

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

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GOVERNOR

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STATE OF ALABAMA

March 2, 2020

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
Attn: Diane Daly
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Daly:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Dr. Robert Shipp of Alabama. Dr. Shipp has been a very valuable member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. I am proud of his service. I hope an Alabamian will be reappointed to his seat to continue the important work he has done over the last three years. The work of the Gulf Council is very important to the State of Alabama. Alabama has a very large charter fleet as well as a robust recreational fishery. It is imperative to the economic and conservation interests of our state that Alabama be fairly represented on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Alabama would like to nominate the following four individuals for the At-Large seat that is to be filled in 2020: Dr. Robert Shipp (Academia), Joey Dobbs, Jr. (recreational), Captain David Walker (commercial), and Captain Troy Frady (charter/headboat fisherman and recreational).

I recommend that Dr. Robert Shipp be re-appointed to the At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Dr. Robert Shipp's 20-plus years of Council experience and his unparalleled knowledge of the fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico are extremely valuable.

Dr. Bob Shipp is highly knowledgeable in conservation and management of the fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico. He has served the Gulf Council faithfully for 20 years over seven previous appointments. He was elected Chairman of the Gulf Council during his term that ended in 2014. Dr. Shipp has also served on the Gulf Council's Science and Statistical Committee. He is considered one of the foremost scientists concerning red snapper, triggerfish, and other species of primary concern to the Gulf Council and to the fishermen of the Gulf Coast states. He is very familiar with the Council process and has a vast amount of experience with the issues that are facing the Council and the fishing sectors. Dr. Shipp is the Chair Emeritus of the Department of Marine Science at the University of South Alabama. He is a former member of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board, which advises the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Governor of Alabama on conservation-related issues. He is a member of the research board of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance and was previously on the MARFIN Board and the Board of Governors of the American Ichthyologists and Herpetologists. He is the long-time judge of the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo, the

largest fishing tournament in the world, and has over 50 years of experience in the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. His knowledge and experience with the fisheries and the Council process will make him a true asset to the work of the Gulf Council. **I recommend that Dr. Robert Shipp be re-appointed to the At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.**

Joseph G. Dobbs, Jr. is the owner of Landscape Workshop, LLC. Mr. Dobbs is Chairman of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board and was a founding member of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. He is a current member of the Coastal Conservation Association-Birmingham, Alabama Chapter. Mr. Dobbs is an avid fisherman for inshore, offshore, and reef fish species. He spends the majority of his time in Coastal Alabama and has been active in the fisheries issues in our state. Mr. Dobbs has a vast knowledge of coastal fisheries and is actively involved with persons in Alabama, and other states as well, concerning coastal fisheries issues. He founded Landscape Workshop in 1986. Landscape Workshop now has four locations in Alabama and has over 300 employees. Dobbs is a board member of the Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals, the Birmingham Construction Authority, Auburn School of Horticulture, and American Subcontractors Association - Alabama Chapter, and is on the executive committee of Magic Moments, benefiting children with life-altering and life-threatening diseases. Mr. Dobbs has relationships with commercial, recreational, and charter fishermen along the Gulf Coast. He would be very open-minded and wants to work cooperatively with all sectors, the other Gulf States, and the federal government to use best management practices to ensure viability of our marine resources.

Captain David Walker is the owner and operator of the *F/V June Sue*. Captain Walker previously held an At-Large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. Captain Walker did a very good job on the Gulf Council representing the commercial sector during his tenure. He holds federal commercial permits for Gulf Reef Fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish, and Shark Incidental Catch. Walker has been a commercial fisherman for over 30 years. He is extremely knowledgeable about the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the Gulf Coast Professional Fishermen and is a former member of the Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance. He has been an active participant in the Council process. Mr. Walker has served on several advisory panels, including the Red Snapper Advisory Panel, the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, the Ad Hoc 5-Year Red Snapper Review Advisory Panel, and the Ad Hoc Commercial Reef Fish Advisory Panel.

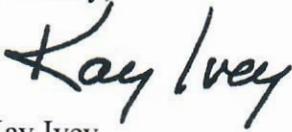
Troy Frady is a full-time federal for-hire charter fisherman on the vessel *Distraction* in Orange Beach, Alabama. He considers himself an educator, in addition to being a boat captain. He provides an experience well beyond just fishing during his trips by discussing management, conservation efforts and history of fishing. Troy has been a transportation logistics manager, bank officer, and a commercial pilot. He is also a veteran of the United States Navy. There are very few Gulf Council meetings that Troy does not attend to provide comment on current fishery management plans. He has been a member of several Council panels and committees and is very open-minded and involved in all aspects of the Council process.

The nomination process is very important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD) has met with a variety of groups before selecting the above nominated individuals. The following organizations were consulted in the process: the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Alabama Seafood Dealers, Coastal Conservation Association, Alabama Coastal Fishermen Association, Orange Beach Fishing Association, Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission, University of South Alabama Department of Marine Sciences, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance, other charter fishermen, recreational fishermen and marina operators, and other concerned and knowledgeable individuals.

In an effort to consider minority and women candidates ADCNR/MRD discussed the nomination process with various persons and organizations. No minority or women candidates provided nomination applications.

ADCNR/MRD will continue to work with organizations in Alabama to diversify the nominations for future seats on the Council and in nominations for advisory panels.

Sincerely,

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

Kay Ivey
Governor of Alabama

cc: Christopher M. Blankenship
Scott Bannon

Office of the Governor
State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



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March 10, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Enclosed, please find my nominations for the available At-Large Seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). Each candidate would be an asset to the Council; their qualifications and applications are enclosed. Consultations regarding these nominees were made with representatives from Louisiana's commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities; please see the enclosed list of individuals consulted. Female and minority candidates have also been considered.

The following are my nominees for the At-Large Seat currently held by Phillip Dyskow/FL (Recreational); the first name listed is the preferred nominee:

- Gary Peterson
- Joshua Ellender
- Damon McKnight
- William Wells
- Michael Frenette

I recommend this list as the most qualified. Your consideration of these nominees is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Jack Montoucet, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Qualifications of 2020 Nominees, Listed Alphabetically by Last Name

Joshua Ellender

- 30 years experience as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and offshore species
- Fishing guide to include inshore and offshore fishing (2008-2011)
- For-hire charter captain, inshore and offshore fishing (2012- present)
- Completed the MREP Southeast science workshop. Scheduled to complete the MREP Management section in April
- Member of the Gulf Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel
- Participant in SEDAR 70: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack stock assessment
- Board member of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Board member of the Houma Area Convention and Tourist Bureau

Michael Frenette

- Over 40 years experience as a charter guide captain
- 50 years of recreational fishing experience
- Owner of the Redfish Lodge of Louisiana in Venice, LA
- Received Top 50 Captains of the World Award Saltwater Sportsman
- Current member and former president of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Received Redfish World Series Lifetime Achievement Award
-

Damon McKnight

- 25 years experience in offshore charter fishing in federal waters for numerous species of fish
- 40 years as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and offshore species
- Previously served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (2009-2012)
- Secretary of the Venice, Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Current Member and former Board Member of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association

Gary Peterson

- Retired research associate at Louisiana State University, College of the Coast and Environment with a focus on marsh and estuarine fisheries ecology
- Numerous publications related to Gulf of Mexico fisheries
- Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology
- Master of Science in Fisheries
- 60 years as a recreational fisherman for inshore and offshore saltwater fish as well as freshwater fish
- Member, Trout Unlimited
- Member, Sierra Club
- Member, Nature Conservancy

- Member, Audubon Society
- Member, Red Stick Fly Fishers

William Wells

- 20-plus years experience in offshore charter fishing in federal waters for numerous species of fish
- 40 years as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and offshore species
- Former commercial fisherman
- 2004 graduate of the University of New Orleans, with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
- Member of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Featured in national fishing shows and as a speaker at regional fishing seminars
- Sponsored by various fishing related companies

Persons Consulted Regarding 2020 Nominations

The following persons from Louisiana's commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities were consulted regarding 2020 nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

- Bill Butler (marina owner)
- David Cresson, Executive Director, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) - Louisiana Association
- Sepp Haukebo, Environmental Defense Fund
- Dr. Rex Caffey, Director of Marine Extension, Louisiana Sea Grant
- Chris Moran (marina owner)
- Jeff Barger, Ocean Conservancy
- Senator Robert "Bret" Allain, II, District 21
- Daryl Carpenter, Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- Representative John Stefanski, District 42

2020 Statement on Effort to Consider Qualified Women and/or Minority Candidates

A high level of importance was placed on soliciting applications from and considering qualified women and/or minority candidates for nomination to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. After thorough review of potential candidates' qualifications, no woman and/or minority candidate was selected.



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 2, 2020

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 three at-large seats, which will become vacant on August 10, 2020. The three candidates should be considered for all at large-seats.

Gregory W. "Greg" Stunz, Ph.D., Port Aransas, Texas – Other Sector
Brenda G. Ballard, Kingsville, Texas – Recreational Fisherman
Elizabeth "Liz" Hewitt, San Antonio, Texas – Recreational Fisherman

Enclosed are the nomination packets for the three 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.

Gregory W. "Greg" Stunz, Ph.D. is the preferred nominee for the at-large vacancy. Dr. Stunz is the Endowed Chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health, Professor of Marine Biology, and Director of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi's Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. With over 20 years researching marine fisheries, he is well-versed with the issues facing the Gulf of Mexico. He is author of over 60 scientific papers in national and international journals dealing with fisheries issues. He was also member of the GMFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee, serves on the Texas Sea Grant Advisory Committee, and a member of the Coastal Conservation Association. He also serves on the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee.

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.

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,

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

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:pv

Enclosures



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2020

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 for the at-large seat currently held by Phil Dyskow. 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 economy. We received recommendations from numerous individuals and organizations who are deeply invested in managing our saltwater fisheries:

Patrick Murray, Chairman, Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
Laurie Stevens, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
Captain Steve Paul, Able Fisherman Charters
Pam Anderson, Captain Anderson's Marina
J.D. Dickenson, Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Bill Dozier, Board of County Commissioners of Bay County
Susan Mason Yadav, National Association of Charterboat Operators
Captain BJ Burkett, Hook'em Up Charters
Captain Mark Kelley, Kelley Girl Charters
Jack Belcher, National Ocean Policy Coalition
Captain Tom Adams, Mexico Beach Charters
Captain Benjamin Kelley, Miss Kelley Fishing Charters
Rusty Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc.
Captain Kory Freed, First Cast Charters
Ed Maccin, Southern Offshore Fisherman's Association
Charlie Phillips, Florida Guides Association
Walter Akins, Quality Analytical Laboratories

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Buddy Wilkes, Shipwreck Island Waterpark
Ken Daniels, Southern Offshore Fisherman's Association
Jerry Andrews, The Pensacola Charter Boat Association
Glenn Hughes, American Sportfishing Association
Chris Edmonston, BoatUS Foundation
Jeff Angers, Center for Sportfishing Policy
Jason Schratwieser, International Game Fish Association
Frank Hugelmeier, National Marine Manufacturers Association
Gary Jarvis, Charter Fisherman's Association
Wilson Hubbard, Hubbard's Marina
Ben Speciale, Yamaha US Marine Business Unit
Billy Archer, Seminole Wind Fishing Charters

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by Phillip Dyskow. These nominees are well qualified for their sector and would make excellent candidates for appointment to the Council. I am providing my nominations in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

I am recommending Phillip Dyskow as the preferred choice for reappointment to the at-large seat on the Council. He is the former President of Yamaha Marine Group and a life-long recreational angler with experience in both fresh and salt water. Throughout his adult life he developed a passion for fishing the Gulf of Mexico, both inshore and offshore. Over the past decade he has focused his fishing efforts in the 10,000 Islands area of Southwest Florida operating out of his waterfront home on Marco Island, Florida. Mr. Dyskow is active in Marine Conservation and is a Legacy Member and a Life Member of the Coastal Conservation Association. Mr. Dyskow represents the recreational sector.

My second recommendation is Captain Robert Zales, II. He is the owner of Bob Zales Charters in Panama City, Florida, which he has operated since 1991. He has been involved in every aspect of the for-hire charter and commercial fishing business for over 54 years. He has been involved in organizing local and national charter boat associations and currently serve as President of the Panama City Boatmen Association and served as President (1999 -2020) of the National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO) and the leading National Association representing the recreational charter boat industry. Captain Zales represents the recreational sector.

My third recommendation is Gary Dean Jennings II. He is the Director of the American Sportfishing Associations' Keep Florida Fishing initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to make sure that Floridians and those visiting have clean waters, abundant fisheries and access to both. He is currently a member of the FWC Aquatic Plant Management Technical Assistance Group. Prior employment includes working as: the general manager for Hell's Bay Boatworks,

Mr. Chris Oliver
May 13, 2020
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the publisher of Fly Fishing in Salt waters magazine, regional director for the Coastal Conservation Association Florida, a manager for both Hilton Hotels Corporation and The Walt Disney World Resorts, worked at a dive shop/ dive boat business and at a marine aquarium. Mr. Jennings represents the recreational sector.

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. Phillip Dyskow (Recreational)
2. Captain Robert Zales, II (Recreational)
3. Gary Jennings (Recreational)

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, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/sg