



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

March 10, 2015

Eileen Sobeck
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
(Attention: Brian Fredieu)

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill one of the at-large seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) which will become vacant on August 10, 2015. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Mississippi, would like to nominate the following three individuals for one of the at-large seats: Dale A. Diaz, Harvey S. "Sonny" Schindler and J. Read Hendon.

After reviewing the education, experience, and background of each of the five nominated individuals and consulting with appropriate representatives of the environmental community, the recreational, commercial, and 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. Dale A. Diaz has over 25 years of experience in fisheries management and marine law enforcement, which includes seven years of service as the Marine Fisheries, Office Director for Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (MDMR). In addition, he spent 10 years commercial fishing for shrimp, crab and oysters. He has served as a Council member on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, as a proxy, for the Executive Director of the MDMR, since August of 2012. As proxy, Mr. Diaz has been thoroughly committed to reading all material, listening and reaching out to user groups and trying to develop consensus for sustainable resource management decisions. Based on qualifications and great job performance in his current Council role, I strongly recommend that Mr. Diaz be appointed to an at-large seat.

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Mr. Harvey S. "Sonny" Schindler has been engaged in the charter-for-hire industry for over 13 years. He is the owner and operator of one of the largest charter for hire business on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and serves on several advisory panels of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. He actively attends federal and state fisheries management meetings, participates in education programs and writes articles for outdoor magazines.

J. Read Hendon, Ph.D. has professional experience as a fisheries biologist for over 20 years and currently serves as Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development at Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi. 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.

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, and other knowledgeable individuals including commercial, charter, and recreational fisherman. While we consulted numerous Mississippi groups regarding women and minority candidates, we were unable to identify a candidate at this time. We will continue to work with organizations and individuals to diversify future nominations.

I have provided a written statement and the nominees' application kits for their consideration for one of the at-large seats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phil Bryant
Governor of Mississippi

Cc: Jamie Miller