



Governor of Puerto Rico
WANDA VÁZQUEZ GARCEID

March 10, 2020

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

Attention: Ms. Diane Daly

**NOMINATION CANDIDATES OBLIGATORY SEAT CARIBBEAN FISHERY
MANAGEMENT COUNCIL**

Dear Mr. Oliver:


I am pleased to submit my recommendations for the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC) obligatory seat that will become vacant on August 10, 2020. As part of our efforts in the recommendation process, we conducted various calls and consulted the recreational-sport fishing community, including the Puerto Rico Recreational Fishing Association, several yacht clubs, the Fisheries Advisory Board and leaders from the commercial fishing sector. Enclosed you will find the list of consulted persons in the commercial and recreational fishing community.

In accordance with the *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act*, the recommendation of candidates to be submitted for the consideration of the Secretary of Commerce are the following:

1. **Capt. Marcos Hanke** - Classification: Recreational sector. Mr. Hanke is in his second term as the Puerto Rico representative of the recreational sector in the CFMC, and he is the current President of the Council. He also represents the marine recreational sector in the Fisheries Advisory Board of the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) and is a charter operator. Besides, Mr. Hanke represents Puerto Rico in the NOAA's Advisory

Board of "Highly Migratory Species" and has developed initiatives to conserve fishery resources, educational efforts and multiple works with fishers. He is a contributor to the current effort promoted by NOAA and the DNER to create an Education Program for Recreational Fishers. When DNER consulted about the referenced vacant seat with the two Puerto Rico representatives of the commercial fishers in the CFMC, they both recommended him as their top candidate. One of the people consulted, recognized the excellent qualifications of all identified candidates, but made particular emphasis on Mr. Hanke's performance and achievements in the Council: "His outstanding participation in the CFMC speaks for itself. He has extensive knowledge in all types of fishing and fisheries management. I attest that he is a conciliatory entity and is always open to listen to suggestions and harmonize with all sectors. He is definitely a valuable resource for all fisheries sectors." The other Puerto Rico member of the Council we consulted expressed the following: "I consider him a person very open to communication and to maintain an environment of respect and cordiality, besides that I have had the opportunity to evaluate his direct performance at the CFMC and I consider that his nomination must continue for the benefit and continuity of the projects. He has done a great job and has all my support and of the commercial sector." In summary, both current CFMC members praised Hanke's knowledge and leadership, and his ability to foster effective communication through constructive dialogues and respect among all the members of the Council. DNER's representative in the Council can attest that Mr. Hanke possesses these skills. The President of the Fishers Federation and the commercial fishers of the southwest of Puerto Rico recommend Mr. Hanke for the seat. Moreover, DNER received a letter from the Yacht Club of San Juan supporting Mr. Hanke for another term.

2. **Attorney Israel Umpierre** - Classification: Recreational sector. He is a recreational fisherman, has participated in CFMC meetings, specifically in the "District Advisory Board", leads the non-profit organization "Fishing, Beach and Environment" and as such has carried out educational and outreach activities, including the importance of sharks and beach cleaning campaigns. He has contributed to the work of the Puerto Rico Fisheries Advisory Board. Furthermore, Mr. Umpierre contributes to current efforts promoted by NOAA and the DNER, to create an Education Program for Recreational Fishermen. He has shown interest in the vacant seat and completed the required documentation.

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3. **Capt. Roberto Reyes**- Classification: Recreational sector. He is a recreational fisherman, “free-diver” and has participated in meetings of the Fisheries Council, especially in the “District Advisory Board”. Furthermore, he represents the marine recreational sector in the Fisheries Advisory Board. Capt. Reyes has contributed to the DNER, being a key volunteer in the educational campaign for the consumption and control of lionfish at the SOFO culinary festival held a few years ago. He contributes to current efforts promoted by NOAA and the DNER, to create an Education Program for Recreational Fishermen.
 4. **Mr. Luis M. Lagrandier**- Classification: Recreational sector. He is a recreational fisherman and a leader in the sport sector. Mr. Lagrandier is chair of the Sportfishing Association of Dorado (Municipality of Dorado) and a member of the Board of Directors (Secretary) of the Puerto Rico Recreational Fishing Association. He has promoted the importance of conserving our fisheries and other natural resources. Furthermore, he encourages compliance with fishing season closures and restricted fishing areas. He has participated in Mahi-mahi tagging programs and attended a MRIP meeting in Puerto Rico last year. He contacted the DNER expressing his interest in joining the CFMC.

As part of the consultation process to identify qualified candidates for the PR obligatory seat, DNER welcomed any interested individual, including qualified women and minority candidates. In this process we contacted the Chair of the Puerto Rico Recreational Fishing Association, who is a woman. She helped us distribute the announcement of the vacancy among the members of the Association. Unfortunately, we did not receive applications from woman interested in occupying the vacant seat.

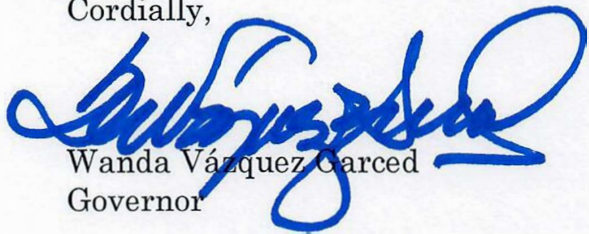
However, after announcing the vacancy and after consulting with representatives of the recreational and commercial fishing community of Puerto Rico, we are pleased with the identified candidates. All nominees are by experience or training, knowledgeable regarding the conservation, management, and recreational harvest of the fishery resources of Puerto Rico. Furthermore, the identified nominees have backgrounds and personal characteristics that would contribute to achieving diversity in Council membership. The first three nominees have collaborated with DNER with enthusiasm in conservation efforts in the past.

On the other hand, DNER has ensured that nominees understand that a Council appointment is for a three-year term and that they are willing and able, to make the commitment to fully participate in Council business and related activities for the duration of the term.

Due to his attributes, performance and support from both the recreational and commercial sectors, we have identified Mr. Marcos Hanke as our preferred nominee.

If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia I. Rivera Morales, DNER's Acting Secretary, through 787-999-2200, extensions 2126 and 2455, or by email at crivera@drna.pr.gov.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wanda Vázquez Garced', written over the printed name and title.

Wanda Vázquez Garced
Governor



GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO

Department of Natural and Environmental Resources

LIST OF CONSULTED PERSONS/ RECEIVED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VACANCY
PR Obligatory Seat - Recreational Sector on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council

Recreational-sportfishing community:

1. Puerto Rico Recreational Fishing Association- Carmen Rivera
2. Fisheries Advisory Board - Ismael Vélez (Board represents recreational and commercial fishing sectors)
3. Boquerón Nautical Club
4. Club Deportivo de Pesca (Nautical Club of the West)
5. Yatch Club of San Juan
6. Jorge Córdoba
7. Roberto Sabater
8. Israel Umpierre
9. Roberto Reyes
10. Moisés Pérez, Cangrejos Yacht Club
11. Craig Lilyestrom
12. Gabriel Rodríguez
13. Willie Cedeño
14. Helena Antoun- Fisheries Liaison
15. Luis M. Lagrandier
16. Francisco Rosario
17. Marcos Hanke
18. Ramón Santiago -President of Cataño Fishers Association (both recreational and commercial sector)
19. Efraín Maldonado
20. Daniel Suárez, West Marine
21. Efraín Nieves, Arecibo Nautical Club
22. Guillermo Torres
23. José Camuy
24. José Mendez, Arecibo Nautical Club
25. Juan Villalobos, Isla Cabra Fishing Club
26. Wilfredo López, Arecibo Nautical Club

Commercial fishing sector:

1. Vanessa Ramírez- PR member of CFMC
2. Nelson Crespo- PR DAP Chair- member of CFMC
3. Miguel Ortiz- Chair of the Federation of Fishers and leader of fishers in Guayama
4. Roberto Silva- Chair of the Congress of Fishers and leader of fishers in the East
5. Luis Román- Chair of Commercial Fishers Association in Añasco, leader of commercial fishers
6. Wilson Santiago- Coordinator of the Education Program for Commercial Fishers

