



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 12, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for your agency's letter dated January 15, 2020, requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce in making at-large appointments to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission believes North Carolina is well represented on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council by our current at-large appointee, Sara Winslow. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission agreed to recommend that nominees not be submitted for Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council at-large appointments. I concur with their recommendation and am not submitting a slate of nominees for 2020 at-large appointments to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for appointments to the Mid- Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper

RAC/hg

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



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March 12, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for your agency's letter dated January 15, 2020 requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-260 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission ("Commission") with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the Governor for Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The commission provided the names of Mr. Francis "Dewey" Hemilright, Mr. Robert Ruhle, and Mr. Brent Fulcher for my consideration as nominees for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the Commission's recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. The nominees are presented without order or preference.

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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Mr. Francis "Dewey" Hemilright (Commercial). Mr. Hemilright is the owner/operator of a 42-ft. commercial fishing vessel with his homeport in Wanchese, North Carolina. He has been commercial fishing for 30 years off the East Coast, from New York to Florida, and has a wide range of fisheries experience. He has served on advisory panels for Highly Migratory Species (National Marine Fisheries Service), Dolphin-Wahoo (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council) and as Chairman of the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Compliance Advisory Panel. Mr. Hemilright holds permits and

fishes for tuna, swordfish, dolphin-wahoo, bluefish, spiny dogfish, smooth dogfish, Atlantic croaker, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and large coastal sharks. These species are managed by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and the Highly Migratory Species Division of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Mr. Hemilright is currently completing his second full term on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and has been involved in the following council committees: Protected Resources, Law Enforcement, Highly Migratory Species, Spiny Dogfish, Demersal and Tilefish. He also serves as the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's liaison to South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Highly Migratory Species Division. He has also participated in collaborative research and monitoring on a number of species, including spiny and smooth dogfish, and most recently dusky sharks and blueline tilefish. He is a member of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, The Bluewater Fishermen's Association and also serves on the Board of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA). When not out at sea, Mr. Hemilright is spreading awareness about the importance of the fishing industry in North Carolina. His presentation summarizes a day in the life of a commercial fisherman, and challenges students to think about all the logistics that are involved with operating a fishing vessel for a living. Mr. Hemilright expanded his outreach program by teaming up with the North Carolina Coastal Federation, sharing his lesson with over 400 middle school students living on the coast of North Carolina.

Mr. Robert Ruhle (Commercial). Mr. Ruhle owns and operates the F/V DARANA R along with his father James Ruhle, who served three consecutive terms as North Carolina's Obligatory Member on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He is from Wanchese, NC and has been a commercial fisherman for over 25 years. He participates in numerous fisheries managed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission including Illex squid, longfin squid, Atlantic mackerel, Atlantic herring, Atlantic croaker and butterfish. He also participates in the summer flounder, black sea bass, and scup fisheries, landing in North Carolina and Virginia. Mr. Ruhle serves as an advisor on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass, River Herring and Shad, and Northeast Trawl Advisory Panels. He also served on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Ecosystem and Ocean Planning and Atlantic Sturgeon Advisory Panels. Robert has participated in all three Marine Resources Education Program (MREP) modules and has over 20 years of experience in cooperative research. He has worked on projects ranging from gear selectivity to bycatch reduction with academic partners from the University of Rhode Island (URI), Cornell University, Rutgers University, NOAA Fisheries, and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS). He has been a participant in the NOAA Fisheries Study Fleet program since 2008. Mr. Ruhle is also a key participant in the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program (NEAMAP) trawl survey, which is conducted on his fishing vessel.

Mr. Brent Fulcher. Mr. Fulcher is a third generation family member with over 30 years in the seafood industry. He is vertically integrated in the seafood industry with harvesting, purchasing, packing, processing and marketing, through his ownership in two seafood processing facilities, B&J Seafood in New Bern and Beaufort Inlet Seafood in Beaufort. Mr. Fulcher's businesses support and purchase from over 200 independent fishermen up and down the East Coast in addition to the ten vessels that he presently owns. Mr. Fulcher's

Mr. Chris Oliver
March 12, 2020
Page 3

vessels hold state and federal fishing permits for shrimp, summer flounder, Atlantic sea scallops, monkfish, scup, black sea bass and others. B&J Seafood and Beaufort Inlet Seafood also pack, process, and market seafood from state and federally permitted vessels and fishermen from all over the United States. Mr. Fulcher is currently Chairman of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, a Board Member on the Southern Shrimp Alliance for the state of North Carolina, a member of the Blue Water Fishermen's Association, a North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee member, and has previously been a member of the Protected Species Advisory Committee for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. Mr. Fulcher also serves on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel as a North Carolina commercial industry representative.

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

Sincerely,



Roy Cooper

Enclosures

RAC/hg

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

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR.
GOVERNOR

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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

March 9, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Thank you for the notice announcing the Maryland Obligatory seat and the At-large seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Management Council that will become available on Aug. 10, 2020. The State of Maryland recommends the following qualified nominees listed in order of preference:

1. Mr. Earl "Sonny" Gwin, Commercial Sector
2. Mr. James Wommack, Recreational Sector
3. Mr. Larry "Boo" Powley, Commercial Sector

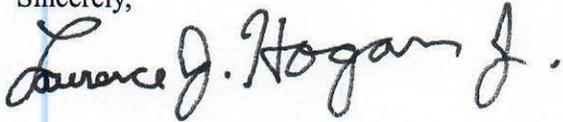
The provided nominees share many years of experience with conservation, management and commercial and recreational fisheries in the Mid-Atlantic region. They are also committed to promoting the long-term viability and sustainability of our natural resources and ensuring that our conservation goals are met.

The department has met all of the National Marine Fisheries Service criteria regarding solicitation for a broad spectrum of applications. Outreach included an announcement to the Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission and Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission and an announcement to the departments email distribution lists for Check Stations, Coastal Commercial Fisheries, Coastal Recreational Fisheries, Commercial Fisheries, HMS- Permits-2019 and Tidal Recreational Fishing and Crabbing (12,400 recipients). Our advisory group members and email recipients represent the broad spectrum of conservation, commercial, and recreational interest groups in Maryland, which includes minorities and women.

In that, the State of Maryland is represented on the Council by Mike Luisi (Council Chairman and designated state official), the Maryland Obligatory appointed member (currently Earl "Sonny" Gwin) and Scott Lenox (At-Large seat), we are not offering any qualified nominees for the At-large seat vacancy currently held by Laurie Nolan (NY).

If you have any questions during your review of the enclosed applications, please feel free to contact William Anderson, Assistant Secretary of Aquatic Resources, Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Anderson can be reached by phone at (410) 260-8108 or via e-mail at bill.anderson@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr." with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
P.O. Box 001
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service

March 9, 2020

Attn: Diane Daly

Dear Ms. Daly:

Enclosed please find the completed nomination materials for the pending vacancy of an at-large seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC). The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council, the Garden State Seafood Association, numerous commercial fishing ports and recreational fishing groups, and others throughout the State were solicited for nominations. The solicitation included an explicit request to identify qualified women and minority candidates. The candidates below belong to, or are affiliated with, some of the organizations solicited for nominations, and each has been active in state and/or federal level fishery management issues. They are all highly respected within the fishing community.

At-Large Seat:

- Paul Eidman – Mr. Eidman is licensed charter fishing boat captain who has been active in marine fishery issues as a consultation to environmental non-governmental organizations. Mr. Eidman is an avid recreational fisherman who also serves as a board member of the Jersey Coast Anglers Association, a recreational fishing organization.
- John Tiedeman – Mr. Tiedeman currently serves as Assistant Dean at Monmouth University's School of Science, and is the university's Director of Marine and Environmental Biology and Policy Programs. Mr. Tiedeman is a marine scientist who has spent his career helping the public understand complex marine and environmental issues.
- Jeff Kaelin – Mr. Kaelin currently works as Director of Sustainability and Government Relations for Lund's Fisheries, Inc, based in Cape May, New Jersey. Mr. Kaelin has extensive experience in the commercial fishing sector. He has also served as Representative in the Maine House of Representatives, and previously serves as a member of the Mis-Atlantic Fishery Management Council from 2013 to 2016.



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 001

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

PHILIP D. MURPHY

Governor

All three candidates listed above are highly regarded by their peers, and would be excellent representatives to MAFMC.

Thank you for your consideration of my nominees for the at-large seat on the MAFMC. If you have any questions, please contact Tim Hillmann, at (609) 777-2203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Phil Murphy".

Philip D. Murphy
Governor



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

March 11, 2020

THE GOVERNOR

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

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following candidates for Pennsylvania's obligatory seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAMFC): John Mahn, Jr., Michelle Duval, and Harvey Yenkinson.

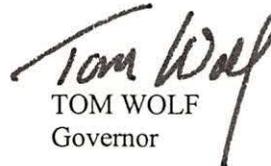
Mr. Mahn is an ardent advocate for Pennsylvania's fishing and boating opportunities and offers a unique Pennsylvanian perspective. In addition to a thirty-plus-year career in the steel industry, he holds a United States Coast Guard Masters License and pilots crafts of all sizes on the waterways of western Pennsylvania. His optimism and eagerness to contribute underscores his longstanding dedication to public service. I highly recommend that Mr. Mahn be appointed to represent Pennsylvania.

Dr. Duval is well-acquainted with the work of MAFMC, having professionally consulted on a recent council strategic plan. Her education in biology and marine ecology, her career and public service experience in fisheries management, and her recreational fishing are well-suited to the council's mission. Dr. Yenkinson's career in veterinary medicine, coupled with an interest in fisheries management and service on one of MAFMC's advisory panels, would serve the council well.

The Governor's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (OIA) handles appointments to boards and commissions. In seeking candidates, OIA consulted with Cindy Adams Dunn, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and with Robb Miller, Governor's Advisor for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation. OIA also consulted with Jalila Parker, Executive Director of the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs. Pennsylvania's lack of ocean coastline compels our priorities to recreational fishing and ecology and conservation efforts over commercial.

Thank you for your dedication to preserving our fisheries and their environments. Should you have questions, please contact the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at 717-787-2500.

Sincerely,


TOM WOLF
Governor



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

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

ATTN: Diane Daly

Dear Mr. Oliver:

I am writing to submit New York State's recommended candidates to be considered for appointment to fill the "Obligatory" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) which is currently held by Mr. Steven Heins, who is completing his first term on MAFMC, but has decided not to seek reappointment to an additional term. I am also submitting candidates for the "At-large" seat which is currently held by Ms. Laurie Nolan.

As in previous years, the process we used to identify candidates included discussions with leaders of commercial and recreational fishing organizations in New York and with individuals who have attended and provided input at management meetings, including the New York Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) and public meetings on individual Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). This collective process resulted in the consideration of several candidates. Nomination kits for the qualified candidates identified below are included with this correspondence.

Obligatory Seat Recommendations

I am delighted to nominate Mr. Paul Risi as an outstanding candidate for New York's Obligatory seat. Mr. Risi is a licensed Captain who has operated party and charter vessels from both the north and south shores of Long Island and New York City. Given his excellent understanding of federal marine fisheries management processes, I am confident that Mr. Risi will contribute valuably to MAFMC's discussions.

Two additional candidates merit consideration for the Obligatory seat, Mr. Charles Witek and Mr. Carl Lobue. Both have significant experience on recreational fishing issues and have served on MAFMC in the past.

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The following, in order of preference, are New York State's 2020 nominees for the "Obligatory" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Paul Risi – For seven years, Mr. Risi served as a recreational fishing member of MRAC. In this position, Mr. Risi gained an understanding of the state and federal marine fisheries management process. Although, as a licensed charter boat captain, Mr. Risi primarily represents recreational interests, he also has experience as a commercial fisherman. This understanding helps him to effectively balance commercial and recreational interests, not simply advocate for one side.

Charles Witek – Mr. Witek's experience is extensive, including MRAC, Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission Advisory Panels and MAFMC. He also is a former Coastal Conservation Association NY Chapter Chairman and has served on the NOAA Fisheries/ICCAT Advisory Committee as well as being an outdoor writer. Mr. Witek is a strong supporter of conservation priorities.

Carl Lobue – Mr. Lobue has been involved with marine fisheries both from a regulatory perspective with his thirteen years at NYSDEC Marine Resources and from conservation through his fifteen years with the Nature Conservancy. Although he does not have a lot of experience with direct decisions on marine fisheries management, he has been a strong advocate for ecosystem management approaches; the wave of the future. Mr. Lobue is a strong supporter of conservation priorities.

At-large Seat Recommendations

I am pleased to recommend Mr. Danny Farnham for appointment to the "At-large" seat. With 40 years of experience as a New York Commercial Fisherman, including experience as both a harvester and buyer for several commercial species and gears, Mr. Farnham is well qualified for this position.

In addition to Mr. Farnham, I am submitting the names of two other candidates who are worthy of your consideration. These candidates are Brian Culhane and Bonnie Brady, both of whom have the requisite expertise on fishery management issues.

The following, in order of preference, are New York State's 2020 nominees for the "At-large" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Danny Farnham – Captain Farnham is a partner in the ownership and operation of three commercial fishing vessels; Blue Waters Fisheries Inc. and vessel F/V Megan Marie; Offshore Fishery Inc and vessel F/V Kimberly and Gabby G Fisheries Inc. and vessel F/V Gabby G. In addition, his service on advisory panels for both the MAFMC and the New England Fisheries Management Council, as well as his membership on several New York commercial fishing associations, exemplifies Mr. Farnham's depth of knowledge on marine fisheries issues. He would be an asset to the MAFMC.

Brian Culhane – During his 26 years of service for the NY State Senate, Mr. Culhane has worked with Federal, State and local partners to promote the sustainable management of natural resources. From 1995-2013, Mr. Culhane served as the proxy for New York State Senate Majority Members on. He also has served as chairman of the lobster species Board and has represented the State Senate on ASMFC committees. Mr. Culhane was a New York representative at many joint MAFMC/ASMFC meetings, giving him an understanding of the workings of MAFMC and overall marine fisheries management issues.

Bonnie Brady – Ms. Brady has served as the Executive Director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association for 20 years representing primarily larger commercial fishermen in New York. Thus, her experience in working with New York's commercial fishermen is extensive.

I highly recommend Paul Risi and Danny Farnham and respectfully request your consideration of their appointment to the "Obligatory" and "At-large" seats on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,




ANDREW M. CUOMO

Dated: 5/15/2020

Enclosures