



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2016

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

Dear Mrs. Sobeck:

This letter is in response to your request for nomination to the Gulf of Mexico 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:

Ben Hartig, Current South Atlantic Council Member
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatmen Association
Carol Dover, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
Chester Brewer, Current South Atlantic Council Member
David Jolly, Congressman 13th District
Eric Brazier, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
Glen Brooks, Gulf Fisherman's Association
Holly Binns, PEW Charitable Trusts
Jim Green, Destin Charter Boat Association
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fisherman of Florida
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
Pam Dana, Current Gulf Council Member
Shane Cantrell, Charter Fisherman's Association
Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conversation Association

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by Mr. Roy Williams. 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. Phillip Dyskow** as the preferred choice for appointment to the At-Large seat on the Council. He is the former president of Yamaha Marine Group, and with over 40 years of experience in the marine industry he has observed the symbiotic relationship between the health of saltwater fish stocks and the success of the marine industry. Mr. Dyskow has developed a passion for the health of our nation's saltwater fish stocks and has become an advocate for fishery management concepts. He has also spent a number of years as a member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), which has given him a deeper understanding of the processes that

affect fishery management. Mr. Dyskow was elected into the Marine Industry Hall of Fame in 2012, received the Center for Coastal Conservation Man of the Year Award in 2013, and was awarded a public service commendation from the United States Coast Guard in 2014. His lifetime of experience uniquely qualifies him to assist in the development of regulatory policy that allows for both commercial and recreational use today, as well as the conservation of fishery resources for future generations.

My second recommendation is **Mr. James Brown**. He is the sales manager for Brunswick Commercial and Government Products and the former director of law enforcement for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Mr. Brown previously served as the chairman of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Homeland Security Committee and Boats and Associated Equipment Committee. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Governors Ocean Committee, Southeast Coral Reef Task Force, and the Seaports Standards Advisory Council. He has been involved for over 32 years in various aspects of marine resource regulations implemented in the Gulf of Mexico that affect Florida. Mr. Brown's goal is to ensure an enjoyable outdoor experience for future generations through the proper management of our resources and fisheries.

My third recommendation is **Dr. Thomas Frazer**. He is the acting director of the University of Florida Water Institute and the director of the University of Florida School of Natural Resources and Environment. Dr. Frazer holds a bachelor's degree in marine fisheries, a master's degree in fisheries and aquatic studies, and a doctorate degree in biological sciences. He has more than 20 years of research experience in the fisheries science arena. Additionally, he currently serves as a member of the International Society for Reef Studies, as well as the science advisory board of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute. Dr. Frazer's goal is to develop strategies and implement actions that yield substantial benefits for today's population without compromising the potential for those same natural resources to meet the needs to future generations.

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

1. Mr. Phillip Dyskow
2. Mr. James Brown
3. Dr. Thomas Frazer

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,



Rick Scott
Governor

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804-9004
(225) 342-7015
GOV.LA.GOV

March 9, 2016

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Attention: Brian Fredieu

Dear Eileen Sobek:

Enclosed, please find my nominations for the available At-Large Seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council), in priority order. Each candidate would be an asset to the Council (qualifications enclosed). Consultations were made with representatives from the commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities in Louisiana regarding these nominees (list enclosed).

The following are my nominees for the At-Large Seat currently held by Mr. Roy Williams of Florida (Other); their applications are enclosed:

1. Byron Encalade (Commercial)
140 Epsy Lane
Pointe a la Hache, Louisiana 70082
(504) 236-1527
byronencalade@yahoo.com
2. Kimberly Chauvin (Commercial)
5248 Bayouside Drive
Chauvin, Louisiana 70344
(985) 232-6823
kimchauvin@yahoo.com
3. Kristen Baumer (Commercial)
399 Broadway Street
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118
(504) 220-8015
kbaumer@paulpiazza.com

Female and minority candidates have not only been considered and but have also been selected for nomination. Your consideration of these nominees is appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor, State of Louisiana

Enclosures

cc: Charlie Melancon, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

March 10, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the obligatory Mississippi seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) currently held by Ms. 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 August 11, 2016: Leanne Bosarge, Harvey S. "Sonny" Schindler and J. Read Hendon.

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.

Ms. Bosarge has been a valuable member of the Gulf Council. Based on qualifications and a great job performance, I highly recommend that Ms. Bosarge be reappointed to continue her service on the Gulf Council. Ms. Leann Bosarge has over 15 years in the commercial fishing business and additional experience in the banking and auditing industry. She is also a member of the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

Mr. Harvey S. "Sonny" Schindler has been engaged in the charter-for-hire industry for over 13 years. He is the owner and operator of one of the largest charter for hire business on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and serves on several advisory panels of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. He actively attends federal and state fisheries management meetings, participates in education programs and writes articles for outdoor magazines.

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POST OFFICE BOX 139 • JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205 • TELEPHONE: (601) 359-3150 • FAX: (601) 359-3741 • www.governorbryant.com

Mr. J. Read Hendon, Ph.D. has professional experience as a fishery biologist for over 20 years and currently serves interim Assistant Director for the University of Southern-Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and as Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. He has served on the Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum advisory panels of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

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. The following organizations were consulted: 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 fisherman.

I have provided written statements and the nominees' application kits for their consideration.

Sincerely,



Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi

Cc: Jamie Miller



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 9, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

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, 2016. The three candidates should be considered for both seats.

Mr. Douglass W. "Doug" Boyd, Boerne, Texas
Mr. Troy Bello Williamson, III, Portland, Texas
Mr. Ronald O. "Ronnie" Luster, Houston, Texas

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.

Douglass W. "Doug" Boyd is the preferred nominee for the Texas obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. In his 6 years on the council, he served as Vice Chairman (2011) and Council Chairman (2012 and 2013). He is eligible to serve a third and final term. Mr. Boyd is a small business owner and recreational fisherman who has a long held interest in the issues facing Gulf of Mexico fisheries. In addition to his service on the Council, he is a former vice chairman and current member of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) and represents the Council as a board member on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). He was a representative of the SFBPC on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan committee that developed and recommended the NFHAP program to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce for their approval. As an engaged member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Mr. Boyd has applied his talents to the conservation needs of Texas and the nation.

Troy Bello Williamson, II is an attorney in private practice in Corpus Christi and a recreational fisherman. Mr. Williamson has demonstrated his concern and commitment to fisheries management issues through his service on numerous panels and commissions. He was appointed to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in 2011 by Governor Perry and reappointed in 2014. Additionally, he is a member of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Drum Advisory Panel, Reef Fish Advisory Panel (includes red snapper), Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Panel, Ad Hoc Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Panel and Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter for Hire Panel. Mr. Williamson is also a member of Executive Committee of Harte Research Institute, Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation, Texas A&M – Corpus Christi.

Ronald O. "Ronnie" Luster is a property and casualty insurance broker specializing in the oil and gas industry. Mr. Luster is a founding member of Gulf Coast Conservation Association (now Coastal Conservation Association). He is a member of the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. In 2006, Field and Stream magazine named Mr. Luster a winner of their National Hero of Conservation for initiating the volunteer driven retrieval of abandoned crab traps.

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 encourages and sought nominees from diverse ethnic backgrounds and various areas of the state.

I recommend you to consider these nominees for the available seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. I believe they are highly qualified and possess the talents and experiences necessary to make any of them an effective council member. I appreciate your consideration of the nominees.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Governor

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Enclosures