



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2019

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Hwy, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(Attention: Hannah Hafey)

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the Mississippi obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) currently held by Mrs. Leann N. 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 Mississippi obligatory seat to be filled August 10, 2019: Leanne Bosarge, David Becker, and Jennifer P. Jenkins.

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. David Frank Becker hold a 100 Ton Masters Captains License and is the owner and Captain of the charter boat business he started working at as a deckhand. He is a member of the Mississippi boat Charter Captains Association and the National Association of

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Charterboat Operations. Mr. Becker is an avid recreational fisherman and cares about protecting and preserving our fishery resources.

Ms. Jennifer P. Jenkins is a member of the Interstate Shellfish Sanitation Conference, serving on the Executive Board Member. A member of the Gulf Seafood Institute, also serving on the Executive Board Member, a member of the Gulf Seafood Foundation - Executive Board Member serving as Treasurer, a member of the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium - Advisory Panel, and a member of the MDMR Shellfish Bureau Oyster Task Force. Ms. Jenkins has worked at her family owned oyster processing business for over 20 years.

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: Joe Spraggins



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2019

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This letter is in response to your request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Here in Florida, water management is crucial for our economy and can have a major impact on the fate of our state. Throughout the past month, my office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests, along with conservation organizations. These discussions highlighted the importance of proper management of our fishery resources that are paramount to Florida's success. We received recommendations from numerous individuals and organizations who are deeply invested in managing our saltwater fisheries:

Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conservation Association
Eric Brazer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholder's Alliance
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
Captain Mike Jennings, Charter Fisherman's Association
Laurie Stevens, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
Glen Brooks, Gulf Fishermen's Association
Phil Dyskow, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Member
John Sanchez, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Member
Casey Streeter, Florida Commercial Watermen's Conservation
Holly Binns, The Pew Charitable Trusts
Brett Fitzgerald, Angler Action Foundation
Carol B. Dover, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
Scott Deal, Maverick Boat Group
Regan Nelson, American Fly Fishing Trade Association
Captain Bob Zales II, Panama City Boatmen Association
Captain Jim Green, Destin Charter Boat Association
Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
Captain Gary Jarvis, Mayor City of Destin

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by Dr. Thomas Frazer. These nominees are well qualified for their sector and would make excellent candidates for appointment to the Council. I am

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providing my nominations in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

I am recommending Dr. Thomas Frazer as the preferred choice for reappointment to the at-large seat on the Council. He is Director of The University of Florida's School of Natural Resources and Environment and currently serves as the Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. At the University of Florida, Dr. Frazer has conducted research on water quantity and quality, nutrient dynamics, fish population, food web interactions, and ecological restoration. Dr. Frazer also serves as a member of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel for NOAA Fisheries. Dr. Frazer is dedicated to managing the fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico in a way that will yield substantial benefits for today's population, without compromising the potential for those same natural resources to meet the needs of future generations. His proven council involvement, extensive research, and fifty years of recreational fishing experience, are all reasons to believe that Dr. Frazer will continue to enhance the Council. Dr. Frazer represents the "other" sector.

My second recommendation is Captain Edward Walker. He has been a charter captain on the Gulf Coast for 29 years and received his bachelor's degree from the University of South Florida. Captain Walker is a commercial hook and line fisherman, spearfisherman, and avid tournament fisherman. Captain Walker currently serves on the Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel and the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish Advisory Panel. He has worked extensively with Florida Fish and Wildlife, along with several state universities and institutions, to advance their research efforts. Captain Walker's background and demonstrated involvement prove his commitment to the sustainability of the industry for future generations. Mr. Walker represents the commercial and recreational sectors.

My third recommendation is Captain James Dylan Hubbard. Captain Hubbard is an active charter captain and the Vice President and Co-Owner of Hubbard's Marina in Pinellas County. Hubbard's Marina, which was established in 1928, is family owned and offers private charters and deep-sea fishing excursions, to both locals and tourists alike. Mr. Hubbard represents the recreational sector and has keen knowledge of the influence the environment has on Florida's continued economic growth.

The State of Florida attempted to solicit applications from women and minorities, however, neither applied for this seat. I note that, Florida currently has female and minority representation on the Council.

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

1. Dr. Thomas Frazer (Other)
2. Captain Edward Walker (Commercial)
3. Captain James Dylan Hubbard (Recreational)

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I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointments 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 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 "Ron DeSantis", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/mm



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 13, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

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 State of Texas obligatory seat and the one at-large seat, which will become vacant on August 10, 2019. The four candidates should be considered for all seats.

Troy B. Williamson, II, Portland, Texas – Recreational Fisherman
Brenda G. Ballard, Kingsville, Texas – Recreational Fisherman
Elizabeth "Liz" Hewitt, San Antonio, Texas – Recreational Fisherman
Nickolas G. "Nick" Spiliotis, Houston, Texas – Recreational Fisherman

Enclosed are the nomination packets for the four 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.

Troy B. Williamson, II is the preferred nominee for the State of Texas obligatory seat. He is an attorney in private practice in Corpus Christi. He has demonstrated his concern and commitment to fisheries management issues through his service on numerous panels and commissions. He was first appointed to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in 2011 by Governor Perry and reappointed in 2014, and was reappointed to a third term by Governor Abbott in 2017. 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 Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Panel, and the Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter for Hire Advisory Panel. Williamson is also a member of Executive Committee of Harte Research Institute, Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation, Texas A&M – Corpus Christi and is an active member of Coastal Conservation Association and Ducks Unlimited.

Brenda G. Ballard is a program coordinator at The Center for Continuing Education at Texas A&M Kingsville. She is president of the Brush Country Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) and a member of the CCA Board of Directors, Texas Wildlife Association, and the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Parks and Wildlife Commission. She and her husband are avid recreational anglers, and her father was in the commercial shrimping business.

Elizabeth “Liz” Hewitt is a self-employed business woman from San Antonio, managing her family’s machine shop and property assists. She serves on numerous committees in the Coastal Conservation Association, including the Executive Board and Government Affairs Committee and is the former San Antonio Chapter president. Additionally, she has also served as a member of the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Parks and Wildlife Commission. She is an avid recreational angler.

Nickolas G. “Nick” Spiliotis is an attorney and partner for K&L Gates LLP, focusing on labor, employment, and workplace safety. He is an active recreational fisherman and a lifetime member of the Coastal Conservation Association. Additionally, he participated in three GMFMC meetings in the past year.

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:pv

Enclosures