



RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

May 13, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This letter is in response to your request for nominations to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, for the at-large seat held by Chester Brewer. My office consulted with members of recreational and commercial fishing interests and these discussions highlighted the importance of saltwater fishing that supports 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 the management of our saltwater fisheries:

J.D. Dickenson, Chairman of the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
Kellie Ralston, Southeastern Policy Director, American Sportfishing Association
Jimmy Hull, Hulls Seafood Market and Restaurant
Tom Twyford, Jr., West Palm Beach Fishing Club
Rusty Hudson, Owner of Directed Sustainable Fisheries Association
Sherrylanne McCoy, Owner of Cape Canaveral Shrimp Co.
Laurie Stevens, Executive Director, Southeastern Fisheries Association
Holly Binns, Project Director for U.S. Oceans, PEW Charitable Trusts

After careful consideration of each applicant, I am pleased to nominate the individuals listed below for the at-large seat, currently held by William "Chester" Brewer. 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 **William "Chester" Brewer** as the preferred choice for reappointment to the At-large seat on the Council. Previously, he served ten years as the Recreational Fisheries Advisor to the United States Delegation to the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). He also served as a board member on the National Executive Board for the Coastal Conservation Association. He has practiced civil trial litigation in Palm Beach County for 40 years, having earned his bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and attended law school at the University of Mississippi. Mr. Brewer represents the recreational sector.

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My second recommendation is Gerald "Brock" Pecknold. He is the owner of international sales company, GBPecknold, Inc. Additionally, he works for Seaview Windows which specializes in quality, energy efficient windows and doors that meet strict hurricane codes. He is a life member and vice president of the Broward County Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA). He is also head of an oyster bed restoration project in Broward County. He is an avid recreational fisherman and certified open water diver. Mr. Pecknold represents the recreational sector.

My third recommendation is Mark Carter. Since 1982, he has been vice president of engineering and chief scientist at Exxelia Dearborn, Inc. He is a life member and chair emeritus of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) of Florida. He served as the recreational fishing representative of Florida's Ocean and Coastal Council as well as the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Habitat Protection and Ecosystem Advisory Panel. He earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Central Florida. Mr. Carter represents the recreational and "other" sector.

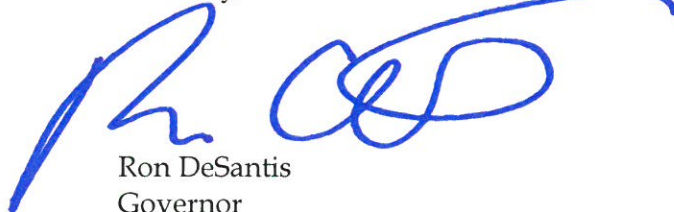
The State of Florida attempted to solicit applications from women and minorities, however neither applied for this seat. I note that Florida currently has female representation on the Council.

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

1. William "Chester" Brewer (Recreational)
2. Gerald "Brock" Pecknold (Recreational)
3. Mark Carter (Recreational and "Other")

I appreciate your consideration of my nominations for Council appointment 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,



Ron DeSantis
Governor

RD/mm