



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

May 3, 2012

Eric C. Schwaab
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring Metro Building #3, 14th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attention: William Chappell

Dear Mr. Schwaab:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, other related guidance, and your letter advising of vacancies, I submit the nominee for your consideration to fill the U.S. Virgin Islands' obligatory seat on the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council (CFMC):

Mr. Carlos Felipe Farchette

I am also submitting nominees for the vacant at-large-seat in order of my preference:

Mr. Edward Schuster
Mr. Gerson N. Martinez
Mr. Kelvin S. Bailey

Mr. Carlos Felipe Farchette has twenty-nine years of extensive Law Enforcement experience, and a comprehensive background in fisheries and natural resources. He recently retired as Director of Enforcement for the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. His years of involvement in the protection of coral reef ecosystems on the State and Federal levels, has made him an integral part of the management of the St. Croix fishery. Mr. Farchette has been an active member of the St. Croix Fisherman's Advisory Committee for 18 years. He is extremely knowledgeable of the fishery of St. Croix and has played an active role in preserving that fishery through interaction with commercial and recreational fishers.

Eric C. Schwaab
May 3, 2012
Page 2

Mr. Edward Schuster, Sr. has been actively involved with the fishing community in the Virgin Islands for about twenty-one (21) years. He began fishing in 1991 as a commercial fisherman; and he is currently President of the St. Croix Commercial Fishermen's Association in the US Virgin Islands. Additionally, he holds the Chairman position on the Advisory Panel for the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council that provides insight to the fishery issues of the Caribbean. Since 2004, Edward has also been the Chair of the US Virgin Islands Fish Advisory Panel whose primary purpose is to provide advice to the Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources regarding issues that affect the territory.

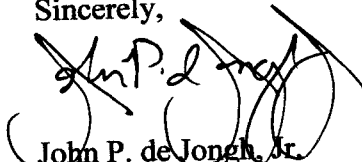
Mr. Gerson N. Martinez was born in Vieques, Puerto Rico, and moved to St. Croix at an early age with his parents. Upon completion of high school, he has been self-employed as a commercial fisherman since 1997. Mr. Martinez, fishes commercially for spiny lobster (diving), conch (diving), reef fish (diving, line fishing and traps) and pelagic fish (line fishing). He is President of the St. Croix Fisherman's Association and a member of the St. Croix Fisheries Advisory Committee. He also is a member of the Advisory Panel on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. Mr. Martinez has actively supported the Department's commercial fisheries data collection programs.

Mr. Kelvin S. Bailey has been fishing the Caribbean and Atlantic Ocean for the last forty-five (45) years. He is a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain since 1970, and has served as a first mate and then as captain for deep sea fishing charters. Mr. Bailey is a Charter and Board member of the V.I. Game Fishing Club since 1971. He is also a member of the United States I.C.C.A.T. Committee in Washington D.C. He is a founding member of the Marine Action Group of St. Thomas. He has participated in many fishing tournaments and has won numerous fishing awards. Mr. Bailey believes in the need to reach out to our Caribbean neighbors to join in our conservation programs, and the need to better educate local fishermen about over harvesting our fisheries.

The nomination documents are enclosed for each candidate. If you have any questions, please submit them to Alicia Barnes, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (340) 774-3320, or to Pamela B. Berkowsky, Office of the Governor (340)-774-0001.

I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to have my nominees considered by you and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Sincerely,



John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

Enclosures