



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
March 10, 2015

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

ATTN: Brian Fredieu

Dear Mrs. Sobeck:

In response to your request, I am pleased to submit nominations for appointments to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council) to fill the Georgia obligatory seat held by Mr. Zachary Bowen, a saltwater fishing guide, and the at-large seat held by Mr. Charles M. Phillips, a Georgia commercial fisherman. I respectively decline to nominate individuals for the at-large seat presently held by Mrs. Anna Beckwith of North Carolina.

Pursuant to §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, on my behalf, consulted with interested parties to generate a list of potential nominees, including women and minorities. A total of 306 fishing and diving industry contacts, environmental organizations, academic institutions, advisory councils and interested persons were canvassed for candidates (Attachment 1). Six nominations were subsequently received, none of which were women or minority. As it so happens, of the nominees submitted for consideration, three represent commercial fishing interests and three represent recreational or for-hire fishing interests. An initial background check has been favorably completed on each of these nominees by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section.

For the Council at-large seat currently held by Charles M. Phillips, I wish to nominate Mr. Phillips as my preferred candidate for re-appointment to a third and final term. A resident of McIntosh County, Georgia, Mr. Phillips has extensive experience as a commercial fisherman, boat owner, processor, and broker in several South Atlantic fisheries. He owns and operates Phillips Seafood/Sapelo Farms, a business that handles a large portion of Georgia's offshore finfish landings. Thus, he is very knowledgeable about the status and trends in state and federally-managed marine fisheries. Mr. Phillips has admirably served two terms on the Council, has chaired the Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) and served on the Marine Protected Area AP. Mr. Phillips will faithfully fulfill his final term, I am sure.

Additional nominees for this at-large seat are as follows:

Mr. 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 that Mr. Phillips be nominated to the at-large seat. Mr. Wallace served the Council well during each of his previous terms.

Mr. Richard A. Vendetti, Jr. A resident of Brunswick, Georgia, with experience in Georgia's commercial fisheries, Mr. Vendetti is an economist by training. Mr. Vendetti worked for many years as a Fishery Resource Specialist with the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service and Georgia Sea Grant College Program. During this time, he served in various state and regional capacities as a fisheries coordinator, a fisheries economist, a marketing coordinator, a shrimp certification program coordinator, a fishing vessel safety instructor, and a marine resource and fishing gear specialist. Mr. Vendetti has also produced papers and videos related to Georgia's commercial fisheries. He has served on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Device Ad Hoc Advisory Panel for many years. Mr. Vendetti currently is self-employed with Vendetti Brothers Consulting.

For the Council obligatory Georgia seat currently held by Zachary Bowen, I wish to nominate Mr. Bowen as my preferred candidate for reappointment to a second term. A veteran offshore and inshore charter fisherman, Bowen owns and operates Guess Hoo Charters out of Savannah, Georgia. He has owned Guess Hoo outright since 2005 and has been a fishing guide since 1999 for species including snapper and grouper, amberjack, wahoo, and billfish. Mr. Bowen previously served as Vice-Chair of the Council Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) and on the King and Spanish Mackerel AP.

Additional nominees for the obligatory Georgia seat are as follows:

Wendell Harper. As owner of Free Spooling Charters, Mr. Harper has been a full time fishing guide in coastal Georgia for over 30 years. He currently serves on the GADNR Coastal Resources Division Finfish Advisory Panel and Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. He is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA), Southern Kingfish Association (SKA), Two-Way Sportfishing Club, Ducks Unlimited, and National Wild Turkey Federation. He is on the pro staff for Bass Pro Shops where he delivers informational seminars to the general public. He has been featured on over 30 television programs and outdoor shows. Mr. Harper has participated in many resource management projects with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources including fish tagging and fish carcass recovery.

Dr. John Marr. Dr. Marr received his Ph.D. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming in 1994. He moved to Georgia in 2012 to become the General Manager of the Georgia Sea Turtle Center. He is also the former Executive Director of the Perry Institute for Marine Science. He has served in various leadership positions with National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and as an adjunct professor at several southeastern universities. He is an accomplished researcher with more than a dozen scientific publications to his credit.

The packages for all nominees are included herein. Thank you for the opportunity to nominate these fine Georgians for appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,



Nathan Deal

Attachments

cc: Mark Williams, Commissioner of Natural Resources
Spud Woodward, Director, GADNR Coastal Resources Division