



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2012

Mr. Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch:

In response to your request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council), my office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests. These discussions highlighted the importance of saltwater fishing that support jobs and economic vitality in Florida, particularly in our coastal communities. We received recommendations and endorsements from numerous individuals and organizations who care deeply about management of our saltwater fisheries:

Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen
Bob Jones, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Bob Spaeth, Southern Offshore Fishing Association
Bob Zales, Panama City Boatmen Association
Glen Brooks, Gulf Fishermen's Association
Janie Thomas, Shrimp Producers Association
Jerry Andrews, Pensacola Charter Boat Association
Jerry Sansom, Organized Fishermen of Florida
Rick Roberts, Snook and Gamefish Foundation
Russell Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the obligatory seat, currently held by Robert P. Gill. All of these nominees are well qualified for their sector and would make excellent candidates for appointment to the Council. Given the serious challenges facing saltwater fishery management in the State of Florida, I am providing my nominations in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

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I am recommending **Mr. Robert P. Gill** as the preferred choice for the obligatory seat on the Council. In addition, I believe it is important that Mr. Gill continue as chairman of the Council, a position which has not been held by a representative from Florida in many years. Mr. Gill has been involved in the fishing industry since 1986 and is the owner of Shrimp Landing in Crystal River, Florida. He has an extensive educational background, which includes a bachelor's degree from the United States Naval Academy and a master's degree in ocean engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Mr. Gill served honorably in the United States Navy from 1966 to 1976, retiring as an Engineering Officer. He is a longtime member of the Southeastern Fisheries Association and director of Organized Fishermen of Florida. His reputation in both the commercial and recreational fishing communities as being impartial and open-minded would make him an ideal candidate to represent Florida on the Council.

It is my understanding that you are also seeking nominations for two at-large seats on the Council in addition to the obligatory seat. I am submitting the following nominees for your consideration for all three of these vacancies.

Juan "John" Sanchez has been the vice president and general manager of Blaylock Oil Company since 1999. Mr. Sanchez has been an avid recreational fisherman for over 33 years and previously served on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council from 1997 to 2000. He has been the director of the Shell Key West Challenge Fishing Tournament since 1999 and was executive director of the Monroe County Commercial Fishermen, Inc. from 1993 to 1998.

Mark T. Kelley has been a self-employed fisherman for over 30 years and currently owns a charter boat and a commercial fishing boat. Mr. Kelley is a member of the Panama City Boatmen Association and the National Association of Charterboat Operators. He is also a current member of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission Advisory Board. Mr. Kelley is a third generation fisherman and is passionate about ensuring the future success of the fishing industry in the Gulf.

Major Alan Lamarche is a retired law enforcement officer. He is currently the owner of Plantation Security, Inc. providing patrol services to plantations and wilderness areas, including the St. Johns River Water Management District. Major Lamarche has extensive experience working for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, first as a wildlife officer and later as deputy director of law enforcement. He is also a past member of the Southeastern Association of Game and Fish Commissions. Major Lamarche has been a lifelong recreational saltwater fisherman and has a strong desire to protect the Gulf Fisheries for future generations.

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Dr. Frank E. Muller-Karger is a marine scientist and a professor with the University of South Florida's College of Marine Sciences. Dr. Muller-Karger has over 20 years of experience as an oceanographer conducting research in the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. He is a former commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy and current director of the International Ocean Institute – USA. Dr. Muller-Karger is a member of the American Geophysical Union and the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography. His academic background and perspective would be a unique and valuable asset to the Council.

In summary, my recommendations are as follows:

1. Robert P. Gill – Commercial Fishing
2. Juan "John" Sanchez – Commercial Fishing
3. Mark T. Kelley – Charter Fishing
4. Major Alan Lamarche – Recreational Fishing
5. Dr. Frank E. Muller-Karger – Scientific/Other

I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointments and look forward to seeing citizens of Florida continue their service on the Council in ways that will help ensure wise and sustainable use of our valuable saltwater fishery resources. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott". The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rick Scott
Governor

RS/nj