



March 6, 2014

JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD  
Governor

Mr. William Chappell  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Chappell:

In response to your letter of January 15, 2014, I am submitting the names of three individuals for potential appointment by the Secretary of Commerce to an at-large seat on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC). The seat is currently held by Mr. Jeff Feldner and I recommend him for reappointment.

Mr. Jeff Feldner  
Mr. Walter Chuck  
Mr. Mike Sorensen

Included with this letter of nomination are the complete original applications of the above-named individuals. I have found that the candidates meet the requirements listed in section 302(b) (2) (A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. A brief description of their abilities and applicable experience is provided below.

Jeff Feldner

Mr. Feldner is a current member of PFMC, having served since 2010 for one term. He retired in 2013 as a Fisheries and Seafood Specialist with Oregon Sea Grant, and has been a commercial fisherman for approximately 40 years. In his role with Sea Grant, Mr. Feldner successfully collaborated with conservationists and fishermen on the State of Oregon's marine reserves identification process. He has extensive fisheries research experience, and championed a collaborative salmon genetic research project among fishermen, academia, and government. Mr. Feldner served as a Commissioner on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission from 1991 to 2004, and was former Chair of the PFMC Salmon Advisory Subpanel.

Walter Chuck

Mr. Chuck is an avid marine recreational angler and currently advises the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a member of the Oregon Sportfish Advisory Committee. He holds leadership positions as co-chair of the Oregon Recreational Fishing Alliance and Oregon anglers. He is also an active member of his community, currently serving as a Commissioner for the Port of Newport and member of the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association, the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve Community Team, and Fishermen Involved in Natural Energy for Lincoln County, Oregon.

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Mike Sorensen

Mr. Sorensen currently owns a marine charter fishing business on the Central Oregon Coast, which he has operated for the past 26 years. He also has operated a commercial crabbing boat for the past 40 years. Mr. Sorensen participates in many stakeholder discussions and works on regional fisheries management as the Oregon Charter Boat Representative on the PFMC's Groundfish Advisory Panel. He also currently advises the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as a member of the Oregon Sportfish Advisory Committee.

Of the three nominees offered for appointment, I recommend the reappointment of Mr. Jeff Feldner. He has successfully demonstrated during his first term that he uses his skills, education, and experience to serve the Council well. He effectively engages with diverse stakeholders and contributes substantial time and thoughtful consideration to prepare for the council's deliberations and decisions.

In determining whom to nominate, we have consulted with a broad range of conservation and management interests familiar with the work of the PFMC. In addition, we have carefully considered qualified women and/or minority candidates as requested. To recruit applicants, ODFW issued a press release published and aired by coastal media. The agency also directly contacted a diverse group of roughly sixty individuals and organizations actively involved in West Coast marine resource issues from fishing and conservation perspectives.

The work of the Council is extremely important. I appreciate this opportunity to provide Oregon's recommendation on the pending appointment.

Sincerely,



John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.  
Governor

JAK/GG/tb

Attachment: Individuals contacted and press release  
Enclosures: Jeff Feldner application and letters of support  
Walter Chuck application  
Mike Sorensen application