



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 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:

Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Holly Binns, The PEW Charitable Trusts
Ben Hartig, Current South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Member
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
Captain Billy Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
Tom Twyford, West Palm Beach Fishing Club
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 Mr. William Chester Brewer, Jr. 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.

Mr. Brian Fredieu

March 13, 2017

Page Two

I am recommending **Mr. William Chester Brewer, Jr.** as the preferred choice for reappointment to the at-large seat on the Council. Mr. Brewer is the President of W. Chester Brewer, Jr., P.A and a current member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He has proven council experience and leadership, combined with a familiarity of international fisheries issues, as he came to the Council after having served ten years as the Recreational Fisheries Advisor to the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). Additionally, he serves as a life member of the West Palm Beach County Fishing Club and Coastal Conservation Association, where he is the current chairman emeritus for the Florida state chapter. Mr. Brewer's goal is to conserve our natural marine resources to ensure future generations will be able to enjoy them as much as previous generations.

My second recommendation is **Mr. John Sprague III**. He is a Marina Consultant for JH Sprague Consulting, LLC and former Detective Sergeant for the Mangonia Park Police Department. Mr. Sprague's detective experience has taught him how to analyze big picture problems that require examination and multiple solutions. He has been an avid boater and fisherman in Florida for over 50 years. Mr. Sprague has extensive experience working with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Environmental Protection, and United States Department of Interior as the advisory to the Secretary through the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council. He is also a member of the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County, and is the former President of the Marine Industries Association of Florida. Mr. Sprague has been a lifelong recreational fisherman and has a strong desire to protect the South Atlantic fisheries for future generations.

My third recommendation is **Mr. Michael Kennedy**. He is the General Counsel for Ranger Construction Industries, Inc. and former Police Officer for the City of West Palm Beach Police Department. Mr. Kennedy has fished in Florida's Atlantic waters since he was a child and has been involved in numerous fisheries committees throughout his life. He currently serves as the President of the Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County and as National Vice President of the Coastal Conservation Association. Mr. Kennedy's broad experience as an angler and his former membership on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Law Enforcement Advisory Panel has allowed him to better understand the relationship between state and federal fisheries law and has also allowed him to become and advocate for fisheries at the local, state, and national levels. He believes that proper management is key to not only preserving the fisheries, but also insuring a robust fishery experience for future generations.

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

1. Mr. William Chester Brewer, Jr.
2. Mr. John Sprague III

Mr. Brian Fredieu
March 13, 2017
Page Three

3. Mr. Michael Kennedy

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 blue ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Rick Scott
Governor

RS/sk
Enclosures



HENRY McMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 9, 2016

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

Dear Ms. Sobeck,

Enclosed are South Carolina's nominees for an at-large seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) that will become vacant on August 10, 2017. The nominees are listed alphabetically with no reflection of preference.

Captain Mark E. Brown currently holds an at-large seat on the SAFMC and was initially appointed in 2014. He has engaged in commercial and charter fishing for 40 years and makes his income as owner, operator, and president of Charter Boat TEASER, Inc., headquartered in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Mr. Brown has been an active and engaged member of the SAFMC since he was first appointed.

Mr. David W. "Wayne" Mershon is an active commercial fisherman and snapper-grouper dealer based in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. He is currently the president of the Council for Sustainable Fishing, an organization established in 2013 to promote the optimization of sustainable fishing in the South Atlantic region. Mr. Mershon has regularly attended SAFMC public hearings and advisory panel meetings since 2013.

Mr. Greg M. Peralta is an employee of Cantey Tech Consulting, a business development consulting organization, and an avid recreational fisherman. Mr. Peralta has fished for over 50 years and is also a retired charter captain. Mr. Peralta believes that stakeholder participation and cooperation are the keys to creating a healthier fishery environment for future generations.

These candidates are recommended after discussion with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and in consultation with members of the recreational and commercial fishing communities. Thank you for your consideration and please contact Katie Philpott, Director of Boards and Commissions at 803.201.3423 if you have any questions.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Henry McMaster".

Henry McMaster

HM/krp

Enclosures