



STATE OF GEORGIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

August 7, 2013

Sam Rauch, III  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

**ATTN: William Chappell**

Dear Mr. Rauch:

In response to your request, I am pleased to submit nominations for an appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) to fill the Georgia obligatory seat previously held by Mr. Steve Amick.

Pursuant to §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), on my behalf, consulted with interested parties to generate a list of potential nominees, including women and minorities. Nearly 500 invitations to submit nominations were mailed or e-mailed to the fishing and diving industry, conservation non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, and members of natural resource management advisory panels. Attachment 1 provides an abbreviated list of the organizations contacted. Five nominations were subsequently received, including one female. As all five nominees are qualified to hold the seat and background checks have been completed by the DNR Law Enforcement Division, I have submitted them in order of preference based on advice given by DNR.

For the SAFMC Georgia obligatory seat recently vacated by Mr. Steve Amicks, I wish to nominate Mr. Edward Zachary (Zach) Bowen as my preferred candidate.

A veteran saltwater fishing guide, Captain Bowen owns and operates Guess Hoo Charters based in Savannah. He has owned this business since 2005 and has guided since 1999 for species including snapper and grouper, amberjack, wahoo, and billfish. Captain Bowen currently serves as Vice-Chair of the SAFMC Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel (AP), and has served on the King and Spanish Mackerel AP.



Additional nominees are as follows:

Captain Judy Lynn Helme. A veteran saltwater fishing guide, Captain Judy Helme owns and operates Miss Judy Charters based in Savannah. A well-known outdoor writer and speaker, Captain Helme has in the past served on the SAFMC's Marine Protected Area AP and Snapper-Grouper AP. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Coastal Conservation Association of Georgia.

Captain Calvin Wendell Harper. As owner of Free Spooling Charters based in McIntosh County, Captain Harper has been a saltwater fishing guide in coastal Georgia for over 30 years. He currently serves on the Georgia DNR Finfish Advisory Panel, Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association of Georgia and several other conservation organizations. Captain Harper is on the pro staff of Bass Pro Shop, Inc where he delivers informational seminars to the general public. He has been featured on over 30 television outdoor shows. Captain Harper has participated in many natural resource management projects with DNR, including fish tagging and fish carcass donation.

Captain David Clarence Newlin. Operating out of Kilkenny Marina in Bryan County, Captain Newlin is a full-time saltwater fishing guide with over 30 years of experience fishing in coastal Georgia. Captain Newlin is a member of the DNR Finfish Advisory Panel. He is extremely familiar with fisheries managed by the SAFMC. Captain Newlin has attended numerous SAFMC public hearings.

Dr. Kyle Dennis Christiansen. Dr. Christiansen is a veterinarian whose practice and residence is in Richmond Hill. An avid saltwater angler, he is a member of the Savannah Sportfishing Club and the Offshore Outlaws Sportfishing Club, who participates in numerous saltwater fishing tournaments, from North Carolina to Costa Rica. Dr. Christiansen currently represents Georgia as a member of the SAFMC Dolphin/Wahoo AP and regularly attends SAFMC public hearings and meetings.

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate these fine Georgians for appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

Nathan Deal

Attachments

cc: Commissioner Mark Williams  
Coastal Resources Division Director A.G. "Spud" Woodward



Attachment 1: Commercial and Recreational Fishing Interests, Conservation Groups, and Other Agencies Contacted by the State of Georgia in July, 2013, for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council nominees, as required under §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Commercial Fishing and Related Businesses

Georgia Marine Business Association  
Georgia Shrimp Association  
Knight's Seafood

Love's Seafood  
Marine Management Company  
Phillips Seafood / Sapelo Farms

Recreational Fishing & Diving

Amick's Deep Sea Charters  
Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club  
Blythe Island Regional Park Boating & Fishing Club  
Coastal Conservation Association, Georgia  
Coastal Georgia SCUBA Diving & Spearfishing Club  
Fort McAllister Sport Fishing Club  
Golden Isles Kingfish Classic, Inc.  
Half Moon Sport Fishing Club Hickory Bluff Marina  
Hampton Boating & Fishing Club

Miss Judy Charters  
Offshore Outlaws Fishing Club  
Sapelo Saltwater Fishing Club  
Savannah Sport Fishing Club  
Sea Georgia Adventures  
St. Catherines Sport Fishing Club  
St. Simons Boating & Fishing Club  
St. Marys Sportfishing Association  
Two Way Sport Fishing Club

Environmental & Conservation NGO's

Altamaha Riverkeeper  
Center for a Sustainable Coast  
Coastal Environmental Organization  
Coastal Georgia Audubon Society  
Georgia Conservancy  
Georgia Wildlife Federation

Nature Conservancy  
Ogeechee Audubon Society  
Ogeechee Riverkeeper  
Satilla Riverkeeper  
Sierra Club of Georgia  
Southern Environmental Law Center

Media

The Brunswick News

Savannah Morning News

Georgia Outdoor News

Agencies & Academia

Georgia Southern University  
Savannah State University

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography  
University of Georgia