



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrory
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2015

Ms. Eileen Sobek, Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Sobek:

Thank you for your agency's letter of Jan. 28, 2015 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. General Statute 113-259 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries 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 B. Beckwith, Mr. Robert J. Lorenz and Mr. Charles "Bernie" McCants for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the commission recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. I have selected Mrs. Anna B. Beckwith as a preferred nominee.

As a result of 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, Section 302(b)(2)(C), 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 of 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 B. 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, Highly Migratory Species (HMS), and the Information and Education Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee she also serves on the HMS Advisory Panel for the National Marine Fisheries Service. Mrs. Beckwith has served

on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission since 2009 and as Vice-Chair since 2011. 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. Previous 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 J. 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. For the past 11 years has actively engaged in volunteer work and activism for good stewardship of the ocean and environment, with a focus on marine fisheries. Mr. Lorenz has had a lifelong interest in environmental science, conservation, and fisheries. He is an avid saltwater recreational angler and scuba diver. He fishes and dives primarily from southern North Carolina through the Florida Keys and targets the snapper/grouper complex, wahoo, dolphin (mahi), 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 (3 years). He worked as crew on a shrimp boat in summer, and occasionally pulling a beach seine in winter, in northern Florida while in college.

Mr. Lorenz is the 2014 President and Board Chairman of the Wilmington Investors Roundtable (160 investors). He serves on the advisory board of Cape Fear River Watch and Striper Foundation. Mr. Lorenz served as the Chairperson for the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Sea Turtle Advisory Committee from 2011 through 2013 and currently serves on the Southern Advisory Committee for the division. Mr. Lorenz has been a frequent attendee of N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meetings, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries meetings and public forums, and South Atlantic Fishery Management Council meetings and public forums.

Mr. Charles "Bernie" McCants, Jr. Mr. McCants graduated from N.C. State University in 1971 with a B.S. degree in Zoology. He recently retired with 41 years of experience in clinical research at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Mr. McCants is an avid recreational fisherman and is a member of the Raleigh Salt Water Sportfishing Club, the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club and the N.C. Beach Buggy Association. Mr. McCants served as a recreational representative on the Inland Advisory Committee to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2002-2004 and on the N.C. Red Drum Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee from 2007-2008. He has also served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish Advisory Committee (2004-2009) and from 1982-1985, participated with N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries staff in a red drum tagging program.

Mr. McCants has also served as a meeting-specific proxy for the N.C. Governor's Appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and has participated in public hearings regarding commission-managed species. Likewise, he has attended and participated in public input events conducted by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including most recently the Visioning Project port meeting held in Raleigh in March 2014.

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

Sincerely,



Pat McCrory

Enclosures

PC:md

cc: Donald van der Vaart
Sammy Corbett
Louis Daniel
Charles Duckett

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Sammy Corbett

Chairman

910-620-1804

samjcorbett3@gmail.com

Commercial

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/17

Anna Barrios Beckwith

Vice Chairman

252-241-7208

annabarriosbeckwith@yahoo.com

At-large

A – 07/29/09

E – 06/30/15

Mikey Daniels

757-435-8409

nccroakerjoe@yahoo.com

Commercial Fisherman

A – 02/07/07

E – 06/30/15

Kelly L. Darden, Jr.

252-414-0333

kdarden@embarqmail.com

Recreational Fisherman

A – 08/06/12

E – 06/30/15

Mark Gorges

252-671-1684

captgorgesmfc@gmail.com

Recreational Representative

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/16

Chuck Laughridge

252-532-3983

sobx11@gmail.com

At-large

A – 07/30/13

E – 06/30/16

Joe Shute

252-241-6111

captjoemfc@yahoo.com

Recreational Industry

A – 07/26/11

E – 06/30/17

Mike Wicker

919-881-0791 (H)

919-856-4520 (W)

amikewicker@gmail.com

Scientist

A – 08/19/14

E – 06/30/17

Alison Willis

919-971-3905

awillis.mfc@gmail.com

Commercial Industry

A – 11/19/14

E – 06/30/16