



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Wes Moore

March 15, 2024

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for the notice announcing the two at-large seats on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council that will become available on August 10, 2024. The State of Maryland is not offering any qualified nominees for these vacancies.

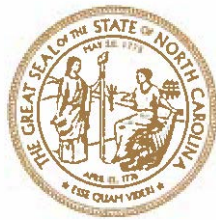
If you have any questions please contact Michael Luisi, Director, Tidal & Coastal Management and Science Branch. He can be reached by phone at (410) 260-8341 or via e-mail at Michael.Luisi@Maryland.Gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. Moore".

Wes Moore
Governor

cc: Michael Luisi



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

March 8, 2024

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for your agency's letter of Jan. 19, 2024, requesting that 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.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 113-260 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission) with the responsibility of compiling a list of nominees for consideration by the Governor for Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council appointments. The Commission provided the names of Ms. Anna Beckwith, Mr. Stuart Creighton, and Mr. William Gorham for my consideration as nominees for an at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. I concur with the Commission's recommendations and am forwarding these names to you as North Carolina's nominees. The nominees are presented without order or preference.

Due to the statutory makeup of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (please see enclosed list), a compilation of the list of nominees by that body meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1852(b)(2)(C), that each nomination be made in consultation with the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the state. The Commission makes every effort to encourage and seek out qualified women and minority candidates during this process. All 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 of the commercial or recreational harvest of the fisheries resources of North Carolina.

Following is a brief summary of the experience that qualifies each nominee to serve as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Ms. Anna Beckwith (Recreational). Ms. 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 in Raleigh, NC.

Ms. Beckwith served three consecutive terms on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC). Her last term ended in August 2021. On the SAFMC she served as an at-large seat and was chair of the Dolphin/Wahoo, and Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Committees. As Chair of the HMS Committee, she also served on the HMS Advisory Panel for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the ICCAT Advisory Committee. She attended the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) 2014, 2015 and 2016 annual meetings as part of the U.S. delegation. Ms. Beckwith has also served as liaison to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council on numerous occasions. Ms. Beckwith has also served as a Council representative on King Mackerel, Cobia, Blueline Tilefish and Red Snapper stock assessments.

Ms. Beckwith served on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2009 to 2015, serving as Vice-Chair from 2011 to 2015.

Ms. Beckwith and her husband own Down East Guide Service, a North Carolina recreational fishing guide service and international travel agency for sport fisherman specializing in Costa Rica and Argentina. They are the managing partners of Dragin Fly Sportfishing based out of Los Suenos Marina, Costa Rica.

Prior to 2007, Ms. Beckwith taught Environmental Science and Biology at the high school level and sixth, seventh and eighth grade science in eastern North Carolina. She was a research consultant (post-graduate work) from 2004 through 2006 monitoring red drum spawning habitat using passive acoustics, water quality, and egg/larval monitoring in the Neuse River Estuary, Pamlico River, Pamlico Sound and Ocracoke Inlet.

Previous to pursuing her graduate degree Ms. Beckwith was employed as Program Manager (1999-2001) for the American Farmland Trust in Washington, DC and was a marine fellow for The Nature Conservancy (1999).

Mr. Stuart Creighton (Recreational). Mr. Creighton graduated from NC State University with a BS in Meteorology and received his secondary education certification from Campbell University before completing a 25-year career as a high school science educator in North Carolina. During his career, he had experience teaching the full spectrum of science classes from fundamental Earth Science to AP Physics. In semi-retirement, he currently serves as a property manager in Oriental, a town with which he has had a lifelong connection.

Mr. Creighton has been a passionate recreational fisherman on the Neuse River throughout his life, and, because of that passion, he has become very active in current fishery management issues.

His activity began in 2015 when he became a regular attendee and public speaker at the quarterly Marine Fisheries Commission meetings. Since then, he has served on the most recent Striped Bass Advisory Committee, as well as being engaged with other standing and regional advisory committees.

Mr. Creighton has served as the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) NC Fisheries Committee Chairman since 2020 and is also a Vice President of the CCA State Board. His responsibilities in this role include, keeping current on state and federal issues, examining data to determine pending management problems, and writing content on what management measures are necessary to correct them.

Over the past decade, Mr. Creighton has fished up and down the North Carolina coast, exploring the different fisheries available from Weldon to Wrightsville Beach. He is very well studied on the challenges that are present at both the state and national level and will work hard to make sure that our marine resources are not only conserved, but rebuilt, so that everyone may continue to use them responsibly.

Mr. William Gorham (Recreational). Mr. Gorham is the owner of Bowed Up Lures, a fishing lure manufacturer located in Dare County. Given Mr. Gorham's market area for his lure company, it gives him great insight into fisheries in both the Atlantic and Gulf states.

Mr. Gorham has been involved in the state and federal fisheries management for a number of years. He served as a proxy for North Carolina's Legislative Appointee on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Mr. Gorham also served on the South Atlantic Council's Cobia sub-panel and Citizen Science Advisory Committee.

Mr. Gorham was also appointed to participate in each step of SEDAR 58 cobia stock assessment.

Mr. Gorham has also assisted in stakeholder outreach and education on a variety of regulatory proposals.

Mr. Gorham has also assisted with multiple grant proposals and helped with data collection on several research studies for NC State and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS).

March 8, 2024
Page 4

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for a North Carolina at-large seat to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

With kind regards, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Roy Cooper

RAC/swh

Enclosures

cc: Elizabeth S. Biser
Rob Bizzell
Kathy Rawls
Hayes Griggs

N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

Rob Bizzell

Chairman

Recreational Fisherman

R.Bizzell.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Sammy Corbett

Vice-Chairman

Commercial Industry

S.Corbett.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Robert McNeill

Recreational Fisherman

Robert.B.McNeill.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Doug Radar

Scientist

D.Rader.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Sarah Gardner

At-Large

S.Gardner.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Mike Blanton

Commercial Fisherman

M.Blanton.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Ryan Bethea

Commercial Fisherman

R.Bethea.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Donald Huggins

At-large

D.Huggins.MFC@deq.nc.gov

Tom Roller

Recreational Industry

Tom.Roller.MFC@deq.nc.gov



NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

ROY COOPER

Governor

ELIZABETH S. BISER

Secretary

Feb. 21, 2024

The Honorable Roy Cooper
Governor of North Carolina
116 W. Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27604

Dear Governor Cooper:

Enclosed is a letter for your signature to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, nominating 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. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act specifies that state governors must submit a slate of not less than three qualified individuals for each applicable vacancy. Council appointments will be effective August 11, 2024. Ms. Sara Winslow currently serves as a North Carolina at-large appointee to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. She is completing her third term and is not eligible for reappointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. State governors must submit nominations for council appointments to the National Marine Fisheries Service no later than March 15, 2024.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission compiled a slate of nominees for an at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council in accordance with N.C. General Statute 113-260. The commission recommends that you submit the names of Ms. Anna Beckwith, Mr. Stuart Creighton, and Mr. William Gorham as candidates for an N.C. at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. These individuals are North Carolina residents and by reason of their occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, are knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management of the commercial or recreational harvest of North Carolina's fisheries resources. I recommend that these individuals be named as nominees for an at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

The letter to the Assistant Administrator addresses the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act concerning the nominees' residency, knowledge of fisheries of the council's geographical area, and persons that were consulted in the recreational and commercial communities regarding the nominations. The Division of Marine Fisheries has reviewed the nomination materials submitted by the candidates to ensure all forms are complete and all required information is provided.

The National Marine Fisheries Service has requested that the enclosed nominations be sent electronically. To facilitate timely submission, please email completed nomination letters and nominees' application packages in a single PDF file to: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov. The nomination package must be received by the National Marine Fisheries Service on or before March 15, 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the nomination process for an at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Should you have questions or need additional information concerning the nominees or the nomination process, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Chris Batsavage, Special Assistant for Councils, N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557, phone (252) 241-2995.



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

217 West Jones Street | 1601 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601

919.707.8600

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Biser

Elizabeth S. Biser, Secretary
N.C. Department of Environmental Quality

ESB:cb

Enclosures

cc: Hayes Griggs
Bill Lane

Kathy Rawls
Chris Batsavage



North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
217 West Jones Street | 1601 Mail Service Center | Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1601
919.707.8600



State of New Jersey

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 001

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0001

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

Via email: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
United States Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

March 18, 2024

Dear Assistant Administrator Coit:

Please find herein the nomination materials for the pending vacancies of interest to New Jersey on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC); specifically, the obligatory seat currently held by Mr. Adam Nowalsky (NJ), and the at-large seat currently held by Mr. Thomas Schlichter (NY). The New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council and numerous commercial fishing ports and recreational fishing groups throughout the State were solicited for nominations to these seats. The solicitation included an explicit request to identify qualified women and minority candidates. The candidates below belong to, or are affiliated with, some of the organizations solicited for nominations, and each has been active in state and/or federal level fishery management issues. All are highly respected within the fishing community. In priority order, we nominate the following:

Obligatory seat:

- Greg Hueth (recreational) – Mr. Hueth has a long history of involvement in fisheries issues. An avid angler from a young age, he currently works in the for-hire industry and is active with a number of fishing clubs and organizations. He has experience navigating the juncture of science, management, and industry input through his leadership role with the Save the Summer Flounder Fishery Fund. Greg currently serves on several fishery advisory panels, is a regular attendee at state, interstate, and federal management meetings, and is awaiting final approval for an appointment to the NJ Marine Fisheries Council.

- Eleanor Bochenek (research/academia) – Dr. Bochenek has over 30 years working as a fisheries scientist conducting applied research addressing management issues for the recreational and commercial fishing industries in the Mid-Atlantic region and has actively participated in the management process at the state, regional, and national level serving on various advisory committees. She is a member of the New Jersey Marine Fish Council in the at-large seat. She is also an avid saltwater angler and has fished for over 60 years. Dr. Bochenek has gained the respect of both the commercial and recreational fishing communities in the region through her research and her fair and rationale management decisions.
- Victor Hartley (recreational) – Mr. Hartley has been actively engaged in state and regional fisheries management for more than two decades. As a member of several MAFMC advisory panels, he advocates for sound science that promotes sustainability and optimizes access to the resource. He is a regular participant at public hearings and meetings of the NJ Marine Fisheries Council. A firm believer in public participation in the process, he consistently encourages others to attend meetings and provide comments that inform management.

At-large seat:

- Dr. Daphne Munroe (research / academia) – Dr. Munroe is a prominent figure in fisheries research in the mid Atlantic region. For more than a decade, she has worked extensively with industry and other partners to address some of the biggest questions managers face, including the effects of climate change, offshore wind development, and fisheries on ecosystem stability and sustainability. With her scientific accomplishments and willingness to listen and engage, Daphne will bring a unique and well-rounded perspective to the table.
- Eleanor Bochenek (research/academia) – See description above
- Nicholas Cicero (recreational) – As an advisor to ICCAT, Mr. Cicero has experience with fisheries management at the federal and international levels. Further, his work experience spanning both commercial and recreational sectors, as well as retail and marketing, provides him with a unique perspective on the intricacies and impacts of fisheries management decisions.

All candidates listed above are highly regarded by their peers and would be excellent representatives to MAFMC. **However, New Jersey strongly recommends the appointment of Mr. Greg Hueth for the obligatory seat and Dr. Munroe to the at-large seat.**

- Mr. Hueth has earned the respect of his peers for having a solid understanding of marine fisheries management issues from years of active participation. He is thoughtful and deliberate in his comments, and is able to view the larger picture of fisheries management, striving for parity across the multiple user groups while promoting sustainability.
- Dr. Munroe has been at the forefront of contemporary fisheries research in the mid Atlantic region for more than a decade. During this time, she has earned the respect of both the commercial and recreational sectors for her open mindedness and willingness to listen. With her diverse knowledge and commitment to finding solutions to difficult issues, she is a superlative candidate for nomination.

For these reasons, my office fully supports the prioritization of these two names in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration of my nominees for these seats on the MAFMC. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Appointments, Sam Parker at (609) 777-2203.

Sincerely,



Philip D. Murphy
Governor



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

KATHY HOCHUL
GOVERNOR

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries Via Email: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Janet Coit:

I am writing to submit New York State's recommended candidates to be considered for appointment to fill one of the "At Large" seats on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) that will become vacant in August 2024.

The process we used to identify candidates included discussions with leaders of commercial and recreational fishing organizations in New York and with individuals who have attended and provided input at management meetings, including the New York Marine Resources Advisory Council (MRAC) and public meetings on individual Fishery Management Plans (FMPs). This collective process resulted in the consideration of several candidates. We also consulted with the Department of Environmental Conservation's Deputy Commissioner for Equity and Justice and the DEC Office of Indian Nation Affairs. Further, we leveraged the Department of Environmental Conservation's "Gov Delivery" service to advertise the opportunity to our vast networks across the state via *DEC Delivers*, specifically distribution lists for Environmental Justice, Region 1 News, Region 2 News, Region 3 News, Saltwater Fishing and Boating, and Wildlife, Fish, and Marine Life reaching over 196,000 subscribers. Our efforts were also amplified by the New York State Tourism Industry Association, which posted the *DEC Delivers* announcement on their industry news webpage and in their weekly newsletter. This year, no women or minority candidates expressed an interest in either position, despite our recruitment efforts. One applicant self-identified as disabled. Nomination kits for the qualified candidates identified below are enclosed with this correspondence.

At-large Seat Recommendations

I am pleased to recommend James Gilmore for appointment to an "At-Large" seat.

As the former Director of Marine Resources for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Mr. Gilmore has my strongest endorsement to fill an At-Large seat on the Council. His familiarity with fisheries management, ecosystems, and climate change, as well as Council operations is unparalleled. In addition, while his primary

residence is in New York, he also has property in New Jersey and has been an angler in that state for the past thirty years.

In addition to Mr. Gilmore, I am submitting the names of two other candidates who are worthy of your consideration. These candidates are Thomas Schlichter, and Joseph Beneventine, both of whom have the requisite expertise to provide meaningful contributions on fishery management issues.

The following, in order of preference, are New York State's 2024 nominees for an "At-Large" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

James Gilmore (Other) – Mr. Gilmore brings a wealth of experience as New York State's nominee at a critical time in fisheries management. As the former DEC Director of Marine Resources, he is well known among the commercial and recreational fishing communities and is a trusted expert. He also has nearly two decades of direct experience working with MAFMC and other federal councils, and this familiarity will enable rapid contributions and valuable insights.

Tom Schlichter (Recreational) – Mr. Schlichter is an outdoors feature writer with an extensive portfolio focused on marine recreational fishing, fisheries management and environmental issues that covers over 40 years. In addition, he has served on six MAFMC Committee positions during his first term, as well as numerous other state and local committees focused on the outdoors throughout his career. Mr. Schlichter's has been a licensed NYS fishing guide for more than a decade and with the completion of his first term in this capacity, he would continue to be a thoughtful contributor and valuable asset to the MAFMC.

Joseph Beneventine (Recreational) – Mr. Beneventine is an accomplished recreational angler with over 50 years of knowledge covering Long Island's marine fisheries. Joseph not only brings a lifetime of hands-on experience and a profound respect for marine ecosystems but also a strong commitment to advocating for sustainable practices among the recreational angling community in the Long Island Sound Region, ensuring the health and vitality of marine species for future generations.

I highly recommend Jim Gilmore and respectfully request your consideration of his appointment to an "At-large" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,


Kathy Hochul

Dated: March 15, 2024
Enclosures:
Candidate Nomination Application Kits



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

March 5, 2024

Glenn Youngkin
Governor

Via email: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov

Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East West Highway
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Dear Assistant Administrator Coit:

I am writing to submit three qualified candidates for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council obligatory seat for the Commonwealth of Virginia that will become vacant on August 10, 2024.

I have worked with Virginia Secretary of Natural and Historical Resources Travis Voyles and staff at the Virginia Marine Resources Commission (VMRC) to identify and consider qualified individuals, ensuring our nominees are knowledgeable in commercial and recreational fisheries and committed to the conservation and management of our fisheries and marine resources. Candidates were surfaced by conducting specific outreach to Virginia's commercial and recreational fishing organizations, as well as advertising on social media to reach a broader and diverse applicant pool. Nomination kits for the top qualified candidates identified below, in order of preference, are enclosed with this correspondence:

1. Skip Feller – Recreational (finishing his first term on the Council)
2. Todd Janeski – Other
3. Ashley Mullis – Commercial

Skip Feller has 47 years of professional experience working in the recreational for-hire fishing industry, specializing in: marine recreational inshore and offshore fisheries, marine eco-tours and excursions, and marine education and outreach. He has completed multiple workshops and modules with the Marine Resource Education Program provided by the Gulf of Maine Institute, has served as moderator for several Institute sessions focusing on the Greater Atlantic fisheries, and is a member of the Greater Atlantic Steering Committee for the Institute. He actively serves on the Virginia Marine Resources Commission's Finfish Advisory Committee and has served on the Black Sea Bass, Scup, and Summer Flounder Advisory Panel for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He is a current member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, completing his first term as the obligatory member representing the Commonwealth of Virginia, and serves on several Council committees, including: Summer Flounder, Scup, and

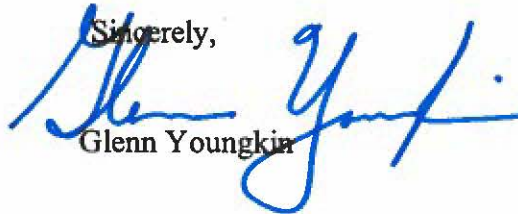
Black Sea Bass Committee; Spiny Dogfish Committee; Tilefish Committee (Chairperson); Protected Resources Committee (Vice-Chair); Law Enforcement Committee; Highly Migratory Committee; and Executive Committee. His rapport with both Virginia recreational and commercial fisheries representatives is excellent, and he frequently works cooperatively with our state official representative, Joseph Grist, on issues and concerns related to Virginia's diverse fishing industries.

Todd Janeski has over twenty years of professional experience in the natural resources and management field, specializing in regional and local planning, policy development and analysis, watershed and stormwater management, freshwater, estuarine and ocean resource management, strategic planning, community development and leading group process, program development and management, and science translation and communication. He has been employed by Virginia Commonwealth University for 16 years, working on a number of projects including the Virginia Healthy Waters Initiative and the Virginia Oyster Shell Recycling Program. Most recently, he has coordinated stakeholder engagement and data acquisition to develop the Virginia Coastal and Marine Spatial Plan for the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program. In particular, he works with fishermen regarding proposed offshore wind development and planning impacting Virginia. His rapport with the commercial fishing industries is excellent, and he has built trust regarding their concerns and interests.

Ashley Mullis has less than 10 years of direct professional experience in the commercial fishing industry, but has grown up in a family that has well over 30 years of involvement in Virginia's commercial fishing operations, ranging from in-state blue crab harvest to offshore scallop landings. She currently works for B&C Seafood, overseeing the sales and administration of the business since 2019. In recent years, she has been engaged with VMRC staff on various management topics, including the spiny dogfish fishery and impacts to the commercial gill net fishery offshore that could occur in relation to future protective measures to be enacted to protect Atlantic Sturgeon from takes. Her rapport with the commercial fishing industry, especially the federal offshore industry, is excellent, and she continues to endeavor to gain more understanding and input on fisheries management actions.

Thank you for your consideration of Virginia's candidates. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Glenn Youngkin

Enclosures

cc: Travis A. Voyles, Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources
Jamie L. Green, Commissioner, Virginia Marine Resources Commission
Joseph Grist, Chief, Fisheries Management Division