



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2016

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

Dear Mrs. Sobeck:

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:

Ben Hartig, Current South Atlantic Council Member  
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association  
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatmen Association  
Carol Dover, Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association  
Chester Brewer, Current South Atlantic Council Member  
David Jolly, Congressman 13<sup>th</sup> District  
Eric Brazer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance  
Glen Brooks, Gulf Fisherman's Association  
Holly Binns, PEW Charitable Trusts  
Jim Green, Destin Charter Boat Association  
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fisherman of Florida  
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association  
Pam Dana, Current Gulf Council Member  
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. Roy Williams. 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. Phillip Dyskow** as the preferred choice for appointment to the At-Large seat on the Council. He is the former president of Yamaha Marine Group, and with over 40 years of experience in the marine industry he has observed the symbiotic relationship between the health of saltwater fish stocks and the success of the marine industry. Mr. Dyskow has developed a passion for the health of our nation's saltwater fish stocks and has become an advocate for fishery management concepts. He has also spent a number of years as a member of the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), which has given him a deeper understanding of the processes that

affect fishery management. Mr. Dyskow was elected into the Marine Industry Hall of Fame in 2012, received the Center for Coastal Conservation Man of the Year Award in 2013, and was awarded a public service commendation from the United States Coast Guard in 2014. His lifetime of experience uniquely qualifies him to assist in the development of regulatory policy that allows for both commercial and recreational use today, as well as the conservation of fishery resources for future generations.

My second recommendation is **Mr. James Brown**. He is the sales manager for Brunswick Commercial and Government Products and the former director of law enforcement for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Mr. Brown previously served as the chairman of the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) Homeland Security Committee and Boats and Associated Equipment Committee. Additionally, he has served as a member of the Governors Ocean Committee, Southeast Coral Reef Task Force, and the Seaports Standards Advisory Council. He has been involved for over 32 years in various aspects of marine resource regulations implemented in the Gulf of Mexico that affect Florida. Mr. Brown's goal is to ensure an enjoyable outdoor experience for future generations through the proper management of our resources and fisheries.

My third recommendation is **Dr. Thomas Frazer**. He is the acting director of the University of Florida Water Institute and the director of the University of Florida School of Natural Resources and Environment. Dr. Frazer holds a bachelor's degree in marine fisheries, a master's degree in fisheries and aquatic studies, and a doctorate degree in biological sciences. He has more than 20 years of research experience in the fisheries science arena. Additionally, he currently serves as a member of the International Society for Reef Studies, as well as the science advisory board of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute. Dr. Frazer's goal is to develop strategies and implement actions that yield substantial benefits for today's population without compromising the potential for those same natural resources to meet the needs to future generations.

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

1. Mr. Phillip Dyskow
2. Mr. James Brown
3. Dr. Thomas Frazer

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