



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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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 Jan. 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 South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC).

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 SAFMC appointments. The commission provided the names of Mrs. Anna Beckwith, Mr. Willard Cole, Mr. Jess Hawkins, and Mr. Robert Lorenz for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the SAFMC. I have selected three candidates from the list of nominees for your consideration. My preferred candidate is Mrs. Anna Beckwith. I feel that her extensive academic training, many years of experience fishing along the Atlantic coast combined with her years of service on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission make her 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 SAFMC:

Mrs. Anna Beckwith,

Mrs. Beckwith holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Policy from Florida International University in Miami, FL and a M.S. degree in Biological Oceanography with a Minor in Geographic Information Science from N.C. State University. Mrs. Beckwith currently serves as the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission vice-chair, in addition to serving on the Habitat and Water Quality, Coastal Habitat Protection Plan and Coastal Recreational Fishing License committees. Since 2007, Mrs. Beckwith has been the manager of Down East Guide Service in Morehead City, N.C., where she oversees the company's North Carolina and Costa Rica operations, and is responsible for schedules, budgets, web site management, and customer service including daily customer communications and quarterly newsletters. From 2005 to 2007, Mrs. Beckwith taught environmental science and biology at the high school level and sixth, seventh and eighth grade science in eastern North Carolina. Mrs. Beckwith was a self-employed research consultant from 2004 to 2006, monitoring red drum spawning habitat in the Neuse River estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet, and was responsible for budget management, field sampling, supervision of field staff, data analysis, manuscript preparation and dissemination of data through public media, including the filming of fishing shows on red drum, tarpon, flounder, and striped bass. She served as a research assistant/teaching assistant at N.C. State University from 2001 to 2004, and identified red drum spawning habitat in the Neuse River estuary using passive acoustics, and water quality and egg/larval monitoring. In that position, she was also responsible for instructing laboratory-based classes in oceanography, earth system science, and biology. Mrs. Beckwith was employed as program manager for the American Farmland Trust, in Washington, D.C., from 1999 to 2001, where her responsibilities included managing multiple policy initiatives, advocating for increased federal funding of conservation programs, organizing a grass roots policy network, assisting regional offices with state campaigns, and coordinating initiatives with partner organizations.

Mr. Willard W. Cole, Jr.,

Mr. Cole received a B.S. degree in Fisheries Biology from N.C. State University in 1965. He currently serves as the N.C. governor's appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, a position he has held since 2009. Prior to retirement from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Mr. Cole served as the South Atlantic fisheries coordinator. In this capacity, he was the designated representative to the SAFMC, where he served a term as vice chairman, and chaired several SAMFC committees. Mr. Cole was also the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's designee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and several of the commission's fishery management boards. At that time he accepted an Interagency Personnel Appointment to the National Marine Fisheries Service and served as a special assistant to the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, Dr. W.T. Hogarth. Mr. Cole is an avid recreational angler, holding a lifetime N.C. Hunting and Fishing License. His lengthy professional service as a

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fishery biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, coupled with his past and present service on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and past service on SAFMC, in addition to his recreational fishing experience, qualifies him as a nominee for a SAFMC appointment.

Mr. Jess H. Hawkins III,

Mr. Hawkins received a B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a M.S. degree in Biology from East Carolina University. Mr. Hawkins retired from the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in 2005, with 28 years of service. During his career, Mr. Hawkins served in a number of capacities, including marine biologist, district manager, fisheries management section chief, liaison to the Marine Fisheries Commission and special assistant to the fisheries director. After his retirement, Mr. Hawkins was appointed to the Marine Fisheries Commission in 2007 and served as co-chair of the commission's Habitat and Water Quality Committee until the end of his term in 2009. Mr. Hawkins is familiar with the fisheries of the South Atlantic. He has fished recreationally for summer flounder, bluefish, black sea bass and spiny dogfish. While employed with the division, he was involved with sampling programs of commercial fisheries for summer flounder, monkfish and bluefish, and was involved in management issues involving fisheries for red drum, spotted seatrout, summer and southern flounders, black sea bass, Atlantic menhaden, sharks, tunas, billfish and striped bass. Mr. Hawkins had considerable contact with recreational, commercial and environmental sectors in all positions he held with the division. He was actively involved with the development of fishery management plans for adoption by the Marine Fisheries Commission for all commercially and recreationally significant species or fisheries that comprise state marine or estuarine resources as mandated by the N.C. Fisheries Reform Act of 1997.

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

Sincerely,



Beverly Eaves Perdue

Enclosures

cc: Secretary Dee Freeman
Rob Bizzell
Louis Daniel
Elizabeth Buono