



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
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**BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE
GOVERNOR**

March 6, 2012

Mr. Sam Rausch, Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Rausch:

Thank you for the letter of January 6, 2012, requesting I nominate a slate of qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC).

N.C. General Statute 113-260 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees to be considered by the Governor for nomination for MAFMC appointments. The commission provided the names of Mrs. Linda Harper, Mr. Preston Pate, and Ms. Sara Winslow for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the MAFMC. I concur with the Commission's recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as N.C.'s nominees. My preferred candidate is Mr. Preston Pate, who currently serves as an at-large appointee to the MAFMC and is eligible for reappointment at this time. I feel that his background as a marine biologist, having many years of experience with the fish along the Atlantic coast combined with his current service on the MAFMC, make him a very qualified candidate.

As a result of the statutory makeup of the Marine Fisheries Commission (please see enclosed list), compilation of the list of nominees by that body meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Section 302(b)(2)(C), that each nomination be made in consultation with the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the state. All of 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 or the commercial or recreational harvest of the fisheries resources of North Carolina.



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Following is a brief summary of the experience that qualifies each nominee to serve as a member of the MAFMC:

Mr. Preston P. Pate, Jr.,

Mr. Pate holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in fisheries biology from N.C. State University. He began his professional career in 1971 as a marine biologist with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries working on anadromous fishes in the Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. In 1978, Mr. Pate transferred to the newly formed N.C. Division of Coastal Management where he was responsible for management of the coastal development permit program. He served as the assistant director of the Division of Coastal Management from 1985-1997. Mr. Pate returned to the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries as director in 1997, and served in that capacity for 10 years until retiring in 2007. As fisheries director, Mr. Pate was responsible for the stewardship and management of the marine and estuarine resources of North Carolina. His responsibilities included administration and enforcement of all statutes and rules governing commercial and recreational fishing in coastal waters, development and improvement of cultivation and harvesting of shellfish and submerged land claims in North Carolina. Mr. Pate was also responsible for administration of programs in commercial and recreational fisheries management and enforcement, applied research and monitoring, fisheries statistics, shellfish rehabilitation, bottom leasing, submerged land claims, and information and education. Mr. Pate retired in February 2007 with 36 years of service with the state of North Carolina. Since 2007, Mr. Pate has served as a subcontractor with Oak Management, providing support to the National Marine Fisheries Service in developing the Marine Recreational Information Program. Mr. Pate was appointed as an at-large member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in 2009 and is eligible for reappointment. He currently serves on the following Mid-Atlantic Council species committees: Demersal and Coastal Migratory, Spiny Dogfish, Squid, Mackerel and Butterfish. In addition, Mr. Pate serves on the Research Set-Aside, Visioning and Executive committees.

Mrs. Linda Harper,

Mrs. Harper has been involved with fishing on several levels since she was 20 years old. She has fished in surf fishing tournaments on the Outer Banks of North Carolina since 1970. From 1977-1987, Mrs. Harper operated a retail fishing tackle business with her husband. She sat on the board of directors for the Ocracoke Invitational Surf Fishing Tournament for 10 years. In 2006, she joined the International Women's Fishing Association, which has 175 members from across the country and some members from other countries; and she now sits on that organization's board of directors. The association not only is a fishing club, but it is also very active in fishery conservation efforts, and raising money for approximately 10 scholarships annually for graduate students working toward advanced degrees in marine biology or related fields. Mrs. Harper has been appointed four times consecutively to the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's Northeast Regional Advisory Committee.

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Mrs. Harper fishes approximately 75 days a year in the waters of North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana and Virginia. She enjoys speaking with and learning from fishermen and scientists about fisheries issues and conservation measures and regulations along the East Coast.

Ms. Sara Elliott Winslow, received a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from UNC-Wilmington in 1978 and began her career with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in January 1979. During her 32-year career with the division, Ms. Winslow served in a number of capacities in the northern district, including a marine fisheries technician II, biologist I, biologist II, biologist supervisor and district manager. She served as the leader for the Shad and River Herring Federal Aid Project, the Phase II Striped Bass Stocking and Tag Returns Project and the N.C. Shad and River Herring Project. Ms. Winslow served as staff for the Marine Fisheries Commission's Northeast Advisory Committee and served on the division's Rules Advisory and Management Review teams. She was responsible for reviewing and commenting on habitat alteration permits/documents for 23 years. During her career, she was heavily involved with the development of the Division's fishery management plan process and served in leadership roles in the River Herring and N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass fishery management plans and subsequent amendments. Additionally, Ms. Winslow served on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Shad and River Herring, and Striped Bass technical committees and on the Striped Bass Tagging Committee. Ms. Winslow participated in 21 of the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruises which involved the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Division of Marine Fisheries, and other East Coast states. As a cruise participant, she was responsible for data collection and tagging of striped bass, flounder, red drum, Atlantic sturgeon, and spiny dogfish. Ms. Winslow's hobbies are salt and freshwater fishing, hunting and gardening.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for a N.C. at-large appointment to the MAFMC.

Sincerely,



Beverly Eaves Perdue

Enclosures

c: Secretary Dee Freeman
Rob Bizzell
Louis Daniel
Elizabeth Buono