

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for your agency's letter dated February 5, 2019, requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an obligatory appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-259 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission ("Commission") with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the Governor for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The Commission provided the names of Mr. Robert (Tim) Griner, Mr. Brian (Scott) Buff, Mr. Samuel (Sammy) Corbett, and Mr. Jack Cox for my consideration as nominees for an obligatory appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the Commission's recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. My order of preference for the nominees is Tim Griner, Jack Cox, Scott Buff, and Sammy Corbett.

Due to 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, 16 U.S.C. § 1852 (b)(2)(C) (2018), 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 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Mr. Robert (Tim) Griner (Commercial). Mr. Griner was born and raised in Charlotte, NC but grew up fishing the inshore and offshore waters of Brunswick County, NC. He earned a B.S. in engineering from North Carolina State University and had a successful career in civil engineering, mostly in commercial construction. In 2009, business began to slow, and Mr. Griner found himself spending more time fishing. He began sharing his catch with family and friends; after some of his friends showed their chef friends those fish, the chefs

approached Mr. Griner to see if he would be interested in supplying fish for a few local Charlotte restaurants. In 2010, Mr. Griner obtained his state and federal dealer and vessel permits and started the Charlotte Fish Company. The business started with small trips, bringing back fish for just a few restaurants, but since then Mr. Griner has focused on building a clientele of small Charlotte restaurants whose menus cater to use of locally-sourced ingredients. He now supplies over 60 restaurants in the Charlotte area. Mr. Griner holds federal vessel permits for snapper/grouper, dolphin/wahoo, and king and Spanish mackerel. In addition to the two vessels he owns, Mr. Griner also packs fish for two additional vessels out of Brunswick County. Over the past several years, Mr. Griner has become more involved in management of the fishery, attending South Atlantic Council public hearings, including Snapper Grouper Visioning Project port meetings. He was appointed to North Carolina's Obligatory Seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in 2016 and serves on several committees and has served as the South Atlantic Council's liaison at Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meetings.

Mr. Brian (Scott) Buff (Commercial). Mr. Buff was born and raised in Morganton, NC and moved to Brunswick County, NC in the late 1990s. He purchased his first commercial vessel in 1998. Today, Mr. Buff owns and/or operates seven snapper/grouper vessels in the South Atlantic and two in the Gulf of Mexico. In addition, he owns one shrimp vessel, one Gulf of Mexico charter vessel, a fish house in Supply, NC and two retail markets in Southport, NC and Supply, NC, respectively. Mr. Buff has also held a 100-Ton Master License for 17 years. He has served one term on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel. Mr. Buff is also the owner of a general contracting company in Oak Island, NC since 2003.

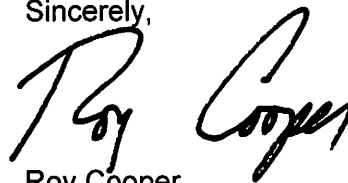
Mr. Jack Cox (Commercial). Mr. Cox's career in the fishing industry spans over three decades. A native of North Carolina with an early love of the surrounding waters, his pastime evolved into a passionate career. Mr. Cox has extensive experience with captaining a charter boat, spearfishing, bandit fishing, and black sea bass trap fishing. He started commercial fishing when he was 16 by going out on four to five-day trips as a crew member for a snapper/grouper vessel. After high school, he started fishing to earn money for college on his 25-foot center console vessel. After college, Mr. Cox went to work for a local seafood company selling local seafood to restaurants and for wholesale throughout the U.S. and Japan. Today, he sells for five full-time snapper/grouper vessels and several day trip snapper/grouper vessels. He and his partner own Crystal Coast Fisheries as well as Blue Ocean Seafood Market, which enables them to serve the retail community as well as wholesale avenues. Mr. Cox served as North Carolina's Obligatory Seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council from 2013 to 2016 and served on several committees and represented the Council on the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Panel, the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, and as an observer for the Red Snapper and Gray Triggerfish stock assessment data workshops. He also served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's Finfish Advisory Committee, the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's committee to define a commercial fisherman, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Limited Access Privilege Program workgroup (2007-2008), and he serves on the board of Carteret Catch, a local organization dedicated to promoting local fishermen and their seafood. He is also a current board member of Seafood Harvesters of America.

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Mr. Samuel ("Sammy") Corbett (Commercial). Mr. Corbett is an active full-time commercial fisherman and seafood dealer based out of Hampstead, NC and served as chairman of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2014 to 2018. He grew up on the waterfronts in Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach, NC, where he served as mate on numerous charter boats. He has held a commercial fishing license since he was 16 years old, participating in both offshore federal fisheries and inshore coastal fisheries. Mr. Corbett started snapper/grouper fishing in 1977 and was one of the first fishermen in southeastern North Carolina in the longline fishery for sharks, snowy grouper, and golden tilefish; he also participated in the initial development of the wreckfish fishery off of Wrightsville Beach and ran a swordfish boat as well. In 1992 he suffered a back injury, and due to the extensive recovery period from surgery, he was unable to meet the 50 percent income requirement to maintain his federal permits. Once he was able to fish again, Mr. Corbett shifted to inshore and nearshore fisheries. He has held a seafood dealers license for nearly 20 years and now actively fishes for blue crabs, striped mullet, spot and Spanish mackerel. He also has oyster and clam leases.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for a North Carolina obligatory seat to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

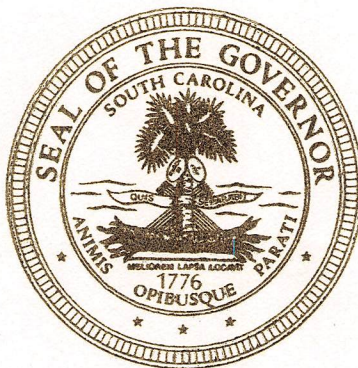
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Cooper

Enclosures

cc: Secretary Michael S. Regan
Mr. Rob Bizzell
Mr. Steve Murphey



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 12, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Enclosed are South Carolina's nominees for an obligatory seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). The nominees are listed alphabetically with no reflection of preference.

- **Mr. Christopher C. Conklin** (Commercial) is seafood dealer and owner of Seven Seas Seafood Market and C & C Seafood. He is completing his second term on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Mr. Conklin has grown up in and around the commercial fishing industry, and his interests are working to achieve sustainability in fisheries to extend the heritage and economic vitality of the fishing industry.
- **Dr. James "Jaime" Geiger** (Other) is a retired fisheries biologist with over 35 years of professional experience as a fisheries researcher and administrator at the state and federal levels. Dr. Geiger currently serves on the SAFMC's Habitat Protection and Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel, and he was the US Fish & Wildlife Service's representative to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for many years. Dr. Geiger understands that successful fisheries management requires vibrant partnerships, mutual trust, and effective communication.
- **Mr. Greg M. Peralta** (Recreational) 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.

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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 and non-governmental organizations. Thank you for your consideration and please contact Tommy Windsor, Director of Boards and Commissions at 803-734-5086 if you have any questions.

Yours very truly,



Henry McMaster
Governor

Enclosures (3)