

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

March 13, 2017

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

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Captain David Walker of Alabama. Captain Walker has been a very valuable member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. I am proud of his service. I hope an Alabamian will be reappointed to his seat to continue the valuable work he has done over the last three years. The work of the Gulf Council is very important to the State of Alabama. Alabama has a very small coastline but we consistently land approximately 40% of the red snapper and grey triggerfish that are caught recreationally in the Gulf of Mexico. 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 four individuals for the At-Large seat that is to be filled in 2017: Dr. Robert Shipp (Academia), Joey Dobbs, Jr. (recreational), Captain David Walker (Commercial) and Captain Randy Boggs (charter/headboat fisherman and recreational). Captain Walker has done a good job serving on the Gulf Council the past two years and my recommendation for appointment for this seat should not be construed as a slight to the previous work of Captain Walker. However, Dr. Robert Shipp's 18 years of Council experience and his unparalleled knowledge of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico are extremely valuable. **I recommend that Dr. Robert Shipp be appointed to the At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.**

Dr. Bob Shipp is extremely knowledgeable in conservation and management of the fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico. He has served the Gulf Council faithfully for 18 years over 6 appointments in the past. He was elected Chairman of the Gulf Council during his last term that ended in 2014. Dr. Shipp has also served on the Gulf Council's Science and Statistical Committee. He is considered one of the foremost scientist concerning red snapper, triggerfish and other species of primary concern to the Gulf Council and to the fishermen of the Gulf Coast states. He is very familiar with the Council process and has a vast amount of experience with the

issues that are facing the Council and the fishing sectors. Dr. Shipp is the Chair Emeritus of the Department of Marine Science at the University of South Alabama. He is a former member of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board which advises the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Governor of Alabama on conservation related issues. He is a member of the Research board of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and was previously on the MARFIN Board and the Board of Governors of the American Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He is the long time judge of the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, the largest fishing tournament in the world, and has over 50 years of experience in the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Dr. Shipp would be a fantastic addition to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. His knowledge and experience with the fisheries and the council process will make him a true asset to the work of the Gulf Council. I recommend that Dr. Robert Shipp be appointed to the At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Joseph G. Dobbs, Jr. is the owner of Landscape Workshop, LLC. Mr. Dobbs is a member of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board and was a founding member of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. He is a current member of the Coastal Conservation Association Birmingham, Alabama Chapter. Joey is an avid fisherman for inshore, offshore and reef fish species. He spends the majority 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 a board member of the 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.

Captain David Walker is the owner and operator of the F/V June Sue. Captain Walker currently holds an At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Captain Walker has done a very good job on the Gulf Council representing the commercial sector for the past two years. He holds federal commercial permits for Gulf Reef Fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish and Shark Incidental. Walker has been a commercial fisherman for over 33 years. He is extremely knowledgeable about the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the Gulf Coast Professional Fishermen and is a former member of the Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance. He has been an active participant in the Council process. Mr. Walker has served on several advisory panels including the Red Snapper Advisory Panel, the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, the Ad Hoc 5-Year Red Snapper Review Advisory Panel and the Ad Hoc Commercial Reef Fish Advisory Panel. Captain Walker works well with recreational, commercial and charter fishing organizations.

Randy Boggs is the owner of the Reel Surprise Dock Store in Orange Beach, Alabama. He sells fuel, ice and bait to recreational, for-hire and commercial fishermen from the dock store and

manages the dockage of recreational vessels at the San Roc Cay Marina. Mr. Boggs has been involved in the recreational fishery for over 36 years and interacts with recreational fishermen on a daily basis. He is also the owner of B and D Maritime, Inc. and books fishing trips for 15 for-hire vessels. Mr. Boggs is the owner/operator of the charter boats, "Reel Surprise", "Gulf Winds II", and "Wishbone." Mr. Boggs is an active participant in the Council process. He has great insight into the charter, headboat and recreational fisheries sectors. Captain Boggs has been an innovator in fisheries management ideas that have shown real promise to improve access to fisheries while maintaining sustainable management.

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.

In an effort to consider minority and women candidates AMRD/MRD discussed the nomination process with various persons and organizations. No minority or women candidates provided nomination applications. 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,



Robert Bentley
Governor

RB/we/pb

cc: Commissioner N. Gunter Guy, Jr.
Mr. Chris Blankenship



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2017

Mr. Brian Fredieu
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Fredieu:

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:

Bruce Aebel, Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Pam Anderson, Captain Anderson's Marina
Jefferson Angers, Center for Sportfishing Policy
Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Holly Binns, The PEW Charitable Trusts
Eric Brazer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
Mike Colby, Clearwater Marine Association
Thomas Dammrich, National Marine Manufacturers Association
Jim Donofrio, Recreational Fishing Alliance
Carol Dover, Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association
Chris Horton, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Captain Gary Jarvis, Destin Charter Boat Association
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association

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Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
John Sanchez, Current Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Member
Ben Speciale, Yamaha
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatman's Association

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by Dr. Pamela Dana. 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. Jeffrey Miller**. He is the President of Millers Boating Center, Inc. and Road Kings Trailers of Florida. Mr. Miller was the former Florida State Chairman for the Coastal Conservation Association and currently serves as the chairman of the Coastal Conservation Association Florida Government Relations Committee. Additionally, he serves as a member of the Bonita Fishing Club. Mr. Miller's goal is to protect our fisheries while finding the proper balance of conservation, commercial consumption, and recreational uses.

My third recommendation is **Mr. James Brown**. He is a former Law Enforcement Director for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Mr. Brown's field experience provided him with the opportunity to be at the forefront of nearly every new fisheries regulation in the Gulf of Mexico for the past 32 years. Additionally, he is a current member of the Coastal Conservation Association and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators Law Enforcement and Training Committee. Mr. Brown believes there are two sides to marine resource management that must be

Mr. Brian Fredieu
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carefully considered. The first is what is best for the resource and its general long term well-being, the second is how to best manage the resources for the benefit of the people. Mr. Brown's goal is to ensure an enjoyable outdoor experience for future generations.

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

1. Mr. Phillip Dyskow
2. Mr. Jeffrey Miller
3. Mr. James Brown

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

RS/sk
Enclosures

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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March 9, 2017

Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch,

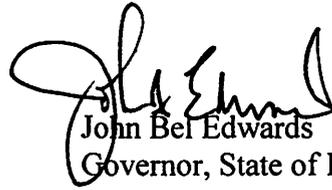
Enclosed, please find my nominations for the available At-Large Seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). Each candidate would be an asset to the Council; their qualifications and applications are enclosed. Consultations were made with representatives from the commercial, recreational,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

The following are my nominees, in order of preference, for the At-Large Seat currently held by Ms. Pamela Dana of Florida (Recreational):

1. Damon P. McKnight
181 West Augusta Ln.
Slidell, Louisiana 70458
(985) 960-1900
info@superstrikecharters.com
2. William L. "Billy" Wells Jr.
2115 Lemon St.
Metairie, Louisiana 70001
(504) 329-7451
billy@mgfishing.com
3. Edward H. Frekey II
226 Chateau Dr.
Lockport, Louisiana 70374
(985) 665-3769
efrekey@hotmail.com

These individuals are extremely qualified. Your consideration of Louisiana's nominees is appreciated.

Sincerely,



John Bel Edwards
Governor, State of Louisiana

Enclosures

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

Qualifications of 2017 Nominees, Listed Alphabetically

Edward Frekey

- 14 years experience in offshore charter fishing in federal waters for numerous species of fish
- 30-plus years as a recreational fishermen for both inshore and offshore species
- 20 years of active duty service in the U.S. Coast Guard, with extensive experience in fisheries law enforcement and maritime operations
- 11 years experience as a yacht captain

Damon McKnight

- 20-plus years experience in offshore charter fishing in federal waters for numerous species of fish
- 40 years as a recreational fishermen for both inshore and offshore species
- Previously served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council from 2009-2012
- Secretary of the Venice Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Current member and former Board Member of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association

William Wells

- 20-plus years experience in offshore charter fishing in federal waters for numerous species of fish
- 40 years as a recreational fishermen for both inshore and offshore species
- Former commercial fisherman
- 2004 graduate of the University of New Orleans, with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Member of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Featured in national fishing shows and as a speaker at regional fishing seminars
- Sponsored by various fishing related companies

Persons Consulted Regarding 2017 Nominations

The following persons from Louisiana's commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities were consulted regarding 2017 nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

- Kelty Readenour (Dual commercial permit holder for reef and coastal pelagic fish)
- Lance Nacio (Louisiana Shrimp Task Force)
- Beau Boudoin (Recreational angler)
- Rolla Tichenor (Recreational angler)
- Greg Galliano (Recreational angler)
- Bobby Terrebonne (Federally permitted charter captain)
- Richard Rice (Federally permitted charter captain)
- Ben Weber (Louisiana Charter Boat Association)
- David Cresson (Coastal Conservation Association-Louisiana)
- Charlie Caplinger (New Orleans Big Game Fishing Club)
- Windell Curole (South Lafourche Levee District)

2017 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.



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 13, 2017

Mr. Samuel D. Rauch, III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch:

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 one or more of the three vacant at-large seats, which will become vacant on August 10, 2017. The three candidates should be considered for all seats.

Gregory W. "Greg" Stunz, Ph.D., Port Aransas, Texas
Mr. Troy B. 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.

Gregory Stunz, Ph.D. is the preferred nominee for the at-large vacancy. Dr. Stunz is the endowed chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health and executive director of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. He is also a professor of Marine Biology at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi College of Science and Technology. After 20 years researching marine fisheries, he is well-versed with the issues facing the GMFMC and is an author of over 40 scientific papers in national and international journals. He is a member of the GMFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Gulf Estuarine Research Society, and the Coastal Conservation Association. He also serves on the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and as a marine fisheries representative for the American Fisheries Society.

Troy B. 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

GA:dw

Enclosures