

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

ROBERT BENTLEY  
GOVERNOR

(334) 242-7100  
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## STATE OF ALABAMA

Mr. William Chappell  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Chappell:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate individuals to fill the Alabama obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Johnny Greene. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Alabama would like to nominate the following four individuals for the Alabama obligatory seat: Johnny Greene (charter fisherman), Randy Boggs (recreational), David Waters (commercial), and Dr. LaDon Swann (environmental, social sciences or economic knowledge).

Captain Johnny Greene is a charter fisherman in the Orange Beach community. Mr. Greene is currently on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council, has been involved in the charter industry for the past 25 years, and is currently the owner/operator of the F/V Intimidator. He has been active in the Orange Beach Charter Fishing Association and other charter fishing groups. He also has been involved in recreational fisheries for over 33 years. Mr. Greene has done a great job representing Alabama on the Gulf Council. **I recommend that Mr. Greene be reappointed to the Alabama obligatory seat for another term.**

Randy Boggs is the dock manger of the Reel Surprise Dock store in Orange Beach, Alabama. He sells fuel, ice, and bait to recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishermen from the dock store. He also manages the dockage of recreational vessels at the San Roc Cay Marina. Mr. Boggs has been involved in the recreational fishery for over 35 years and interacts with recreational fishermen on a daily basis. He is also the owner of B and D Maritime, Inc. and books fishing trips for 15 for-hire vessels. Mr. Boggs is an active participant in the Council process.

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Captain David Walker is the owner and operator of the F/V June Sue. He holds federal commercial permits for Gulf Reef Fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish, and Shark Incidental. Mr. Walker has been a commercial fisherman for over 28 years. He is extremely knowledgeable about the fishery in the Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the Gulf Coast Professional Fishermen and is a former member of the Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance. He has been an active participant in the Council process.

Dr. LaDon Swann is the Director of the Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant Consortium and the Director of the Auburn University Research and Extension Center. Dr. Swann works with the commercial and for-hire fishermen in the seafood industry to promote effective use of the resources. Dr. Swann also works to develop industries that will best utilize the resource. He is involved with the economics of fishing through research and programs, which are administered by the Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant Consortium. He is also an avid recreational fisherman.

The nomination process is very important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD) has met with a variety of groups before selecting the above nominated individuals. The following organizations were consulted in the process: Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Alabama Seafood Association, Boat People SOS (representing the Asian community), Alabama Seafood Dealers, Coastal Conservation Association, Saltwater Sportsmen Association, Alabama Coastal Fishermen Association, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Extension Service, Orange Beach Fishing Association, other charter fishermen and marina operators, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and other concerned and knowledgeable individuals.

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In an effort to consider minority and women candidates, AMRD/MRD discussed the nomination process with Boat People SOS and the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama (OSAA). Boat People SOS represents primarily the Asian commercial fishing community in Alabama. OSAA has several women that are members of their organization, and ADCNR/MRD met with and discussed the importance of women and minority applicants. No minority or women candidates provided nomination applications. ADCNR/MRD will continue to work with organizations in Alabama to diversify the nominations for future seats on the Council as well as nominations for advisory panels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bentley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Robert Bentley  
Governor of Alabama

cc: Chris Blankenship