PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

Samuel D. Rauch, III

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries

National Marine Fisheries Service

1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636

Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the Mississippi obligatory seat and the at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) which will become vacant on August 10, 2013. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, I would like to nominate the following seven individuals for the Mississippi obligatory seat and the at-large seat: Representative Scott DeLano, Thomas J. Becker, Leann N. Bosarge, Shelby B. Drummond, J. Read Hendon, David Veal and H. Kay Williams.

After reviewing the education, experience, and background of each of the seven nominated individuals and consulting with appropriate representatives of the recreational, commercial, for-hire charter segments of the fisheries, as well as marine environmentalist, I feel each of these individuals meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. More importantly, their qualifications identify them, not only as efficient stewards of fisheries resources, but also as individuals prepared to meet the task of attaining the desired management goals of the Regional Fisheries Management Councils.

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Representative Scott DeLano has 35 years of experience as a recreational fisherman. He currently serves District 117 of the Mississippi House of Representatives and also is a member of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Big Game Fishing Club.

Mr. Thomas J. Becker has over 27 years of experience as a recreational for-hire charter boat fisherman. He currently serves as President of the Mississippi Charter Boat Captains Association and President of the National Association of Charter Boat Operators.

Ms. Leann Bosarge has over 15 years in the commercial fishing business and additional experience in the banking and auditing industry. She is also a member of the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

Mr. Shelby B. Drummond has professional experience as a fisheries biologist for over 40 years at NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service and an avid recreational fisherman all of his life, serving as the Recreational Sports Fisherman representative for the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources.

Mr. Read Hendon is the Director of the Center for Fisheries Research and Development; Gulf Coast Research Laboratory; University of Southern Mississippi with over 14 years of experience in fisheries research. Mr. Hendon is currently in the process of completing his Ph.D. in Fisheries Ecology with an anticipated completion date of May 2013.

Dr. David Veal is currently the Executive Director of the American Shrimp processors Association as well as the Executive Director of the Coalition of Gulf Shrimp Industries, LLC. Prior to his current duties Dr. Veal worked as the Head & Research Extension Professor for the Coastal Research and Extension Center Mississippi State University/Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Experiment Station/Mississippi State University Extension Service.

H. Kay Williams has been on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council serving from 1997 to June 2006 and then August 2007 to present. Ms. Williams has had extensive experience in the commercial seafood industry, as well as representing the industry on various fisheries advisory panels for the Council.

Of the nominees presented here, the potential success of their placement, if selected, was determined through the following preliminary consultations with individuals in the Gulf Coast's commercial, recreational, for-hire charter fishing and environmental community. Enclosed is a list of organizations consulted in the process. We have contacted women and minority candidates and offer two women for candidates.

Consulted relative to Representative Scott DeLano were: Dr. William Hawkins (retired Professor Emeritus and Director, Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, University of Southern Mississippi) and Dr. Joe Gill (Chairman, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission).

Consulted relative to Mr. Thomas J. Becker were: Mr. Dale Diaz (Marine Fisheries Office Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources) and Mr. Larry Simpson (Executive Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission).

Consulted relative to Ms. Leann Bosarge were: Phillip Horn (commercial fisherman and owner and president of Clark's Seafood) and Tommy Schultz (lifelong commercial fisherman).

Consulted relative to Mr. Shelby Drummond were: Mr. Larry Simpson (Executive Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission), and Dr. Vernon Asper (Member of the Mississippi Commission on

Marine Resources and Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, Department of Marine Science).

Consulted relative to Mr. Read Hendon were: Mr. Larry Simpson (Executive Director, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission) and Mr. Jimmy Taylor, (Member of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources; charter for hire and recreational fisherman).

Consulted relative to Dr. David Veal were Mr. Dale Diaz (Marine Fisheries Office Director, Mississippi Department of Marine Resources) and Mr. Richard Gollott (Member of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources and owner of Golden Gulf Seafood).

Finally, consulted relative to Mrs. H. Kay Williams were Mr. Larry Simpson (Executive Director Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission) and Mr. Steve Bosarge (Member of the Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources and owner operator of Bosarge Boats)

I have provided a written statement and the nominees' application kits for their consideration for the Mississippi obligatory seat and one of the at-large seats. My top recommendation for Mississippi's obligatory seat is Representative Scott DeLano. Based on the outcome of the obligatory seat selection, please consider the remaining candidates for the at-large seat.

Sincerely,

Phil Bryant

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Enclosures (7)

Organizations consulted include: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources, Mississippi Commission on Marine Resources, Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission, Bosarge Boats, Clarks Seafood and Golden Gulf Seafood.