



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

March 14, 2011

Mr. William Chappell
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Chappell:

In response to your request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council), this 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. Our call for applications resulted in a strong pool of suitable candidates.

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, previously held by Edward Sapp. 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.

I am recommending **Mr. Eugene "Bo" Gorham** as the preferred choice for this seat on the Council. I believe it is critically important to have representatives on the Council from Florida who represent recreational fishermen, the overwhelming majority of fishing constituents. Mr. Gorham is an excellent candidate in this regard. He actively participates in recreational fishing and boating in the Gulf of Mexico out of St. Petersburg, Florida, and he is a successful businessman. He understands and values the recreational and business side of saltwater fishing and its importance to Florida's economy. He is currently the Vice President of IT Operations and Information Security for Serve Enterprise (American Express). Mr. Gorham served honorably in the United States Navy from 1977 through 1983. He has extensive experience building and working with teams to solve complex problems and is anxious to apply these skills to improve recreational fishing in the Gulf of Mexico.

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It is our understanding that you also are seeking nominations for two at-large seats on the Council that will be vacant in addition to the one held by Edward Sapp. We are submitting the following slate of nominees for your consideration for all three of these vacancies.

Captain Bob Zales is the owner and operator of Bob Zales Charters out of Panama City, Florida. He is an active member of the National Association of Charterboat Operators currently serving as President. He has numerous US Coast Guard licenses and certifications for operating seagoing vessels. He serves as a member of the Panama City Boatmen Association; Florida's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Economic Recovery Task Force; Conservation Cooperative of Gulf Fishermen; National Marine Fisheries Service For-Hire Work Group; Gulfwide Association of Finfish Fishermen; the Billfish Foundation; Reef Fish Advisory Panel for the Gulf Council; International Game Fish Association; and Florida Guides Association. He has received numerous recognitions and awards associated with his work as a charter boat captain. Captain Zales is a strong and effective advocate for the charter fishing industry at the state and national level.

Mr. Walter M. "Dakie" Ward is owner/manager of Buddy Ward & Sons' Seafood Processing in Apalachicola, Florida. He has worked in the family seafood business for 36 years processing oysters and shrimp. Mr. Ward manages five shrimp boats, a shrimp processing plant, and works in partnership with his brother who manages an oyster harvesting business. He served on the Planning and Zoning Commission for Franklin County, Florida for three years. He has a strong desire to work through the Council to help ensure the long term viability of the seafood industry.

Dr. Pamela J. Dana, Ph.D., is an avid recreational angler and the owner of Sure Lure Charter Company in Destin, Florida. She served as the Director for Florida's Office of Tourism, Trade, and Economic Development from 1999 to 2007. She currently serves as a member of Scripps Florida Funding Corp. and the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (NOAA/US Dept. of Commerce). Dr. Dana has a Ph.D. in International Development Education and Economics from the University of Southern California; and a Masters in Administration, Planning and Social Policy from Harvard University.

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Mr. Kenneth D. Haddad is recently retired after 32 years of service with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He began his career as a marine biologist and ultimately served as Director of the Florida Marine Research Institute in St. Petersburg Florida (1993-2002), and Executive Director (2002-2009) in Tallahassee, Florida. He currently works on a part time basis advising the American Sportfishing Association. Mr. Haddad has extensive background and expertise in marine fisheries research and management. He has published numerous scientific papers and served on many boards, councils and commissions associated with marine fisheries research and management. Mr. Haddad has a Master's of Science degree in Marine Science from the University of South Florida.

In summary, my recommendations are:

1. Eugene "Bo" Gorham – Recreational Fishing
2. Bob Zales – Charter Fishing
3. Walter M. "Dakie" Ward – Commercial Fishing
4. Pamela J. Dana – Charter Fishing
5. Kenneth D. Haddad – 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", written in a cursive style.

Rick Scott
Governor

RS/mm

Enclosures
cc: Mr. Nick Wiley



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Mr. William Chappell
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
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Dear Mr. Chappell:

In response to your request for nominations to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (Council), this 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 in Florida who care deeply about management of our saltwater fisheries. Our call for applications resulted in a strong pool of suitable candidates.

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, previously held by George Geiger. 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 fishery management in the State of Florida, I am providing my nominations in order of preference and ask you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

I am recommending **Captain Robert Johnson** as the preferred choice for this seat on the Council. Captain Johnson is the owner and operator of Jodie Lynn Sportfishing Charters out of St. Augustine, Florida. I believe it is critically important to have representatives on the Council from Florida who own and operate small businesses dependent on saltwater fisheries. Captain Johnson is an exceptional candidate in this regard. He has over 30 years of experience and over 5000 days at sea working in the saltwater fisheries industry. With extensive experience in recreational and commercial fishing, he understands the need to manage marine resources in a sustainable manner while preserving jobs that rely on healthy fisheries. Captain Johnson has a 100 ton US Coast Guard Masters License and works with the US Coast Guard on vessel inspection and permitting programs. He currently serves as an Advisory Panel member for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and a steering committee member for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's red snapper tagging program. He has participated in a fisheries independent data monitoring workshop; SEDAR 24 – red snapper benchmark assessment; and fishery research trips with the University of Florida Whitney Laboratory.

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399 • (850) 488-2272 • FAX (850) 922-4292

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Mr. John W. Jolley is retired after gaining over 50 years of experience in both recreational and commercial fisheries in addition to 19 years serving as Vice President and Financial Consultant with Morgan Stanley/Smith Barney. He has owned a boat and fished since he was 10 years old. His experience with saltwater fisheries included 12 years as a senior marine research scientist with the Florida Marine Research Institute; service on the scientific committee for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council; and certification as a fisheries scientist with the American Fisheries Society. For approximately 20 years, he participated in commercial fishing mostly in diving related fisheries and markets. Mr. Jolley served as president of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club for 30 years. He is recognized as an expert authority on sailfish and has published numerous scientific and popular articles on saltwater fishing. Mr. Jolley currently serves as an advisor to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

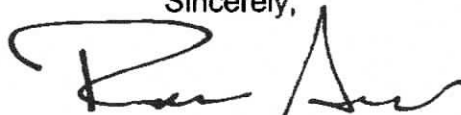
Captain Rob Harris is owner and operator of Got Ta Go Charters and current serves as director for the Key West Fishing Tournament. He previously owned Conchy Joe's Bait and Tackle. Captain Harris served honorably in the United States Navy from 1983 through 2003. He has been directly involved in working with the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council since 2001 and currently serves as Florida's representative on the snapper/grouper advisory panel for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He has fished Florida waters from Jacksonville Beach to Pensacola as a recreational and for-hire charter boat captain and has fished numerous fishing tournaments.

In summary, my recommendations are:

1. Robert A. Johnson – Charter/Recreational Fishing
2. John W. Jolley – Recreational Fishing
3. Rob Harris – Charter/Recreational Fishing

I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointments. We all must find ways to ensure wise and sustainable use of our valuable saltwater fishery resources. My nominees stand ready to serve.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott
Governor

RS/mm

Enclosures
cc: Mr. Nick Wiley