



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2014

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
Brett Fitzgerald, The Snook & Gamefish Foundation
Dennis O'Hern, Fishing Rights Alliance
Gary Jarvis, Destin Charter Boat Association
Greg Brudnicki, Mayor of Panama City
Holly Bends, PEW Environmental Group
Janie Thomas, Shrimp Producers Association
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fisherman of Florida
Pam Anderson, Panama City Boatmens Association
Pam Anderson, Bay County Artificial Reefs Association
Pat Kelly, Florida Guides Association
Roy Williams, Current Gulf Council Member
Russell Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc.
Steve Southerland, Congressman 2nd District
Tom Adams, Recreational Fishing Alliance
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 Pamela Dana. 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 Dr. Pamela Dana as the preferred choice for reappointment to the At-large seat on the Council. Dr. Dana is a lifelong recreational angler and current owner of Sure Lure Charter Company, a for hire charter fishing business, in Destin. She is also a senior advisor at the Florida Institute for Human and Machine Cognition. Dr. Dana 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. She is also a member of the Destin Charter Boats Association as well as the National Association of Charterboat Operators. Dr. Dana has been an asset to the Council since being appointed in 2011 and aims to aid the Council in continuing to strike the balance between recreational, commercial, and environmental interests.

My second recommendation is Captain Bob Zales II. He is the owner of Bob Zales Charters in Panama City. Captain Zales also has experience with the Gulf of Mexico Marine Fisheries Commission, as the Florida Commercial Fishery Representative for the Commercial/Recreational AP, Vice-Chairman of the Reef Fish AP, and member of the Mackerel AP. He is also a founding member and Vice President of the Gulfwide Association of Finfish Fishermen. As a lifelong fisherman, Captain Zales believes in a need to protect the fragile balance of the fisheries' environment and appreciate the interdependence of species necessary for survival of the ecosystem.

My third recommendation is Captain John Phillipoff. He is the owner and operator of a charter and commercial fishing business in Largo. Captain Phillipoff is the Vice-President of Make-A-Difference fishing tournaments, and has worked with the program for the last 15 years. He is a member of the St. Petersburg Underwater Club, Fisherman's Rights Alliance, and Florida Skin Diver's Association. As a commercial fisherman for the last five years, he understands the issues that face the fishing community and believes that all parties must work together to build a strong foundation for all realms of the fishing community.

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

1. Dr. Pamela Dana
2. Captain Bob Zales II
3. Captain John Phillipoff

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