



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0900

Nathan Deal
GOVERNOR

March 7, 2012

Samuel D. Rauch III
Acting 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 appointments to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC) to fill the obligatory seat held by Charles Duane Harris and the at-large seat held by Charles M. Phillips. I respectively decline to nominate individuals for the at-large seat presently held by Benjamin M. Currin of North Carolina.

Pursuant to §302(b)(2)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, on my behalf, consulted with interested parties to generate a list of potential nominees, including women and minorities. A total of 371 fishing and diving industry contacts, environmental organizations, academic institutions, advisory councils and interested persons were canvassed for candidates (Attachment 1). Ten nominations were subsequently received (Attachment 2), none of which were women or minority. Of these nominees, three represent commercial fishing interests and seven represent recreational or for-hire fishing interests. From the list of ten, I have selected eight nominees. An initial background check has been favorably completed on each of these nominees by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Section.

For the SAFMC at-large seat currently held by Charles M. Phillips, I wish to nominate Mr. Phillips as my preferred candidate for appointment to a second term. A resident of McIntosh County, Georgia, Mr. Phillips has extensive experience as a commercial fisherman, boat owner, processor, and broker in several South Atlantic fisheries. He owns and operates Phillips Seafood/Sapelo Farms, a business that handles a large proportion of Georgia's offshore finfish landings. Thus, he is very knowledgeable about the status and trends in state and federally managed marine fisheries. Mr. Phillips has served one full term on the Council, has chaired the Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel (AP) and served on the Marine Protected Area AP.



Additional nominees for this at-large seat are as follows:

Patrick T. Mathews has been the owner and operator of Lazaretta Packing Inc. on Tybee Island, Georgia for the past 19 years. In that capacity, his business services dozens of shrimp trawlers, outfitting them for fishing, and wholesaling their catch. In the past, Mr. Mathews has also wholesaled snapper/grouper species while working in the family fish dealer business. Mathews Fish Market is one of the oldest and most respected fishing-related businesses in Savannah. Mr. Mathews is currently president of the Georgia Shrimp Association, serves on the Georgia DNR Marine Fisheries Advisory Council and its Shrimp AP, and is a member of the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

A resident of Brunswick, Richard A. Vendetti, Jr. is a fisheries economist for Wild American Shrimp Inc., a non-profit corporation committed to ensuring the viability of America's domestic, wild-caught shrimp industry. He worked for many years as a fishery resource specialist with the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service and Georgia Sea Grant College Program. During this time, Mr. Vendetti served in various state and regional capacities as fisheries coordinator, fisheries economist, marketing coordinator, shrimp certification program coordinator, fishing vessel safety instructor, and marine resource and fishing gear specialist. He currently serves on the SAFMC Shrimp AP and on the Shrimp Bycatch Reduction Device Ad Hoc AP.

For the SAFMC obligatory seat now held by Duane Harris, I wish to nominate Steve Amick as my preferred candidate for appointment. Mr. Amick has been involved in the charter fishing industry for 33 years and has been the sole proprietor of Amick's Deepsea Fishing, Inc in Savannah Georgia, since 1993. He is a published author haven written for Sporting Venture, Safari Club International, and Professional Hunter magazines. Mr. Amick is an avid outdoorsman, having fished and hunted in countries around the world. He has been a member of the SAFMC Snapper Grouper AP since 2002.

Additional nominees listed in order of preference are as follows:

A veteran offshore and inshore charter fisherman, Zachary Bowen owns and operates Guess Hoo Charters out of Savannah, Georgia. He has owned this business since 2005 and has guided since 1999 for species including snapper and grouper, amberjack, wahoo, and billfish. Mr. Bowen currently serves as Vice-Chair of the SAFMC Snapper/Grouper AP, and serves on the SAFMC king and Spanish mackerel AP.

As owner of Free Spooling Charters in Darien, Georgia, Wendell Harper has been a full time fishing guide for over 30 years. He currently serves on the Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. He is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Southern Kingfish Association, Two-Way Sport Fishing Club, Ducks Unlimited, and National Wild Turkey Federation. He is on the Pro Staff for Bass Pro Shops where he delivers informational seminars to the general public. Mr. Harper has been featured in over 30 television programs and outdoor shows.



He is an active participant in many resource management projects with the Department of Natural Resources including fish tagging and fish carcass recovery.

Jack Perrett is the general manager of the Rayonier Performance Fibers Mill in Jesup, Georgia. He is an avid bluewater fisherman, scuba diver and is a member of the Wayne County Chamber of Commerce, where he is vice-chair of community development and a member of the executive board. Mr. Perrett is a director of the YMCA of Nassau County, Florida, a director of the First Coast Manufacturing Association and is president of the Fernandina Shores Condominium Association. He earned a Master of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from LSU, a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Mississippi State University and holds a U.S. patent for pressurized causticizing.

Operating out of Kilkenney Marina in Richmond Hill, David Newlin is a full-time fishing guide with over 30 years of experience. He is extremely familiar with fisheries managed by the SAFMC. Mr. Newlin has attended numerous SAFMC public hearings to provide comment on proposed management activities.

The packages for all nominees are included herein. 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
Spud Woodward
Doug Haymans