



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrory
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2014

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. 15, 2014 requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. General Statute 113-260 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the governor for Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The commission provided the names of Mr. Mike Ireland, Mr. Chris Hickman and Mr. Dewey Hemilright for my consideration as nominees for an obligatory appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the commission recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as N.C.'s nominees. I have selected Mike Ireland 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 Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Mike Ireland

Mr. Ireland is a full time commercial fisherman who holds several National Marine Fisheries Service permits for different species. They include a full time limited scallop permit, a summer flounder permit, as well as sea bass, scup and squid. Mr. Ireland started fishing offshore straight out of high school on a scallop boat with a dream of owning his boat, which he eventually realized. In the early 1990's Mr. Ireland was asked to represent North Carolina on the Scallop Advisory Committee for the New England Fishery Management Council. He accepted the position

and was active for several years, attending every meeting of the New England Fishery Management Council. Beginning in 1993, Mr. Ireland captained two vessels to Alaska to participate in the scallop fishery and was very active in attending North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. He was asked by the Washington State Fisheries Department to assist in establishing an overall quota for the scallop fleet in Washington. In 1997, he returned to North Carolina and resumed fishing for scallops on the east coast. During the winter months he trawls for fish from North Carolina north to the Hague Line. Mr. Ireland is also a member of the North Carolina Fisheries Association.

Chris Hickman

Mr. Hickman is a full time commercial fisherman who has resided in Hatteras for the past 31 years. He currently participates in gill net fisheries from Cape Hatteras to the Gulf of Maine and is the owner/operator of the F/V Bout Time Fishing. He targets several species that are managed by the Mid-Atlantic and/or the New England Fishery Management Councils: monkfish, spiny dogfish, bluefish and black sea bass. During the fall and winter months, he frequently participates in North Carolina gill net fisheries for weakfish, Atlantic croaker and king mackerel. Mr. Hickman has also participated in the winter trawl, crab pot and long haul seine fisheries. Mr. Hickman serves as a fishing industry representative on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Spiny Dogfish Compliance Advisory Panel and the Mid-Atlantic/New England Fishery Management Council Spiny Dogfish and Monkfish Committees. He also serves as an industry representative on the National Marine Fisheries Service Atlantic Large Whale and Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Teams.

Dewey Hemilright

. Mr. Hemilright is the owner/operator of the 42-ft. F/V TARBABY with his homeport in Wanchese, NC. He has been commercial fishing for 24 years off the east coast, ranging from New York to Florida and has a wide range of fisheries experience. He has served on advisory panels for Highly Migratory Species (National Marine Fisheries Service), Dolphin-Wahoo (South Atlantic Fishery Management Council) and as chairman of the N.C. Spiny Dogfish Compliance Advisory Panel. Mr. Hemilright holds permits and fishes for tuna, swordfish, dolphin-wahoo, bluefish, spiny dogfish, smooth dogfish, croakers, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and large coastal sharks. Mr. Hemilright is serving his first term on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and participates in the following council committees: Protected Resources, Law Enforcement, Highly Migratory Species, Spiny Dogfish and Demersal. He is also involved in raising awareness about the importance of the fishing industry in North Carolina. He has been active in an outreach program for K-12 students across the country for the past seven years through Provider Pals. His presentation showcases an array of photos from his years on the water, and summarizes a day in the life of a commercial fisherman, encouraging students to consider the logistics and challenges that are involved with operating a fishing vessel for a living. Mr. Hemilright has recently expanded his outreach program by partnering with the N.C. Coastal Federation, sharing his lesson with over 400 middle school students living on the coast of North Carolina. He is a member of the North Carolina Fisheries Association, The Bluewater Fishermen's Association and North Carolina Watermen United.

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

Sincerely,


Pat McCrory

Enclosures

PC:md

cc: John Skvarla
Paul Rose
Louis Daniel
Charles Duckett

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Paul Rose
Chairman

paulroseseafood@gmail.com
Commercial
A – 07/30/13
E – 06/30/16

Anna Barrios Beckwith
Vice Chairman

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At-large
A – 07/29/09
E – 06/30/15

Mikey Daniels

nccroakerjoe@yahoo.com
Commercial Fisherman
A – 02/07/07
E – 06/30/15

Kelly L. Darden, Jr.

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Recreational Fisherman
A – 08/06/12
E – 06/30/15

Mark Gorges

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Recreational Fisherman
A – 07/30/13
E – 06/30/16

Allyn Powell

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Scientist
A – 07/26/11
E – 06/30/14

Joe Shute

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Recreational Industry
A – 07/26/11
E – 06/30/14

Charles Laughridge III

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At-large
A – 07/30/13
E – 06/30/16

Joseph J. Smith, Jr.
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Commercial Industry
A – 11/25/09
E – 06/30/14