



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2024

Secretary Gina Raimondo
U.S. Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Delivered electronically

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

This letter is in response to your request for nominations for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's obligatory seat for Florida. Over the past few weeks, our office has spoken with many members of the commercial and recreational fishing community as well as environmental groups. This year we have received a great deal of interest in this seat, including individuals and organizations who are deeply invested in the management of our marine fisheries resources. A subset of those are listed here:

- American Sportfishing Association
- Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
- Fish for America
- Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- Organized Fishermen of Florida
- Representative Thad Altman
- Senator Debbie Mayfield
- Southeastern Fisheries Association
- Southern Offshore Fishing Association

After careful consideration of each applicant, it is my pleasure to recommend the below individuals for this obligatory seat. These individuals are well qualified and would make excellent appointments for the South Atlantic Council. I am providing these individuals in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee. This seat has historically been a commercial seat for Florida. We have provided three strong commercial candidates.

I am recommending **Michael Lombardi** as the preferred choice for appointment to the Florida obligatory seat on the South Atlantic Council. Mr. Lombardi is the President of Lombardi Seafood, which is a seafood market that for over sixty years has been committed to one simple



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mission: provide customers with the finest selection of seafood. A graduate of the University of Florida, he stays active in serving his community, state, and industry by serving on the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food Safety Board and is a member of multiple commercial fishing organizations. Having this experience, Mr. Lombardi is very familiar with seafood HACCP principles and the processes of the South Atlantic Council and state fishery management by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. In his spare time, he loves to go recreational fishing and some of his best memories are fishing as a child on Florida Waters.

My second recommendation is Michael Merrifield. Mr. Merrifield is the owner and operator of Cape Canaveral Shrimp Company and Wild Ocean Seafood Market. He is a lifelong recreational fisherman and has over 20 years of experience in the seafood industry. Mr. Merrifield is familiar with the federal fishery management process and has served on the South Atlantic Council's deepwater shrimp advisory panel for over 10 years. He has a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Mathematics from Lindenwood University. Mr. Merrifield looks forward to representing the commercial and seafood processing sector that is directly supplying seafood for the nation. He serves on the board for the Southeastern Fisheries Association.

My third recommendation is James "Jimmy" Hull. Mr. Hull is the owner of Hull Seafood, Inc in Ponce Inlet, Florida. He has owned and operated commercial fishing vessels in South Atlantic waters for over 40 years fishing for snapper grouper species, sharks, mackerel, and inshore crab fisheries. He currently owns and operates a wholesale seafood market, seafood restaurant, three offshore vessels and two inshore fishing vessels. Mr. Hull is very familiar with the federal fishery management process having served on the South Atlantic Council' Snapper Grouper Advisory Panel for many years and was elected chair of this panel by his peers. He cares deeply about the South Atlantic fisheries resources and the data needed to manage these resources. He has been using his vessels to help the FWC and NOAA fisheries conduct research. He has recently been testing ropeless gear for the Atlantic black sea bass trap fishery that would remove vertical lines from the water thereby preventing entanglements with this gear and endangered North Atlantic right whales. Mr. Hull also has experience in the recreational fishery as a charter boat operator.

In summary, my recommendation is as follows:

1. Michael Lombardi
2. Michael Merrifield
3. James "Jimmy" Hull



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I appreciate your consideration of my nominees for this important Florida seat and look forward to seeing citizens of Florida continue their service on the Councils in ways that will help ensure wise and sustainable use of our saltwater fishery resources in the South Atlantic. Florida continues to include quality candidates to serve on the South Atlantic Council. We remain steadfast in our commitment to find qualified individuals by soliciting applications for appointments across the state, including women, minorities, and underserved communities. I believe these candidates represent a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/ca



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

ATTN: Morgan Corey

Dear Ms. Coit:

In response to your January 19, 2024 request I am pleased to submit nominations for appointments to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council to fill the obligatory and at-large seats currently held by Capt. Judy Helmey and Mr. Arnold G. (Spud) Woodward, respectively.

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. Over 45,000 invitations to nominate were mailed, e-mailed, or posted to social media, and included the fishing and diving industry, conservation non-governmental organizations, academicians, members of natural resource management advisory panels and members of the public. Attachment 1 provides an abbreviated list of the organizations contacted. Eight nominations were received, including two females and one African American. All nominees are qualified to serve, and background checks have been completed by the DNR Law Enforcement Division. A short bio for each nominee is included as attachment 2. Below, I have submitted my nominations for the obligatory seat in my preferred order as requested and based on advice given by DNR. My nominations for the at-large seat are submitted without a preferred order.

For the Georgia obligatory seat, I offer five nominations. I wish to re-nominate **Captain Judy Helmey**, 'recreational', as my preferred candidate.

Also nominated for the obligatory seat are the following capable Georgians (all recreational):

Mr. Davis Poole, Mr. Bill Weeks, Captain Carl Evans, and Captain David Tucker.

For the Georgia at-large seat, I offer three nominations (listed alphabetically): Ms. Kate Hargrove (other), Dr. Russell Kent (other), and Mr. Charles Phillips (commercial).

Regarding the at-large seat, I wish to thank Mr. Spud Woodward for his time and valuable insight as he served Georgia and the Council well for six years. I understand the enormity of the task and

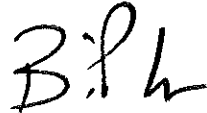
appreciate his thoughtful consideration of a third term but fully respect his decision not to seek re-appointment.

Regarding the at-large seat currently held by North Carolinian Mr. Thomas Roller, I respectfully decline to nominate a Georgian in recognition of the long-standing agreement between member states that each would have an at-large council member.

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

With kindest regards, I remain

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B.P.K.", written in a cursive style.

Brian P. Kemp

Attachments

cc: Commissioner Walter Rabon
Coastal Resources Division Director Doug Haymans

Attachment 1: Commercial and Recreational Fishing Interests, Conservation Groups, and Other Agencies Contacted by the State of Georgia in January 2024 for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council nominees, as required under §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Total Emails, Social Media, and Mailouts

30,362 GovDelivery emails (self-nominated e-mail list across a variety of topics)
14,643 CRD Facebook followers
255 state and federally permitted commercial and for-hire fishermen (email)
109 members of public from various mailing lists (USPS mailout)

Media (through GovDelivery)

Brantley County Express	Bryan County News	The Coastal Courier
Effingham Herald	The Press Sentinel	Tribune-Georgian
The Brunswick News	Charlton County Herald	The Darien News
Georgia Outdoor News	Savannah Morning News	

The following includes all parties directly targeted via USPS mailout:

Recreational Fishing Clubs

Coastal Conservation Association, Georgia	Savannah Sport Fishing Club
Fort McAllister Sport Fishing Club	St. Catherines Sport Fishing Club
Hampton Fishing & Boating Club	St. Simons Boating & Fishing Club
Sapelo Saltwater Fishing Club	Two Way Sport Fishing Club

Marinas

Bahia Blcu Marina	Lazaretto Creek Marina	Hampton River Club
Isle of Hope Marina	Delegal Creek Marina	Savannah Bend Marina
Blue-N-Hall Marina	Morningstar Marina	Harbor Marina
Jekyll Harbor Marina	Fisherman's Lodge	Shellman Bluff Fish Camp
Brunswick Landing	Pelican Point Marina	Hickory Bluff Marina
Jekyll Wharf Marina	Ft. McAllister Marina	Young's Marina
Bull River Marina	Pine Harbor Marina	Hogans Marina
Kilkenny Marina	Half Moon Marina	
Coffee Bluff Fish Camp	Savannah Marina	

Environmental & Conservation NGO's

Altamaha Riverkeeper	Nature Conservancy
Center for a Sustainable Coast	Ogeechee Audubon Society
Coastal Environmental Organization	Ogeechee Riverkeeper
Coastal Georgia Audubon Society	Satilla Riverkeeper
Georgia Conservancy	Sierra Club of Georgia

Attachment 2: Brief Biography of Nominees.

For the Georgia obligatory seat (in order of recommendation):

Captain Judy Lynn Helmey, incumbent. A veteran offshore and inshore saltwater fishing guide, Captain Judy Helmey has owned and operated Miss Judy Charters (based in Savannah) since 1969. A well-known outdoor writer and speaker, Captain Helmey has in the past served on the Council's Marine Protected Area and Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panels. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Coastal Conservation Association of Georgia. Captain Helmey was appointed to her first term on the Council in 2021. By all accounts, Georgia has been well served by her representation of the 'recreational fishing' sector and I recommend her continued participation.

Mr. Davis Poole. Mr. Poole brings a combination of experience that includes a corporate business and leadership perspective, coastal government official representing a local Georgia fishing community, and 25 years of marine recreational fishing from North Carolina to the Bahamas. He currently serves on the GADNR Coastal Marshlands and Shore Protection Committees, and formerly served on the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Panel for Artificial Reefs.

Mr. Bill Weeks. Mr. Weeks has over 30 years of marine fishing experience as a recreational angler, diver and charter captain. He has a BS in Engineering from Princeton and an MBA from Columbia. His career has included financial analysis and budgeting, operations and project management, strategic planning, as well as research and technical writing. Mr. Weeks has in the past served on the Council's Mackerel Cobia Advisory Panel, and the GADNR Finfish Advisory Panel.

Captain Carl Evans. Capt. Evans' experience spans 33 years of marine recreational fishing in the South Atlantic, of which 20 years has been a charter captain in Georgia, and 11 years in marine federal law enforcement. Capt. Evans is a current member of the GADNR Finfish Advisory Panel.

Captain David Tucker. Though he has only been a Georgia marine charter captain for two years, Capt. Tucker brings a highly varied background that includes a 20-year career in the US Navy, 11 years in public affairs at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (coastal Georgia), a degree in military photojournalism, and travel throughout the world.

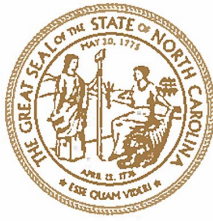
For the Georgia at-large seat (listed alphabetically):

Ms. Kate Hargrove. Ms. Hargrove's professional experience in marine fisheries includes eight years as a GADNR Game Warden (rising to the level of conservation corporal) enforcing commercial and recreational fishing regulations in state and federal waters off the Georgia coast. She has a varied background in biology with a BS from College of Charleston, as a National Park Service ranger and biological technician at the Canaveral National Seashore, and zookeeper in Alaska and Tennessee. Ms. Hargrove also currently serves on the GADNR Coastal Advisory Council.

Dr. Russel Kent. After earning both an MBA and PhD in business administration, Dr. Kent's career as a social scientist in Georgia has included micro/macroeconomics, econometric modeling, applied economics, and statistical techniques in economic and social science research. He has over 25 years of experience in each of marine conservation and fisheries management, coastal and rural economic development, and serving as both a teacher and researcher at Georgia Southern University. He currently serves as Chair of the Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory

Council, and recently completed the Council's Southeast Marine Resource Education Program. Dr. Kent has been an avid saltwater angler for over 60 years and served in the US Army and Reserves for 22 years. I am confident that in representing the 'other' sector, he will not only provide a fair and balanced examination of the facts as presented in the Council fishery management plans but will also bring a much-needed socio-economic perspective based on years of working with complex statistical models and research. Dr. Kent's nomination comes with a recommendation letter from Mr. Spud Woodward.

Mr. Charles Phillips. Mr. Phillips has worked in commercial fisheries in coastal Georgia for 49 years. He currently has South Atlantic federal commercial fishing permits for king mackerel, snapper/grouper, dolphin/wahoo, golden tilefish, wreckfish, sharks and black seabass pots. He also owns a wholesale and retail business for farmed and wild clams and oysters and has owned/operated commercial shrimping and long line vessels. Mr. Phillips currently serves as the Council's liaison to the NOAA Fisheries Large Whale Take Reduction Team and member of the NOAA Fisheries American Fisheries Advisory Committee. He faithfully served as a Councilmember from 2009-2018 and as its chair for two years. Mr. Phillips is eligible for re-appointment and his nomination comes with a recommendation letter from Congressman Buddy Carter.



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 8, 2024

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for your agency's letter of Jan. 19, 2024, requesting that I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-259 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the Governor for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The Commission provided the names Mr. Thomas Roller, Mr. Christopher Kimrey, Mr. Michael Oppegard, and Mr. E. Jot Owens for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the Commission's recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. The nominees are presented without order or preference.

Due to the statutory makeup of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (please see enclosed list), a compilation of the list of nominees by that body meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1852(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 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Mr. Thomas Roller (Recreational). Mr. Roller is the owner and operator of Waterdog Guide Service. For the past 20 years, he has been a full-time nearshore and inshore light tackle and fly-fishing guide operating along the

Crystal Coast of North Carolina. Mr. Roller is a licensed U.S. Coast Guard captain with extensive knowledge of southeastern North Carolina's waterways and spends over 200 days on the water annually with clients. Species managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, including Spanish and king mackerel, amberjack, and many snapper-grouper complex species are important mainstays of his guiding business.

Mr. Roller is an active participant in fisheries management, attending meetings and providing input at the state, interstate, and federal levels. Prior to being appointed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, he served on the Council's Cobia/Mackerel Advisory Panel, Systems Management Plan workgroup and Citizen Science Advisory Panel. As a Council member, Mr. Roller has aspired to take a leadership role in the Council process serving as chair of the SAFMC Mackerel Committee, vice chair of the Dolphin Wahoo Committee and vice chair of the Citizen Science Committee. As an active and engaged Council member, he has served as a liaison to both the Mid-Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Councils and participated in the East Coast Climate Change Scenario Planning initiative. In addition, he has been a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Bluefish Advisory Panel since 2015.

Mr. Roller is a strong advocate for informed involvement in the management process. In 2017 he completed the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resource Education Program for the southeast region, participating in two in-depth workshops to advance his knowledge of fisheries science and management. He encourages students to learn about the fisheries management process and regularly serves as a guest speaker and informal mentor to graduate students in the marine science community. Mr. Roller also contributes on-the-water experience to support data collection for management and stock assessment. He volunteered as a field tester to refine the South Atlantic region's electronic for-hire logbook software and participates in multiple ongoing fish tagging and fin clip studies for the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries as well as the American Saltwater Guides Association.

Mr. Roller is also a longtime participant in North Carolina's state fisheries management process. In August 2023 he was reappointed by Governor Roy Cooper to the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission for his third consecutive term serving in the Recreational Industry seat. Prior to serving on the Commission, he participated on the Blue Crab and Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committees from 2017-2020.

Mr. Roller is a founding member of the American Saltwater Guides Association, a coastwide organization with the mission of promoting sustainable business through marine conservation. He currently serves as an executive board member representing the State of North Carolina and serves on the

organization's policy committee. He was previously a member of the Executive Board of the Coastal Conservation Association of North Carolina from 2014 to January 2020 and served on the organization's Fisheries Committee as chairman from February 2016 to 2018. Mr. Roller received a B.A. in English and history from Duke University in 2003 and resides in Beaufort, North Carolina.

Mr. Christopher Kimrey (Recreational). Mr. Kimrey was enlisted in the United States Navy for six years and served as an electronics technician for five years, before being honorably discharged due to a service-connected injury. He graduated with honors from Carteret Community College in 2003 with an associate degree in arts. He is a PADI Certified Rescue Diver and licensed U.S. Coast Guard Captain (OUPV).

Mr. Kimrey has owned and operated Custom Saltwater Taxidermy, creating replicas of fish for customers worldwide since 1997. For the past 16 years he has been a full-time saltwater fishing guide and owner and operator of Mount Maker Charters. Mr. Kimrey has completed the first of two sessions of the Marine Resource Education Program with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and is scheduled to complete the second session in the near future (delayed due to COVID-19).

Mr. Kimrey was recently reappointed to the SAFMC Snapper/Grouper Advisory Panel for his second term and has been an active participant in several tagging projects with N.C. State University, and the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, which included a three-year acoustic tagging project of Cobia and a five-year anchor tagging project with weakfish as well as several other cooperative fisheries research programs. He was an active participant in the software pilot program for the For-Hire South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Pilot Project. He has attended various public forums at the state and federal level pertaining to Marine Fisheries.

Mr. Kimrey has a life-long history of recreational and commercial fishing and a vast knowledge of saltwater fisheries. Many years of following State and Federal fisheries management plans, while spending 200+ days annually on the water gives him a unique and unbiased desire to pursue the conservation of our fisheries.

Mr. Michael Oppegaard (Recreational). Mr. Oppegaard is a native of Topsail Beach, North Carolina, and a graduate of Topsail High School and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. His family owned the Sound Pier until its sale in 2004 and has spent his entire life on the water.

In 2012, he founded Native Son Guide Service, Inc., a nearshore/inshore fishing guide service that targets Red drum, Black drum, Flounder, Speckled trout, King mackerel, Spanish mackerel, Black sea bass, Sheepshead, Cobia,

Bonito, False albacore, and Sharks. He is passionate about sharing his love of fishing with others and is committed to providing his clients with the best possible fishing experience.

Mr. Oppegaard is also actively involved in the management of North Carolina's fisheries. He served on the NC DMF Southern Flounder Advisory Committee and the MAFMC Management Strategy Evaluation for Summer Flounder as a Core Stakeholder. He is committed to working with other stakeholders to ensure the sustainable management of our fisheries for future generations.

Mr. E. Jot Owens (Recreational). Capt. Jot Owens has been in the Southeast North Carolina Fishing industry for over twenty-eight years. Capt. Jot began his fishing career when he was just fourteen years old working at a local fish market and commercial fishing. Commercial fishing included Clamming, Shrimping, Tuna (Blackfin, Bluefin and Yellowfin), Grouper and King Mackerel fishing (Outer Banks to Cape Fear, NC). Jot fished many inshore and offshore tournaments over the years from the Outer Banks to the Florida Keys. In 1995, Jot started as a mate on local charter fishing boats out of Wrightsville Beach, NC. Today, Capt. Jot has managed to translate his lifetime passion for fishing and guiding into his own charter business which he began in 1999 with a USCG Captains License 100-ton six-pack. Guiding for Cobia, King and Spanish Mackerel, Flounder, False Albacore, Grouper, Red drum, Sharks, Speckled trout, and Tarpon. Capt. Jot is one of the very few local native guides of Southeast North Carolina. He is also a Federal and State of North Carolina Finfish Tagger, April 2003 - present Tagging for conservation and scientific research of Cobia, Flounder, Redfish, Speckled Trout, Striped Bass and Sharks.

Capt. Jot is a member of the PENN fishing tackle, Berkley Fishing and Spiderwire's Elite Pro Staff as well as on the research, development, and test team for these companies. He is also honored to be partnered with these great outdoor companies as well MirrOlure, YETI coolers, Power-Pole, Plano, Frabill, Betts Cast-nets, Garmin Marine, SiriusXM Marine, Eagle Claw/Trokar hooks and Smith Optics.

Capt. Jot has been featured on TV shows: Flats Class TV with C.A. Richardson, The World of Saltwater with George Poveromo, Bob Redfern's Outdoor Magazine, National Geographic Wild (NATGEO) and ESPN's Saltwater Connection. Capt. Jot has been featured in hundreds of fishing magazine articles in Sport Fishing magazine, NC Sportsman magazine and SC Sportsman magazine just to name a few. Capt. Jot is a regular speaker on the Saltwater Sportsman National Seminar series with George Poveromo, as well as hosting his own inshore fishing school.

Fisheries organizations and boards:

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-Cape Fear River Striped Bass Foundation- to re-establish and maintain the Cape Fear River Fishery, 2008-present

-Tournament Director/Guide Chair for the Cape Fear River Watch Striped Bass Tournament to raise money and awareness in the fish restoration of the Cape Fear River system, 2008-present

-Saltwater Angler & Sportsman (E-magazine) - Board of Directors 2014-present

-Cape Fear River Watch Board of Directors, 2008-2021

-NCDMF Striped Bass FMP Advisor 2021

-WQ4F (Water Quality for Fisheries) Industry Working Group-Water Quality for Fisheries 2021-2022

-North Carolina Sea Grant Advisory Board-Representing Recreational anglers and Charter (Guides) interest, 2009-2019

-StriperFest Director-Directed all committees for highest grossing fundraiser for Cape Fear River Watch, 2015.

Jot has recently been appointed to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's System Management Plan Workgroup.

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

With kind regards, I am

R

Roy Cooper

RAC/swh

Enclosures

cc: Elizabeth S. Biser
Rob Bizzell
Kathy Rawls
Hayes Griggs

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Rob Bizzell
Chairman
Recreational Fisherman
R.Bizzell.MFC@deg.nc.gov

Sammy Corbett
Vice-Chairman
Commercial Industry
S.Corbett.MFC@deg.nc.gov

Robert McNeill
Recreational Fisherman
Robert.B.McNeill.MFC@deg.nc.gov

Doug Radar
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Sarah Gardner
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S.Gardner.MFC@deg.nc.gov

Mike Blanton
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Ryan Bethea
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Donald Huggins
At-Large
D.Huggins.MFC@deg.nc.gov

Tom Roller
Recreational Industry
Tom.Roller.MFC@deg.nc.gov



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER
Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER
Secretary

Feb. 21, 2024

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
116 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27604

Dear Governor Cooper:

Enclosed is a letter for your signature to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, nominating a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifies that state governors must submit a slate of not less than three qualified individuals for each applicable vacancy. Council appointments will be effective August 11, 2024. Mr. Thomas Roller currently serves as a North Carolina at-large appointee to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He is completing his first term and is eligible for reappointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. State governors must submit nominations for council appointments to the National Marine Fisheries Service no later than March 15, 2024.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission piled a slate of nominees for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in accordance with N.C. General Statute 113-259. The commission recommends that you submit the names of Mr. Thomas Roller, Mr. Christopher Kimrey, Mr. Michael Oppegaard, and Mr. E. Jot Owens as candidates for an N.C. at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. These individuals are North Carolina residents and 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 North Carolina's fisheries resources. I recommend that these individuals be named as nominees for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The letter to the Assistant Administrator addresses the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act concerning the nominees' residency, knowledge of fisheries of the council's geographical area, and persons that were consulted in the recreational and commercial communities regarding the nominations. The Division of Marine Fisheries has reviewed the nomination materials submitted by the candidates to ensure all forms are complete and all required information is provided.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has requested that the enclosed nominations be sent electronically. To facilitate timely submission, please email completed nomination letters and nominees' application packages in a single PDF file to: Council.Appoinments@noaa.gov . The nomination package must be received by the National Marine Fisheries Service on or before March 15, 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for an at-large appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Should you have questions or need additional information concerning the nominees or the nomination process, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Chris Batsavage, Special Assistant for Councils, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, phone (252) 241-2995.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

217 West Jones Street | 1601 Mall Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

919.707.8600

Sincerely,

(Jjw)

Elizabeth S. Biser, Secretary
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

ESB:cb

Enclosures

cc: Hayes Griggs
Bill Lane

Kathy Rawls
Chris Batsavage



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
217 West Jones Street | 1601 Mall Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601
919.707.8600