March 7, 2018

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) currently held by Mr. Dale Diaz. 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 at-large seat to be filled August 10, 2018: Dale Diaz, Vernon Asper and Claude “Rusty” Pittman.

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.

Mr. Diaz is currently a valuable at-large member of the Gulf Council. Based on qualifications and a great job performance, I highly recommend that Mr. Diaz be reappointed to continue his service on the Gulf Council. Mr. Dale A. Diaz has over 25 years of experience in fisheries management, marine law enforcement and additional experience in the banking and auditing industry.

Mr. J. Read Hendon, Ph.D. has professional experience as a fishery biologist for over 20 years and currently serves interim Assistant Director for the University of Southern-Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory and as Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. He has served on the Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum advisory panels of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.
Mr. Vernon Asper serves as a professor for the past 20 years at the University of Southern Mississippi. Mr. Asper has a Ph. D. in Oceanography from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole, Massachusetts; a Master of Science from the University of Hawaii, and a B.A. from Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania. Served on the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources for over 20 years.

Mr. Claude F. Pittman is currently retired from the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, also served at the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks after almost 30 years in marine management and marine law enforcement. Mr. Pittman served his country as a Lance Corporal in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1973-76. Mr. Pittman has actively attended and participated in state and federal management meetings and draws upon decades of experience.

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
March 15, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a list of Mississippi candidates who would serve as excellent representatives on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council in the at-large seat currently held by Ed Swindell of Louisiana. Each candidate below would be an asset to the Council and their qualifications are highlighted. Consultations were made with representatives from the commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities in Mississippi regarding these nominees.

**Phil Faulkner** – Founder of NauticStar Boat Company in Amory, Mississippi, Mr. Faulkner has more than 40 years of boat industry experience and is a lifelong saltwater angler, both inshore and offshore. NauticStar produces family boats ranging from 18 feet to 28 feet in length – with at least 85 percent of these boats built for recreational fishing. Though he recently retired, he was invited to testify before the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee in support of Sen. Roger Wicker’s Modern Fish Act and the economic impact of marine recreational fishing and boating. Mr. Faulkner is well-versed on both recreational angling in general, as well as the impact of recreational fishing on Mississippi and the Gulf Coast economy.

**J. Read Hendon, Ph.D.** – Dr. Hendon is Associate Director of Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, School of Ocean Science and Technology, under the University of Southern Mississippi. His involvement in marine resource management is respected throughout the region. His publication list is extensive, and he has openly shared his research with community groups. As a marine scientist/biologist, he would bring a balanced approach to deliberations and decision-making at the Gulf Council.

**Ralph Humphrey** – For the last several years, Mr. Humphrey has served as the president of the Mississippi Gulf Fishing Banks, which is a non-profit foundation dedicated to creating fishing reefs and habitat for the public to use throughout the Mississippi Gulf Coast. He has shown strong leadership and relationship building skills throughout the years and understands the complexity of our recreational and commercial fisheries. His dedication, reliability and knowledge would be an asset to the Council.
I have provided my nominations in order of preference for this seat and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

1. Phil Faulkner

2. J. Read Hendon, Ph.D

3. Ralph Humphrey

Thank you for your attention to these nominations. My office is available to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Phil Bryant
Governor
March 14, 2018

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Attention: Hannah Hafey

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Enclosed, please find my nominations for Louisiana’s available Obligatory Seat and the two 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 were made with representatives from the commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities in Louisiana regarding these nominees; please see the enclosed list of individuals consulted. Female and minority candidates have also been considered.

The following are my nominees for the Obligatory Seat currently held by Campo Matens/LA (Recreational); the first name listed is the preferred nominee:
- Sen. Wendell (Jay) Luneau
- Dr. Kenneth Roberts
- Damon McKnight
- Jonathan (JD) Dugas

The following are my nominees for the At-Large Seat currently held by Edward Swindell, Jr./LA (Commercial); the first name listed is the preferred nominee:
- Edward Swindell, Jr.
- Ryan Prewitt
- Haley Bittermann

The following are my nominees for the At-Large Seat currently held by Dale Diaz/MS (Other); the first name listed is the preferred nominee:
- Rep. Jerome Zeringue
- Gary Peterson
- Damon McKnight
All of the above individuals are extremely qualified. Your consideration of Louisiana's nominees is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards
Governor

Enclosures

cc: Jack Montoucet, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Qualifications of 2018 Nominees, Listed Alphabetically

Haley Bittermann
- 25 years as a chef for Ralph Brennan Restaurant Group in New Orleans, Louisiana (currently the Corporate Executive Chef and Director of Operations)
- 25 years as a recreational fisherman for inshore Gulf of Mexico species
- Member, Share the Gulf
- Personal and professional interest in sustainable seafood and fisheries management; previously testified at both Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meetings and congressional subcommittee hearings on behalf of the National and Louisiana Restaurant Associations
- Represented the Louisiana State Office of Tourism at regional, national, and international media events

Jonathan (JD) Dugas
- 30 years as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico species
- Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angler Advisory Panel
- State Board Member, Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana

Sen. Wendell (Jay) Luneau
- Louisiana State Senator serving on the Senate Natural Resources Committee
- Attorney at Law, Luneau and Beck
- Part-owner, freshwater charter fishing company in Mexico
- 50 years as a recreational fisherman for both freshwater and saltwater species
- Member, Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana

Damon McKnight
- 25 years experience in offshore charter fishing in federal waters for numerous species of fish
- 40 years as a recreational fishermen for both inshore and offshore species
- Previously served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council from 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

Ryan Prewitt
• Award-winning chef and owner at Peche Seafood Grill in New Orleans, Louisiana
• Participant in numerous policy, sustainable seafood, and fisheries management workshops including the James Beard Foundation’s Chefs Boot Camp for Policy and Change and Sustainable Seafood Summit, Dauphin Island Sea Lab’s Solving for Seafood Sustainability in the Gulf, Gulf of Mexico Shellfish Initiative Stakeholder Workshop, and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Highly Migratory Species Stakeholder Workshop
• Member, Audubon Nature Institute’s Gulf United for Lasting Fisheries (GULF) Chef Council
• Member, Gulf Restoration Network’s Gulf Fish Forever
• Member, Share the Gulf
• Member, Oyster South
• Member, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
• 15-plus years as a recreational fishermen for both inshore and offshore species

Dr. Kenneth Roberts
• 50-year career in both extension service and research in fisheries economics, seafood processing and marketing, wetlands valuation, and the economics of pond and recirculating aquaculture
• 65 years as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and freshwater species
• Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council’s Standing Scientific and Statistical Committee
• Former Voting Member (Vice Chairman and Chairman), Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
• Former Member, Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee
• Retired, award-winning professor and Associate Vice Chancellor, Louisiana State University
• Ph.D. in Natural Resource Economics
• Board of Directors, Louisiana State University Leadership Development Program
• Coauthored the “Commercial and Recreational Fisheries of the Gulf of Mexico” chapter of Habitats and Biota of the Gulf of Mexico before the Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Horizon Spill

Edward Swindell, Jr.
• Voting Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
• 39-year career in menhaden industry as engineer and manager; retired from Daybrook Fisheries, Inc. in 2007 as Vice President of Production, following rebuild effort after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita
• Current owner and fish processing consultant, Marine Process Services, LLC
• Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering, Licensed Professional Engineer
- Member, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel
- Former Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Coastal Migratory Pelagics and Red Drum Advisory Panels
- Former Commissioner, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission
- Member, Coastal Conservation Association and longtime coastal and offshore recreational fisherman

Rep. Jerome Zeringue
- Louisiana State Representative, representing District 52, which includes two coastal parishes, and serving on the House Natural Resources Committee
- Principal of an environmental consulting company focused on projects within and along the Gulf coast
- Master of Science in Fisheries Science
- Bachelor of Science in Zoology
- Coursework toward a doctorate in water resource management
- 50 years experience as a recreational fishermen for fresh and saltwater species
- Currently or previously active with the following organizations:
  - Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority
  - Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
  - Gulf of Mexico Program
  - Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
  - Restore or Retreat
  - The Nature Conservancy
  - The Barataria Terrebonne National Estuary Program
  - Louisiana Oyster Task Force
  - The Gulf Oyster Industry Council
  - The Morganza to the Gulf Action Coalition
  - Louisiana Flood Risk Coalition
  - The South Central Industrial Association
  - Houma Terrebonne Chamber of Commerce
  - Federation of Fly Fishers
  - Red Stick Fly Fishers
  - Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana
  - Terrebonne Sportsman League
Persons Consulted Regarding 2018 Nominations

The following persons from Louisiana’s commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities were consulted regarding 2018 nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

- Hunter Caballero (for-hire)
- Bill Butler (marina owner)
- David Cresson, Executive Director, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) - Louisiana
- Stan Harris, President and CEO, Louisiana Restaurant Association
- Robert Jones, Environmental Defense Fund
- Dr. Rex Caffey, Director of Marine Extension, Louisiana Sea Grant
- Brad Miller, Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Ad Hoc Private Recreational Advisory Panel
2018 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, one woman candidate was selected.
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Attn: Brian Fredieu

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the obligatory Alabama seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Captain Johnny Greene of Alabama. Captain Greene has been a very valuable member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. I am proud of his service, and I am thankful for the diligent work he has done over the last nine years. Unfortunately, Captain Greene cannot be reappointed due to term limits. The work of the Gulf Council is very important to the State of Alabama. Alabama has a very small coastline, but we consistently land approximately 40% of the red snapper and gray triggerfish that are caught recreationally in the Gulf of Mexico. 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 Alabama obligatory seat that is to be filled in 2018: Joseph Dobbs, Jr. (recreational), Captain Troy Frady (charter), Mrs. Susan Boggs (charter/head boat and recreational), and Edwin Lambeth (recreational). All four of these individuals are highly qualified in their respective fields and would be an asset to the Gulf Council. After careful consideration of all the nominees, I recommend that Joseph Dobbs be appointed to the Alabama obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Joseph G. Dobbs, Jr., is the owner of Landscape Workshop, LLC. Mr. Dobbs is the 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. Joey is an avid fisherman for inshore, offshore and reef fish species. He spends most of his time in Coastal Alabama and has been active in the fisheries and outdoor 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 1984. Landscape Workshop now has four locations in Alabama and has over 300 employees. Mr. 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. He is also a member of the Alabama Wildlife Federation. 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. He is currently using the skill of working with all sectors during his tenure as chairman of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board.

Susan Boggs, along with her husband, Randy, owns and operates the San Roc Cay Marina and Reel Surprise Dock Store in Orange Beach, Alabama. She sells fuel, ice, and bait to recreational, for-hire and commercial fishermen from the dock store and manages the dockage of recreational and charter vessels at the San Roc Cay Marina. Mrs. Boggs has been involved in the recreational fishery for many years and interacts with charter and recreational fishermen daily. She is also the Chief Operating Officer of B and D Maritime, Inc., and books fishing trips for 21 for-hire vessels. B and D Maritime, Inc., owns and operates three for-hire vessels, “Reel Surprise,” “Gulf Winds II,” and “Wishbone.” Mrs. Boggs is an active participant in the Gulf Council process. She has great insight into the charter, head boat and recreational fisheries sectors. Mrs. Boggs and her husband have been innovators in fisheries management ideas that have shown real promise to improve access to fisheries while maintaining sustainable management. She is a board member of the Alabama Gulf Coast Reef and Restoration Foundation, Charter Fishermen’s Association, Gulf Shores/Orange Beach Tourism, and the Central Gulf Marine Trades Association. Mrs. Boggs attends most Gulf Council meetings and is very active in charter and head boat discussions. Included with her nomination application are several letters of recommendation from various organizations.

Troy Conrad Frady is a self-employed charter fisherman. He is the owner-operator of the charter vessel “Distraction.” He has been very active in attending Gulf Council meetings. Mr. Frady is currently a member of the Recreational Fisheries Working Group that advises the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. He also participates in the activities of the Marine Recreational Education Program. He is a board member of the Orange Beach Fishing Association. Frady is a member of the Limited Access Privilege Program Advisory Panel, the Ad Hoc Charter for Hire Red Snapper Panel, chairman of the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, member of the Data Collection Advisory Panel, and he represents the charter industry on the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission. He had many years of experience in the business and corporate sectors before entering the charter business. He has a B.A. in Communications from the University of Alabama. Mr. Frady is also a U.S. Navy veteran.

Edwin Lambeth is an attorney in the Mobile, Alabama, area. Mr. Lambeth is an active member in the Coastal Conservation Association and served as chairman of the CCA
National Government Relations and Gulf Fisheries Committee. Edwin is currently a member of the Reef Fish Limited Access Advisory Panel. He is also a member of Trout Unlimited, the Alabama Rivers Alliance, Mobile Baykeepers Alliance, and the Alabama Wildlife Federation. Mr. Lambeth is an avid recreational fisherman and worked on charter boats in Orange Beach during the summers.

The nomination process is very important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) 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, Charter Fishermen’s 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 discussed the nomination process with various persons and organizations. One female candidate provided a nomination application, and it is included. ADCNR 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,

Kay Ivey
Governor

cc: Mr. Chris Blankenship, DCNR Commissioner
    Mr. Steve Pelham, Chief of Staff
    Mr. Jon Bargainer, Deputy Chief of Staff
March 15, 2018

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. 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, Costal Conservations Association
- Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
- Captain Jim Green, Destin Charter Boat Association
- Eric Brazer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholder’s Association
- Glen Brooks, The Gulf Fisherman’s Associations
- Kelli Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
- Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Fisherman’s Association
- Bob Gill, former Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Member
- Shane Cantrell, Charter Fisherman’s Association
- Jimmy Hull, Southeastern Fisheries Association
- Tony Grogan, owner of Spearboard.com
- Jerry Sansom, Organized Fisherman of Florida

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by Mr. Juan Sanchez. 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.

I am recommending Mr. Juan Sanchez as the preferred choice for reappointment to the At-Large seat on the Council. He is the vice president of Blaylock Oil Company and currently a member on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. In addition, Mr. Sanchez has also served on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the Shell Key West Challenge Board of Directors. His proven
council involvement matched with over thirty years of recreational fishing experience will continue to benefit the council. Mr. Sanchez is dedicated to sustainably managing the fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico in a way that will result in the greatest economic benefits and allow for honest and equitable access.

My second recommendation is Mr. Edward Walker. He is a self-employed commercial and charter fisherman in Pasco County, Florida with twenty to thirty-five years of experience in each of recreational, commercial, and charter fishing. Mr. Walker is also a member of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Advisory Panel, the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Advisory Panel, and the Red Snapper For-Hire Advisory Panel. Through his engagement with the industry, he has gained a profound amount of knowledge about the health and management of fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Walker hopes to implement management strategies that will allow for sustainable use of our resources.

My third recommendation is Mr. Robert Spaeth. He is the executive director of the Southern Offshore Fishing Association and the previous owner of Madeira Beach Seafood for over twenty years. Mr. Spaeth has also served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Reef Fishery Advisory Panel and has over forty years in the commercial and recreational fishing industry. Mr. Spaeth’s years of involvement have allowed him to be committed to sustainability of the industry for our future generations.

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

1. Mr. Juan Sanchez  
2. Mr. Edward Walker  
3. Mr. Robert Spaeth

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 valuable saltwater fishery resources. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott  
Governor

RS/kb