

A – 11/19/14

E – 06/30/16