



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

March 4, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your request for nominations to fill upcoming at-large vacancies on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. As noted in the January 14, 2020 request, these vacancies will be created by the expiration of the terms of David Whitaker of South Carolina and Chester Brewer of Florida.

The four member states on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council honor an ongoing understanding that each state will refrain from nominating candidates for the at-large positions currently held by members from other states. The resulting balance has well served the Council process and regional fisheries management for over 40 years.

Recognizing that Mr. Whitaker and Mr. Brewer hold the South Carolina and Florida at-large seats, respectively, I shall not submit nominations for these seats. In formulating your final recommendations to Secretary of Commerce, I encourage you to consider the significant accomplishments of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, as well as fully appreciate the fundamental role that balanced state membership has played in these successes.

Sincerely,

Brian P. Kemp

cc: The Honorable Ron DeSantis, Governor, State of Florida
The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor, State of North Carolina
The Honorable Henry McMaster, Governor, State of South Carolina



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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission believes North Carolina is well represented on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council by our current at-large appointee, Anna Beckwith. The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission agreed to recommend that nominees not be submitted for South 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for appointments to the South 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



HENRY MCMASTER
GOVERNOR

March 2, 2020

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

Please find enclosed completed applications from three qualified individuals who I am very pleased to nominate for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council At-large seat currently held by David Whitaker of South Carolina. This seat is scheduled to become vacant on August 10, 2020.

Based on their training, experience, knowledge and occupational background each of these applicants meets the requirements listed in Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Specific qualifications of each include:

- David Whitaker (Recreational Sector) – MS, Marine Biology; 41 years of experience as a fisheries biologist, researcher and resource manager with the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR); former Director, Office of Fisheries Management, and Assistant Deputy Director, Marine Resources Division, SCDNR; extensive, past and recent experience working with the SAFMC, including currently serving as one of three Council Members from SC; extensive knowledge of and experience in management of state and federal fisheries in SC and the Southeastern US; over 50 years of participation in recreational fishing activities as a private angler.
- Kerry Marhefka (Commercial Sector) – BS, Marine Biology; 10 years of experience as a fisheries biologist on staff with the SAFMC; over 12 years of experience in the direct operation of a successful multi-faceted family-run commercial fishing business, involving vessel ownership, fishing, wholesale and retail activities; over 20 years of experience working for and with the SAFMC, including current service as an active member of the Council's Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel; tireless spokesperson and advocate for the commercial fishing industry in South Carolina and the Southeastern US.

- Paula Keener (“Other” Sector) – MS, Marine Biology; 10 years of experience as a marine fisheries biologist, researcher and marine education specialist with the SCDNR; over 20 years of work experience in a wide variety of both private sector and government run (NOAA) ocean, marine science and natural resources-related education, outreach, research, policy-development, partnership–building, leadership and management related activities; currently serving on the SAFMC’s Information and Education Advisory Panel; founder and owner of a privately run company promoting coastal and ocean science, research, exploration and ocean literacy.

The individuals nominated were selected after extensive consultation with representatives of South Carolina’s recreational and commercial fishing communities as well as the following fishery and natural resource-focused organizations:

- South Carolina Coastal Conservation Association
- South Carolina Coastal Fishing Guide Association
- Beaufort Sportfishing and Diving Club
- Hilton Head Island Sportfishing Club
- South Carolina Council for Sustainable Fishing
- South Carolina Seafood Alliance
- PEW Charitable Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- South Carolina Coastal Conservation League
- South Carolina Wildlife Federation

In accordance with guidance provided in the Governor’s Guidance Kit for Nominations to Regional Fishery Management Councils, qualified women/and or minority candidates were considered, and two women candidates are being nominated. All nominees have undergone initial background reviews with no issues detected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit the names of these three fine candidates as nominees for the upcoming vacant At-large seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. If you have any questions or require any other information necessary in the consideration of this nomination package please do not hesitate to contact my staff.

Yours very truly,



Henry McMaster

HM/mb/kq

Cc: Mel Bell, Director, Office of Fisheries Management, SCDNR, Marine Resources Division



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This letter is in response to your request for nominations to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, for the at-large seat held by Chester Brewer. My office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests and these discussions highlighted the importance of saltwater fishing that supports 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:

J.D. Dickenson, Chairman of the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Kellie Ralston, Southeastern Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association
Jimmy Hull, Hulls Seafood Market and Restaurant
Tom Twyford, Jr., West Palm Beach Fishing Club
Rusty Hudson, Owner of Directed Sustainable Fisheries Association
Sherrylanne McCoy, Owner of Cape Canaveral Shrimp Co.
Laurie Stevens, Executive Director, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Holly Binns, Project Director for U.S. Oceans, PEW Charitable Trusts

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by William "Chester" Brewer. 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 **William "Chester" Brewer** as the preferred choice for reappointment to the At-large seat on the Council. Previously, he served ten years as the Recreational Fisheries Advisor to the United States Delegation to the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). He also served as a board member on the National Executive Board for the Coastal Conservation Association. He has practiced civil trial litigation in Palm Beach County for 40 years, having earned his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and attended law school at the University of Mississippi. Mr. Brewer represents the recreational sector.

Mr. Chris Oliver
May 13, 2020
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My second recommendation is Gerald "Brock" Pecknold. He is the owner of international sales company, GBPecknold, Inc. Additionally, he works for Seaview Windows which specializes in quality, energy efficient windows and doors that meet strict hurricane codes. He is a life member and vice president of the Broward County Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). He is also head of an oyster bed restoration project in Broward County. He is an avid recreational fisherman and certified open water diver. Mr. Pecknold represents the recreational sector.

My third recommendation is Mark Carter. Since 1982, he has been vice president of engineering and chief scientist at Exxelia Dearborn, Inc. He is a life member and chair emeritus of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Florida. He served as the recreational fishing representative of Florida's Ocean and Coastal Council as well as the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Advisory Panel. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Central Florida. Mr. Carter represents the recreational and "other" sector.

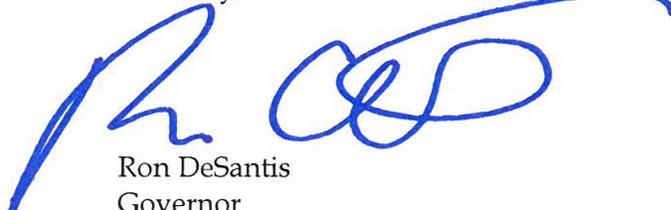
The State of Florida attempted to solicit applications from women and minorities, however neither applied for this seat. I note that Florida currently has female representation on the Council.

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

1. William "Chester" Brewer (Recreational)
2. Gerald "Brock" Pecknold (Recreational)
3. Mark Carter (Recreational and "Other")

I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointment 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/mm