



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2020

Mr. Chris Oliver
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Springs, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This letter is in response to your request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council for the at-large seat currently held by Phil Dyskow. Throughout the past month, my office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests, along with conservation organizations. These discussions highlighted the importance of proper management of our fishery resources that are paramount to Florida's economy. We received recommendations from numerous individuals and organizations who are deeply invested in managing our saltwater fisheries:

Patrick Murray, Chairman, Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Kellie Ralston, American Sportfishing Association
Laurie Stevens, Southeastern Fisheries Association, Inc.
Captain Bill Kelly, Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
Captain Steve Paul, Able Fisherman Charters
Pam Anderson, Captain Anderson's Marina
J.D. Dickenson, Coastal Conservation Association Florida
Bill Dozier, Board of County Commissioners of Bay County
Susan Mason Yadav, National Association of Charterboat Operators
Captain BJ Burkett, Hook'em Up Charters
Captain Mark Kelley, Kelley Girl Charters
Jack Belcher, National Ocean Policy Coalition
Captain Tom Adams, Mexico Beach Charters
Captain Benjamin Kelley, Miss Kelley Fishing Charters
Rusty Hudson, Directed Sustainable Fisheries, Inc.
Captain Kory Freed, First Cast Charters
Ed Maccin, Southern Offshore Fisherman's Association
Charlie Phillips, Florida Guides Association
Walter Akins, Quality Analytical Laboratories

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Buddy Wilkes, Shipwreck Island Waterpark
Ken Daniels, Southern Offshore Fisherman's Association
Jerry Andrews, The Pensacola Charter Boat Association
Glenn Hughes, American Sportfishing Association
Chris Edmonston, BoatUS Foundation
Jeff Angers, Center for Sportfishing Policy
Jason Schratwieser, International Game Fish Association
Frank Hugelmeyer, National Marine Manufacturers Association
Gary Jarvis, Charter Fisherman's Association
Wilson Hubbard, Hubbard's Marina
Ben Speciale, Yamaha US Marine Business Unit
Billy Archer, Seminole Wind Fishing Charters

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by Phillip Dyskow. These nominees are well qualified for their sector and would make excellent candidates for appointment to the Council. I am providing my nominations in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee.

I am recommending **Phillip Dyskow** as the preferred choice for reappointment to the at-large seat on the Council. He is the former President of Yamaha Marine Group and a life-long recreational angler with experience in both fresh and salt water. Throughout his adult life he developed a passion for fishing the Gulf of Mexico, both inshore and offshore. Over the past decade he has focused his fishing efforts in the 10,000 Islands area of Southwest Florida operating out of his waterfront home on Marco Island, Florida. Mr. Dyskow is active in Marine Conservation and is a Legacy Member and a Life Member of the Coastal Conservation Association. Mr. Dyskow represents the recreational sector.

My second recommendation is **Captain Robert Zales, II**. He is the owner of Bob Zales Charters in Panama City, Florida, which he has operated since 1991. He has been involved in every aspect of the for-hire charter and commercial fishing business for over 54 years. He has been involved in organizing local and national charter boat associations and currently serve as President of the Panama City Boatmen Association and served as President (1999 -2020) of the National Association of Charterboat Operators (NACO) and the leading National Association representing the recreational charter boat industry. Captain Zales represents the recreational sector.

My third recommendation is **Gary Dean Jennings II**. He is the Director of the American Sportfishing Associations' Keep Florida Fishing initiative. The initiative's primary goal is to make sure that Floridians and those visiting have clean waters, abundant fisheries and access to both. He is currently a member of the FWC Aquatic Plant Management Technical Assistance Group. Prior employment includes working as: the general manager for Hell's Bay Boatworks,

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the publisher of Fly Fishing in Salt Waters magazine, regional director for the Coastal Conservation Association Florida, a manager for both Hilton Hotels Corporation and The Walt Disney World Resorts, worked at a dive shop/dive boat business and at a marine aquarium. Mr. Jennings represents the recreational sector.

The State of Florida attempted to solicit applications from women and minorities, however neither applied for this seat. I note that Florida currently has female and minority representation on the Council.

In summary, my recommendations for the at-large seat are as follows:

1. Phillip Dyskow (Recreational)
2. Captain Robert Zales, II (Recreational)
3. Gary Jennings (Recreational)

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 saltwater fishery resources. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron DeSantis', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/sg