



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 11, 2015

Mr. William Chappell
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Chappell:

This letter is in response to your request for nomination 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:

Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fisherman's Association
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatmen Association
Brett Fitzgerald, The Snook & Gamefish Foundation
Brett Veehusen, Seafood Harvesters of America
Carlos Curbelo, Congressman 26th District
Eric Brazer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
Gary Jarvis, Destin Charter Boat Association
Heana Ros-Lehtinen, Congresswoman 27th District
Janie Thomas, Shrimp Producers Association
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fisherman of Florida
Mario Diaz-Balart, Congressman 25th District
Pam Dana, Current Gulf Council Member
Russell Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc.
Shane Cantrell, Charter Fisherman's Association
Trip Aukeman, Coastal Conversation Association

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 Obligatory seat on the Council. He is the vice president and general manager of Blaylock Oil Company, as well as an avid recreational fisherman who travels globally to fish and learn about

different fishing practices while promoting conservation. Mr. Sanchez has been serving on the Gulf of Mexico Marine Fisheries Council for the past two and half years, gaining knowledge of the multifarious issues impacting the Gulf water fisheries, marine resources, and user groups. He previously served as a member of the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council. Mr. Sanchez has been an asset to the Council since being appointed in 2012 and hopes to continue thorough evaluation of all available information and work with all user groups toward the mutual goal of sustainably managing our nation's fishery resources in a manner which results in the great economic benefits while allowing fair and equitable access to those resources to all user groups.

My second recommendation is Mr. Robert Spaeth. He is the owner of Fishermen's Ice and Bait Inc as well as Wholesale Fish Distribution and Boat Supplier. Mr. Spaeth also has experience with the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, as a member of the Reef Fish Advisory Panel since 1980. He has stayed focused on management efforts and their effects on the recreational and commercial fishing industry. He has over 25 years experience in fishing and involvement in the regulatory methods and procedures the Council often needs to address. Mr. Spaeth's major goal is sustainability for future generations, and he believes to achieve this, there needs to be a balance between user groups.

My third recommendation is Mr. Edward Walker. He has been a full-time fisherman for the past 26 years, as well as a federally permitted charterboat operator and fisheries research associate. Mr. Walker currently works with the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council as a member of the Coastal Migratory Pelagic Species Advisory Panel and the Red Snapper For-Hire Advisory Panel. He is also a participant in numerous research projects including gag grouper, red grouper, amberjack, goliath grouper, redfish, shark, and hogfish. Mr. Walker believes that proper informed management has never been more critical; he has the potential to be an asset to the Council by providing informed input to help make the best decisions for the Gulf of Mexico and the fishermen in the area.

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

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

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 black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott", written in a cursive style.

Rick Scott
Governor