

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE HOUSE
100 STATE CIRCLE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1925
410-974-3901
TOLL FREE 1-800-811-8336

TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

March 13, 2017

Samuel Rauch
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attention: Brian Fredieu

Dear Mr. Rauch:

On August 10, 2017 the Maryland Obligatory seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council will become available. The State of Maryland would like to offer the following qualified nominees for the Maryland Obligatory vacancy listed in order of preference:

1. Mr. Earl "Sonny" Gwin
2. Mr. James Wommack, Jr.
3. Mr. Brian A. Tollefson, Esq.

The provided nominees share many years of experience regarding conservation and management, research, recreational and commercial harvest of fisheries resources in the Mid-Atlantic region. Each is passionate about the long term viability and sustainability of these resources and each understands the need for management to ensure these goals.

In an effort to solicit for these nominees, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) queried various commissions/committees (Sport Fish Advisory Commission, Tidal Fish Advisory Commission), used the Departments Fisheries Service Constant Contact distribution list, Coastal Fisheries commercial and recreational email distribution lists, and placed an announcement on the Departments Fishing and Boating Services homepage. Advisory group members, Constant Contact recipients, Coastal Fisheries commercial and recreational recipients, and readers of the Fishing and Boating Services website represent the broad spectrum of conservation, commercial and recreational interest groups in Maryland which include women and minorities. When considering potential nominees, MDNR made every effort to include for consideration qualified women and minority candidates.

If you have any questions during your review of the enclosed applications, please contact David Blazer, Director of MDNR Fisheries Service. Mr. Blazer can be reached by phone at (410) 260-8281 or via e-mail at David.Blazer@Maryland.Gov.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Hogan".

Larry Hogan
Governor



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

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:

I am writing to submit New York State's recommended candidates to be considered for appointment to fill the "Obligatory" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) which is currently held by Mr. John McMurray and for the "At-large" seat on the MAFMC which is currently held by Ms. Laurie Nolan.

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Steven Heins for appointment to the "Obligatory" seat. Mr. Heins, who is retiring in the near future from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), has been a New York State agency representative to the MAFMC for over ten years. He is well versed in the commercial and recreational aspects of the myriad marine fisheries issues which impact New York State's angler communities. This will be Mr. Heins' first appointment to the MAFMC as an "Obligatory" member.

I am also pleased to recommend Ms. Laurie Nolan for reappointment to the "At-large" seat. With over twenty-five years of experience with MAFMC and marine fisheries matters, Ms. Nolan is well respected and extremely knowledgeable on a broad array of fisheries issues. She has ably represented the interests of commercial fishermen and demonstrated a keen understanding of the complexities associated with managing commercial species over her five terms as a New York member to the MAFMC. Ms. Nolan also has chaired and served on numerous MAFMC species Committees.

In addition to Ms. Nolan, I am submitting the names of four other candidates who are worthy of your consideration. With respect to the "Obligatory" seat, the additional candidates are Charles Witek and Emerson Hasbrouck. For the "At-large" seat, these candidates are Pat Augustine and Noah Bressman, all of whom have the requisite expertise on fishery management issues.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

As in previous years, the process we used to identify candidates included discussions with leaders of commercial and recreational fishing organizations in New York and with individuals who have attended and provided input at management meetings, including the Marine Resources Advisory Council and public meetings on individual Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). With respect to women and minority candidates, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) identified Ms. Nolan as having the necessary expertise. This collective process resulted in the consideration of several candidates. Nomination kits for the qualified candidates identified below are included with this correspondence.

The following, in order of preference, are New York State's 2017 nominees for the "Obligatory" and "At-large" seats on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Obligatory

Steven Heins – Retiring State government official in attendance at MAFMC meetings, including several committees, for over ten years.

Charles Witek – Angler, attorney and outdoor writer with several years of experience in marine fisheries issues; MAFMC member 2002-2005.

Emerson Hasbrouck – Former Marine Program Director at Cornell University Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, New York.

At-large

Laurie Nolan – Onshore manager for F/V Seacapture, Inc. in Montauk, New York; MAFMC member from August 2000 – August 2009 and from August 2011 – present.

Pat Augustine – Recreational angler; Former MAFMC Councilor 2002-2011.

Noah Bressman – Recreational angler and PhD candidate in Biology at Wake Forest University.



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

I highly recommend Steven Heins and Laurie Nolan and respectfully request your consideration of their appointment/reappointment to the "Obligatory" and "At-large" seats on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo", written over a horizontal line.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

Dated: March 15, 2017



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

February 27, 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,

Thank you for your agency's letter of Jan. 23, 2017 requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. General Statute 113-260 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the governor for Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The commission provided the names of Mr. Francis "Dewey" Hemilright, Mr. Christopher Hickman, Mr. Brent Fulcher and Mr. Jeffrey Oden for my consideration as nominees for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-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 Mr. Francis "Dewey" Hemilright 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Mr. Francis "Dewey" Hemilright. Mr. Hemilright is the owner/operator of the 42-ft. F/V TARBABY with his homeport in Wanchese, North Carolina. He has been commercial

fishing for 26 years off the east coast, from New York to Florida, and has a wide range of fisheries experience. He has served on advisory panels for Highly Migratory Species (National Marine Fisheries Service), Dolphin-Wahoo (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council) and as chairman of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Compliance Advisory Panel. Mr. Hemilright holds permits and fishes for tuna, swordfish, dolphin-wahoo, bluefish, spiny dogfish, smooth dogfish, croaker, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and large coastal sharks, species which are mainly managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission or the Highly Migratory Species Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Mr. Hemilright is currently completing his first full term on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and has been involved in the following council committees: Protected Resources, Law Enforcement, Highly Migratory Species, Spiny Dogfish, Demersal and Tilefish. He has also participated in collaborative research and monitoring on a number of species, including both spiny and smooth dogfish, and most recently dusky sharks and blueline tilefish. He is a member of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, The Bluewater Fishermen's Association and North Carolina Watermen United. When not out at sea, Mr. Hemilright is spreading awareness about the importance of the fishing industry in North Carolina. His presentation summarizes a day in the life of a commercial fisherman, and challenges students to think about all the logistics that are involved with operating a fishing vessel for a living. Mr. Hemilright expanded his outreach program by teaming up with the North Carolina Coastal Federation, sharing his lesson with over 400 middle school students living on the coast of North Carolina.

Mr. Christopher Hickman. Mr. Hickman is a full time commercial fisherman who has resided in Hatteras, North Carolina for the past 34 years. He currently participates in gill net fisheries from Cape Hatteras to the Gulf of Maine. He targets several species that are managed by the Mid-Atlantic and/or the New England Fishery Management Councils: monkfish, spiny dogfish, bluefish and black sea bass. During the fall and winter months, he frequently participates in North Carolina gill net fisheries for weakfish, Atlantic croaker and king mackerel. Mr. Hickman has also participated in the winter trawl, crab pot and long haul seine fisheries. Mr. Hickman has served as a fishing industry representative on the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Compliance Advisory Panel and the Mid-Atlantic/New England Fishery Management Council Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish Committees. He also serves as an industry representative on the National Marine Fisheries Service Atlantic Large Whale and the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Teams.

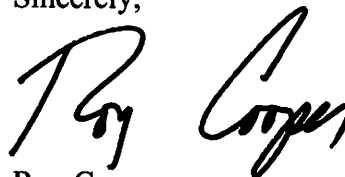
Mr. Brent Fulcher. Mr. Fulcher is a third generation family member with over 30 years in the seafood industry. He is vertically integrated in the seafood industry with harvesting, purchasing, packing, processing and marketing, through his ownership in two seafood processing facilities, B&J Seafood in New Bern and Beaufort Inlet Seafood in Beaufort. Mr. Fulcher's businesses support and purchase from over 200 independent fishermen up and down the East Coast in addition to the ten vessels that he presently owns. Mr. Fulcher's vessels hold state and federal fishing permits for shrimp, summer flounder, Atlantic sea scallops, monkfish, scup, black sea bass and others. B&J Seafood and Beaufort Inlet

Seafood also pack, process, and market seafood from state and federally permitted vessels and fishermen from all over the United States. Mr. Fulcher is currently Chairman of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, a Board Member on the Southern Shrimp Alliance for the state of North Carolina, a member of the Blue Water Fishermen's Association, and presently a North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee member and has previously been a member of the Protected Species Advisory Committee for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries.

Mr. Jeffrey Oden. Mr. Oden is a native of Hatteras, North Carolina and is the owner/operator of the F/V Seabound. He has been a commercial fisherman for 40 years and currently participates in fisheries for sharks, tilefish, dolphin (mahi), tuna, snowy grouper, croaker and king mackerel. Mr. Oden currently serves as a technical advisor to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), and as a member of the National Marine Fisheries Service Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel. He also sits on the Bottlenose Dolphin, Harbor Porpoise and Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Teams. In the past, Mr. Oden has served on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Weakfish Advisory Panel, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel, and the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee. He served as an appointed observer for SEDAR (South East Data, Assessment and Review) 36 for Snowy Grouper. Mr. Oden has recently participated in cooperative research efforts pertaining to management of dusky sharks. Mr. Oden is a member of the Bluewater Fisheries Association, North Carolina Watermen United and the North Carolina Fisheries Association.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roy Cooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roy" and last name "Cooper" clearly distinguishable.

Roy Cooper

Enclosures

RC:md

cc: Michael S. Regan
Sammy Corbett
Braxton Davis
Stephen Bryant

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Sammy Corbett

Chairman

910-620-1804

samjcorbett3@gmail.com

Commercial

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/17

Joe Shute

Vice-chairman

252-241-6111

captjoemfc@yahoo.com

Recreational Industry

A – 07/26/11

E – 06/30/17

Mark Gorges

252-671-1684

captgorgesmfc@gmail.com

Recreational Representative

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/16

Chuck Laughridge

252-532-3983

sobx11@gmail.com

At-large

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/19

Mike Wicker

919-881-0791 (H)

919-856-4520 (W)

amikewicker@gmail.com

Scientist

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/17

Alison Willis

919-971-3905

awillis.mfc@gmail.com

Commercial Fisherman

A – 11/19/14

E – 06/30/16

Janet Rose

252-202-2921

janetrosemfc@gmail.com

Commercial Fisherman

A – 08/07/15

E – 06/30/18

Rick Smith

252-237-9600

rds.mfc@gmail.com

Recreational Fisherman

A – 09/15/15

E – 06/30/18

Brad Koury

336-263-9018

Bkoury2@gmail.com

At-large

A – 11/02/16

E – 06/30/19



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

March 10, 2017

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

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following candidates for Pennsylvania's obligatory seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAMFC): G. Warren Elliott, Randy Phiel, and Martin Brown.

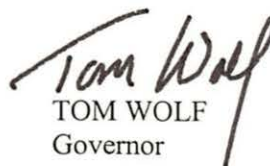
Mr. Elliott, avid recreational fisherman and current council vice-chairman, is completing the second of three possible terms; his work on the Ecosystem and Ocean Planning Committee to protect Atlantic deep sea corals underscores his longstanding dedication to public service in the name of conservation. I highly recommend that Mr. Elliott be re-appointed to a third term.

Mr. Phiel has been fishing recreationally for over forty years and combines that expertise with a professional knowledge of water policy and natural resource conservation in Pennsylvania's Chesapeake Bay region. Mr. Brown's fly fishing experiences piqued his interest in ocean policy and balancing natural resource protection with economic development. Mr. Phiel and Mr. Brown offer perspective on the unique challenges of the commonwealth as a premier recreational fishing destination despite its not having an Atlantic coastline.

The Governor's Office of Public Liaison (OPL) handles appointments to boards and commissions. In seeking candidates, OPL consulted with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, specifically Tim Scheaffer, Director of Policy and Planning, and Andrew Shiels, Director of Field Operations and current MAMFC member. OPL also sought input from Robb Miller, Governor's Advisor for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation. Pennsylvania's lack of ocean coastline compels our priorities to recreational fishing and conservation efforts over commercial. Pennsylvania declines to submit nominees for the at-large seat.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving our fisheries and their environments. Should you have questions, please contact the Office of Public Liaison at 717-787-5825.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor