

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2018

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 of Jan. 25, 2018 requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-259 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission ("Commission") with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the Governor for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The Commission provided the names of Mrs. Anna Beckwith, Mr. Robert Lorenz and Mr. Thomas Roller for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the Commission's recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. I have selected Mrs. Anna Beckwith as a preferred nominee.

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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Mrs. Anna Beckwith. Mrs. Beckwith holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Florida International University in Miami, FL and a M.S. degree in Biological Oceanography with a Minor in Geographic Information Science from N.C. State University in Raleigh, NC. Mrs. Beckwith currently serves in an at-large seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and is chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee she also serves on the HMS Advisory Panel for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the International

Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee. She attended the ICCAT 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meeting as part of the U.S. delegation. Mrs. Beckwith has served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2009 to 2015, serving as Vice-Chair from 2011 to 2015. Mrs. Beckwith and her husband own Down East Guide Service, a North Carolina recreational fishing guide service and international travel agency for sport fisherman specializing in Costa Rica, Argentina, and Belize. They are the managing partner of Dragin Fly Sportfishing based out of Los Suenos Marina, Costa Rica.

Prior to 2007 Mrs. Beckwith taught Environmental Science and Biology at the high school level and was a research consultant (post-graduate work) from 2004 through 2006, monitoring red drum spawning habitat using passive acoustics, water quality, and egg/larval monitoring in the Neuse River Estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet. Prior to pursuing her graduate degree Mrs. Beckwith was employed as Program Manager (1999-2001) for the American Farmland Trust in Washington, DC and was a marine fellow for The Nature Conservancy (1999).

Mr. Robert Lorenz. Mr. Lorenz received a B.S. degree in Biological Science-Marine Biology from the Florida Institute of Technology in 1975. He retired in 2005 from a 29-year career in pharmaceutical research and development, and manufacturing. From 1998 - 2005, he maintained a consulting practice in pharmaceutical technical operations and manufacturing controls. Mr. Lorenz's career expertise was in developing and improving manufacturing and business processes, ensuring that all practices complied with federal regulations. Mr. Lorenz currently pursues interests in business and personal investing.

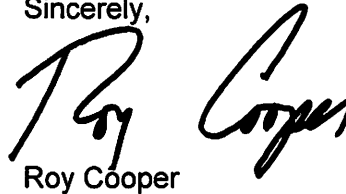
Mr. Lorenz has maintained a lifelong interest in environmental science, conservation, and fisheries. He is an avid recreational fisherman and scuba diver and fishes from southern North Carolina through the Florida Keys and targets Snapper/Grouper, Wahoo, Dolphin, and the Mackerels. Mr. Lorenz has worked as a volunteer on fisheries projects such as submerged aquatic vegetation surveys, water/seine sampling, and at the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher. While in college in northern Florida, he worked as crew on a shrimp boat in summer and occasionally pulled a beach seine in winter. Mr. Lorenz serves on boards of civic and environmental groups (Cape Fear River Watch Striper Foundation, CCA North Carolina, Wilmington Renaissance) and served as Chair of the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Sea Turtle Advisory Committee from 2011 through 2015. He also served on the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Southern Regional Advisory Committee from 2014 - 2016. Mr. Lorenz currently serves on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel. He is co-chair for a SAFMC Citizen Science Action Team focused on recruitment, education, use and retention of volunteers. He completed the Marine Resources Education Program science and the management training modules in 2016. Mr. Lorenz is a frequent attendee of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meetings, Division of Marine Fisheries meetings and public forums, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meetings and public forums.

Mr. Thomas Roller. Mr. Roller received a B.A. in English and history from Duke University in 2003 and is the owner and operator of Waterdog Guide Service. For the past 14 years, he has been a full-time nearshore and inshore fly fishing and light tackle guide operating along the Crystal Coast of North Carolina. Mr. Roller is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain and spends over 200 days on the water annually with clients. Species managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including Spanish mackerel, cobia, amberjack, and many snapper grouper complex species, are important mainstays of his guiding business.

Mr. Roller is an active participant in fisheries management, attending meetings and providing input at the state, interstate, and federal levels. He is currently serving as a field tester for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council for-hire electronic logbook and as a member of the Council's Cobia/Mackerel Advisory Panel. He was also appointed to the newly formed Citizen Science Advisory Panel as a member of the Education/Outreach Action Team. He is a longtime participant in North Carolina's state management process, and was recently appointed to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission's Blue Crab Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee. Mr. Roller is a strong advocate for informed involvement in the management process and recently attended the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resource Education Program (Southeast) fisheries science workshop. Additionally, Mr. Roller is a member of the Executive Board of the Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina, and has served on the organization's Fisheries Committee as chairman since February 2016 and as a member of the Executive Board since January 2014. He has developed policy and position statements on behalf of the organization for communication with decision-makers and other stakeholders, as well as public testimony on issues of interest.

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

Sincerely,



Roy Cooper

Enclosures

RC:md

cc: Michael S. Regan
Sammy Corbett
Steve Murphey

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Sammy Corbett

Chairman

910-620-1804

samjcorbett3@gmail.com

Commercial

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/20

Chuck Laughridge

Vice-Chairman

252-532-3983

sobxl1@gmail.com

At-large

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/19

Mark Gorges

252-671-1684

captgorgesmfc@gmail.com

Recreational Representative

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/18

James “Pete” Kornegay

252-338-3607

j.kornegay.mfc@ncdenr.gov

Scientist

A – 01/24/18

E – 06/30/20

Alison Willis

919-971-3905

awillis.mfc@gmail.com

Commercial Fisherman

A – 11/19/14

E – 06/30/19

Janet Rose

252-202-2921

janetrosemfc@gmail.com

Commercial Fisherman

A – 08/07/15

E – 06/30/18

Rick Smith

252-237-9600

rds.mfc@gmail.com

Recreational Fisherman

A – 09/15/15

E – 06/30/18

Brad Koury

336-263-9018

Bkoury2@gmail.com

At-large

A – 11/02/16

E – 6/30/19

Cameron Boltes

252-714-2720

c.boltes.mfc@ncdenr.gov

Recreational Industry

A – 01/24/18

E – 06/30/20



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

March 6, 2018

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

ATTN: Hannah Hafey

Dear Mr. Oliver:

In response to your request, I am pleased to submit nominations for two appointments to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) to fill the Georgia at-large seat previously held by Mr. Charles M. Phillips and the obligatory seat held by Mr. Zack Bowen.

Pursuant to §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on my behalf, consulted with interested parties to generate a list of potential nominees, including women and minorities. Two hundred thirty-nine invitations to submit nominations were mailed to members of the fishing and diving industry, environmental organizations, academicians, advisory councils, and members of the public. A notice was also sent to 8,614 self-subscribing members of the DNR Coastal Resources Division (CRD) GovDelivery system (2,209 opened the e-mail) as well as posted on CRD's Website (www.coastalgadnr.org). Attachment 1 provides an abbreviated list of the organizations contacted. Completed applications were received from seven interested parties, including one female; three for Georgia's at-large seat held by a commercial fisherman and four for Georgia's obligatory seat held by a recreational fisherman. All seven nominees are qualified to hold the seat and background checks have been completed by the DNR Law Enforcement Division, I have submitted them in order of preference based on advice given by DNR.

For the SAFMC **Georgia obligatory seat** currently held by Mr. Zachary (Zach) Bowen, I wish to nominate Dr. Kyle Christiansen as my preferred candidate. Mr. Bowen submitted an application for re-nomination but at this time I wish to thank Mr. Bowen for the service he provided the state of Georgia as a representative on the SAFMC, but I do not wish to nominate him.

As my preferred candidate for the obligatory seat, Dr. Kyle Christiansen lives in and practices veterinary medicine in Richmond Hill, Georgia and is an avid offshore angler. He is a member of the Savannah Sportfishing Club and the Offshore Outlaws Sportfishing Club. Dr. Christiansen



currently serves as a member of the SAFMC Dolphin/Wahoo AP and has participated in the SAFMC sponsored Marine Recreational Education Program. Dr. Christiansen participates in numerous fishing tournaments, from North Carolina to Costa Rica. He has attended multiple SAFMC public hearings and meetings. I know that he will provide excellent representation for the state of Georgia and the Georgia obligatory member.

Additional nominees in order of preference are:

Dr. Russell Kent. Dr. Kent is a resident of Harris Neck, GA and a retired professor of Business Management at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Kent has been a recreational fisherman for over 50 years and has been actively involved in fisheries conservation issues for more than 20 years as a member of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) on both the state and national levels. Dr. Kent has served as a Georgia CCA Board Chairman on two occasions and has served as a Vice-president and member of the Executive Board of CCA, national, since 2008. He has also served on the Grays Reef Marine Sanctuary research area working group and on numerous community boards.

Mrs. Cathy Sakas. Tybee Island resident Cathy Sakas is a retired Education Coordinator for the Grays Reef Marine Sanctuary. Mrs. Sakas currently is self-employed as a professional interpretive naturalist where she teaches students of all ages the natural history and interconnectivity of Southeastern US ecosystems. Mrs. Sakas holds a BS in Biology and a Masters in Science Education from Armstrong State University. For 10-years, Mrs. Sakas served on the SAFMC Education Advisory Panel as both a member and Vice-Chair.

For the SAFMC **Georgia at-large seat** currently held by Mr. Charles M Phillips, I wish to nominate Mr. A.G. 'Spud' Woodward as my preferred candidate. Mr. Phillips has served the state of Georgia and the SAFMC with distinction but has reached his term-limits. I thank Mr. Phillips for his nine years of service to the state of Georgia.

As my preferred candidate, Mr. 'Spud' Woodward recently retired from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) after 34 years, and is a resident of Glynn County. Mr. Woodward held many positions within DNR, including serving as director of the Coastal Resources Division from 2009 to 2017. During his tenure with DNR, he was actively involved in management of marine fisheries, both commercial and recreational, at the state, regional and national level. While Chief of Marine Fisheries for DNR, he represented the State of Georgia for three years as a member of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Woodward also served as Georgia's administrative commissioner on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for 16 years and currently serves as Georgia's governor's appointee commissioner. He earned a bachelor's degree from Augusta University and a master's degree from the University of Tennessee. Woodward has participated in saltwater fishing for over 30 years, holds a USCG merchant mariner's license, is a certified diver, and was an industry-sponsored competitive angler from 1988 to 2000. Though not directly involved in commercial fishing, I have full confidence that Mr. Woodward can provide a fair and balanced examination of the facts as presented in the SAFMC fishery management plans.

Additional nominees in order of preference are:



Derek S. Brown. Mr. Brown is a resident of Savannah, Georgia with over 20 years' experience in commercial spearfishing. Mr. Brown also owns and three charter fishing vessels and holds nine federal charter fishing permits and he owns a dolphin watch tour business. He earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Georgia, and holds a 100-ton Master Captains license and several scuba certifications.

John Wallace. A native of McIntosh County, Georgia, Mr. Wallace has worked in the commercial fishing industry aboard vessels and in seafood production. He is a former president of the Georgia Shrimp Association and Marketing Program Director for the Wild American Shrimp initiative. Mr. Wallace previously served two terms on the Council beginning in 2003. In 2009, Mr. Wallace recognized the issues coming before the Council were better suited to a commercial fisher with knowledge and experience with finfish and requested a more suitable nominee be found. Mr. Wallace served the Council well during each of his previous terms. Mr. Wallace is willing serve another term only if a more qualified, knowledgeable candidate cannot be found.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate these fine Georgians for appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

Nathan Deal

Governor Nathan Deal
State of Georgia

Attachments

cc: Commissioner Mark Williams
Coastal Resources Division Director Doug Haymans



Attachment 1: Commercial and Recreational Fishing Interests, Conservation Groups, and Other Agencies Contacted by the State of Georgia in January 2018, for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council nominees, as required under §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Commercial Fishing and Related Businesses

Georgia Marine Business Association
Georgia Shrimp Association
Knight's Seafood

Love's Seafood
Marine Management Company
Phillips Seafood / Sapelo Farms

Recreational Fishing & Diving

Amick's Deep Sea Charters
Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club
Blythe Island Regional Park Boating & Fishing Club
Coastal Conservation Association, Georgia
Coastal Georgia SCUBA Diving & Spearfishing Club
Fort McAllister Sport Fishing Club
Golden Isles Kingfish Classic, Inc.
Half Moon Sport Fishing Club Hickory Bluff Marina
Hampton Boating & Fishing Club

Miss Judy Charters
Offshore Outlaws Fishing Club
Sapelo Saltwater Fishing Club
Savannah Sport Fishing Club
Sea Georgia Adventures
St. Catherines Sport Fishing Club
St. Simons Boating & Fishing Club
St. Marys Sportfishing Association
Two Way Sport Fishing Club

Environmental & Conservation NGO's

Altamaha Riverkeeper
Center for a Sustainable Coast
Coastal Environmental Organization
Coastal Georgia Audubon Society
Georgia Conservancy
Georgia Wildlife Federation

Nature Conservancy
Ogeechee Audubon Society
Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Satilla Riverkeeper
Sierra Club of Georgia
Southern Environmental Law Center

Media

The Brunswick News

Savannah Morning News

Georgia Outdoor News

Agencies & Academia

Georgia Southern University
Savannah State University

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
University of Georgia



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2018

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's 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 nomination to the South Atlantic 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:

Ben Hartig, Current South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Member
Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Peter Jarvis, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
Tom Twyford, West Palm Beach Fishing Club
Tony Grogan, owner of Spearboard.com
Mike Merrifield, Cape Canaveral Shrimp Company
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. Benjamin C. Hartig. 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. Art Sapp** as the preferred choice for appointment to the at-large seat on the Council. Mr. Sapp is a self-employed fishing captain and commercial harvester in Broward County. He is a member of the Southeast Florida Coral Reef Initiative. Mr. Sapp is involved in commercial, recreational, and charter fishing, giving him a range of experience in the fishing

Mr. Chris Oliver
March 15, 2018
Page Two

industry. As a committed lifelong Floridian, Mr. Sapp supports the responsible use of our nation's fisheries and is devoted to assist in the equitable use of those resources.

My second recommendation is Mr. Russell Hudson. He is the owner of Directed Sustainable Fisheries, a saltwater fishing consulting company. Through his research, he has contributed to the fishing industry with his clients ranging from harvesters to retailers and suppliers. Mr. Hudson currently serves on the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program Advisory Committee, the Biological Review Panel, and Bycatch Prioritization Committee. Additionally, he has been involved in numerous fisheries organizations and panels, including: The Marine Resource Education Project, the National Coalition of Fishing Communities Sustainable Shark Alliance, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel. Mr. Hudson is a lifelong recreational and commercial fisherman who is committed to achieving the sustainable use of South Atlantic fisheries.

My third recommendation is Mr. Bruce Irwin. He previously owned a commercial fishing business for over twenty years and a seafood restaurant for five years. He is currently the chairman of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Spiny Lobster Advisory Panel. Mr. Irwin is also a current member and the previous president of the Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman Association and the Marathon Chapter of Organized Fisherman of Florida. Mr. Irwin has participated in recreational fishing for fifty years and is a fourth-generation commercial fisherman. Through his experience, he has gained a vast knowledge of issues related to fisheries. Mr. Irwin is dedicated to protecting the resources and allowing groups to have safe access to South Atlantic fisheries.

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

1. Mr. Art Sapp
2. Mr. Russell Hudson
3. Mr. Bruce Irwin

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,



Rick Scott
Governor