

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100
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STATE OF ALABAMA

March 11, 2013

Attn: William Chappell
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Mr. Lawrence Able. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Alabama would like to nominate the following four individuals for the at-large seat that are to be filled in 2013: David Walker (commercial), Randy Boggs (charter fisherman), Lee Shook (recreational), and Hugh Mark Tim Casteix, Jr. (other knowledgeable person in fisheries).

Captain David Walker is the owner and operator of the F/V June Sue. He holds federal commercial permits for Gulf Reef Fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish, and Shark Incidental. Mr. Walker has been a commercial fisherman for over 29 years. He is extremely knowledgeable about the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the Gulf Coast Professional Fishermen and is a former member of the Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance. He has been an active participant in the Council process. Mr. Walker has served on several advisory panels and is currently serving on the Red Snapper Advisory Panel, the Reef fish Advisory Panel, the Ad Hoc 5-Year Red Snapper Review Advisory Panel, and the Ad Hoc Commercial Reef Fish Advisory Panel. Mr. Walker is an effective communicator and works well with recreational, commercial, and charter fishing organizations. **I recommend that Mr. David Walter be appointed to the at-large seat.**

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Mr. William Chappell
March 11, 2013
Page Two

Randy Boggs is the dock manger of the Reel Surprise Dock Store in Orange Beach, Alabama. He sells fuel, ice, and bait to recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishermen from the dock store and manages the dockage of recreational vessels at the San Roc Cay Marina. Mr. Boggs has been involved in the recreational fishery for over 35 years and interacts with recreational fishermen on a daily basis. He is also the owner of B and D Maritime, Inc. and schedules fishing trips for 15 for-hire vessels. Mr. Boggs is both the owner and operator of the charter boats, "Reel Surprise," "Gulf Winds II," and "Wishbone." Mr. Boggs is an active participant in the Council process.

Lee Moody Shook is a resident of Birmingham, Alabama, and is an avid recreational fisherman. Mr. Shook is a 29 year member of the Coastal Conservation Association. He is both a past president of the organization and a current board member. Mr. Shook has not only participated in several fishing tournaments but also is knowledgeable in nearly all of the Gulf of Mexico species including billfish, red snapper, amberjack, king and Spanish mackerel, sharks, and inshore species.

Hugh Mark Tim Casteix, Jr. is the owner and manager of the Dauphin Island Marina. Mr. Casteix purchased the marina in 2000. He has been active in attending Gulf Council meetings. He communicates regularly with the recreational fishermen that utilize his marina. He is a partner with the charter boats, "Therapy 1" and "Duke." Mr. Casteix has had many years of experience in the business and marketing sectors before purchasing the Dauphin Island Marina. He has a B.A. in Business from the University of South Alabama. He is a member of the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce and has served on the Executive Board.

The nomination process is important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD) has met with a variety of groups before selecting the above nominated individuals. The following organizations were consulted in the process: The Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, The Alabama Seafood Association, The Alabama Seafood Dealers, The Coastal Conservation Association, The Saltwater Sportsmen Association, The Alabama Coastal Fishermen Association, The Orange Beach Fishing Association, The Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and other charter fishermen and marina operators.

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Page Three

In an effort to consider minority and women candidates, AMRD/MRD discussed the nomination process with the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama (OSAA). OSAA has several women that are members of their organization and ADCNR/MRD met with and discussed the importance of women and minority applicants. No minority or women candidates provided nomination applications. ADCNR/MRD will continue to work with organizations in Alabama to diversify the nominations for future seats on the Council and in nominations for advisory panels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Bentley".

Robert Bentley
Governor

Enclosure

c: Chris Blankenship