

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR

(334) 242-7100  
FAX: (334) 242-0937

## STATE OF ALABAMA

March 15, 2024

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service  
Attn: Janet Coit  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the Alabama Obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Susan Boggs of Alabama. The work of the Gulf Council is very important to the State of Alabama. Alabama has a very large charter fleet, a robust recreational fishery, a small but critical commercial fleet, and is the leader in seafood processing on the Gulf Coast. It is imperative to the economic and conservation interests of our state that Alabama be fairly represented on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Alabama would like to nominate the following three individuals for the Obligatory seat that is to be filled in 2024: Joseph G. Dobbs (recreational), Troy Frady (charter), Matthew Womble (recreational/other). **I recommend that Matthew Womble be appointed to this Alabama Obligatory seat.**

Matthew R. Womble is the Executive Director of the Alabama Water Institute at the University of Alabama. He is the former Senior Director of Ocean Programs at Sairdron Inc. Prior to his work in the private sector, Mr. Womble was on the Professional Staff at the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations. He was also Science Fellow and Policy Analyst at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Mr. Womble has been a recreational fisherman for various species for more than 25 years. His affinity for the Gulf of Mexico has transcended into his professional realm. He has a nuanced understanding of the complexities inherent in managing and sustaining fisheries. His network within the fishing community, NOAA, and the United States Congress has provided valuable insights into the diverse perspectives and interests that underpin complex Gulf of Mexico fisheries. He professes a steadfast commitment to ensuring that the voices of all anglers, irrespective of their sector, are heard and considered in the decision-making process. The pillars of his root philosophy are

balanced, science-based, and transparent. I feel that Mr. Womble will bring a unique perspective to the work of the Gulf Council.

Joseph G. Dobbs, Jr., is the former owner of Landscape Workshop, LLC. Mr. Dobbs is Chairman of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board and was a founding member of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. He is a current member of the Coastal Conservation Association-Birmingham, Alabama Chapter. Mr. Dobbs is an avid fisherman for inshore, offshore, and reef fish species. He spends much of his time in Coastal Alabama and has been active in the fisheries issues in our state. Mr. Dobbs has a vast knowledge of coastal fisheries and is actively involved with persons in Alabama, and other states as well, concerning coastal fisheries issues. He founded Landscape Workshop in 1986. Landscape Workshop now has four locations in Alabama and has over 300 employees. Dobbs is a board member of the Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals, the Birmingham Construction Authority, Auburn School of Horticulture, and American Subcontractors Association - Alabama Chapter, and is on the executive committee of Magic Moments, benefiting children with life-altering and life-threatening diseases. Mr. Dobbs has relationships with commercial, recreational, and charter fishermen along the Gulf Coast. He would be very open-minded and wants to work cooperatively with all sectors, the other Gulf States, and the federal government to use best management practices to ensure viability of our marine resources.

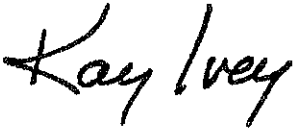
Troy Frady is a full-time federal for-hire charter fisherman on the vessel *Distraction* in Orange Beach, Alabama. He considers himself an educator, in addition to being a boat captain. He provides an experience well beyond just fishing during his trips by discussing management, conservation efforts, and history of fishing. Mr. Frady has been a transportation logistics manager, bank officer, and a commercial pilot. He is also a veteran of the United States Navy. There are very few Gulf Council meetings that Troy does not attend to provide comment on current fishery management plans. He has been a member of several Council panels and committees and is very open-minded and involved in all aspects of the Council process.

The nomination process is very important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) has met with a variety of groups before selecting the above nominated individuals. The following organizations were consulted in the process: the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Coastal Conservation Association, Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association, Orange Beach Fishing Association, Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission, Alabama-Mississippi Sea Grant, University of South Alabama Department of Marine Sciences, University of Alabama, Dauphin Island Sea Lab, Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance, Coastal Alabama legislators and mayors, several charter

fishermen, recreational fishermen, marina operators, and other concerned and knowledgeable individuals.

ADCNR actively worked to recruit and consider qualified women, people of color, and individuals representative of historically underserved communities. ADCNR will continue to work with organizations in Alabama to diversify the nominations for future seats on the Council and in nominations for advisory panels. I sincerely hope you will act on my recommendation to appoint Matthew Womble to this critically important Obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council.

Sincerely,

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

Kay Ivey  
Governor of Alabama

cc: Christopher M. Blankenship  
Scott Bannon



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

March 15, 2024

Secretary Gina Raimondo  
U.S. Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Delivered electronically

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

This letter serves as response to your request for nominations for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's obligatory seat for Florida. Over the past few weeks, our office has spoken with many members of the commercial and recreational fishing community as well as environmental groups. This year we have received a great deal of interest in this seat, including individuals and organizations who are deeply invested in the management of our marine fisheries resources. A subset of those are listed here:

- American Sportfishing Association
- Charter Fishermens Association
- Coastal Conservation Association of Florida
- Destin Charter Boat Association
- Fish for America
- Florida Guides Association
- Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association
- Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association
- Gulf Fishermen's Association
- Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders Alliance
- Gulf Wild
- The Ocean Conservancy
- Organized Fishermen of Florida
- Panama City Boatmens Association
- Southeastern Fisheries Association
- Southern Offshore Fishing Association
- Southern Shrimp Alliance

After careful consideration of each applicant, it is my pleasure to recommend the below individuals for this obligatory seat. These individuals are well qualified and would make an excellent appointment for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. I am providing





**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

Secretary Gina Raimondo  
March 15, 2024  
Page Two

these individuals in order of preference and ask that you give strong consideration to the preferred nominee. This seat has historically been a commercial seat for Florida. We have provided three strong commercial candidates.

I am recommending Juan "John" Sanchez as the preferred choice for appointment to the Florida obligatory seat on the Gulf Council. Mr. Sanchez is a seasoned Council member as he has previously served on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council from 2012 - 2021 and served on the South Atlantic Council from 1997 - 2000. While Mr. Sanchez currently works as a General Manager for Sunshine Gasoline Distributors, Inc in the commercial fuels division, his past experience supporting Monroe County commercial fishermen (MCCF) as the Executive Director of the Monroe County Commercial Fishermen's Association and his avid recreational fishing background will serve him well in advocating for sustainably managed fisheries resources in the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Sanchez has vast experience in working with the commercial, charter for-hire, and private recreational fishing industry through his past work on the Council, MCCF advocacy, and his experience as the chair of the Key West Challenge Fishing tournament. He also has knowledge of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and its importance to the nation's economy. Mr. Sanchez has also testified before Congress on important fisheries issues in the Florida Keys. This vast diversity of experience and fluency in both English and Spanish make him the perfect candidate for this Florida Council seat.

My second recommendation is Casey Streeter. Mr. Streeter's commercial fishing business, vessels, and seafood wholesale and retail operation in Matlacha, Florida was recently hit hard by Hurricane Ian. He fought hard for the recovery of his local fishing community that was devastated by this storm. Mr. Streeter has knowledge of the federal fishery management process as he currently serves as the Vice-Chairman of Gulf Council's Ecosystem Technical committee. He is also founder of the Florida Commercial Watermen's Conservation, a 501C3 that had fishermen working with NOAA on monitoring the waters off Southwest Florida following numerous red tide events that began in 2015. Mr. Streeter is an intense advocate for Gulf fisheries resources and fishermen and has over a decade of knowledge in the federal fisheries management process.

My third recommendation is Austin Abrams. Mr. Abrams believes in protecting all marine life in the Gulf of Mexico for current and future generations. He is a third-generation seafood house owner and operator at Greg Abrams Seafood. Mr. Abrams has strong connections with the commercial fishing industry and other seafood houses. As a Council member he will strive to protect the



**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

Secretary Gina Raimondo  
March 15, 2024  
Page Three

Gulf fishery resources and the commercial fishing industry. Mr. Abrams has attended the Marine Resource Education Program to learn about the federal fisheries management process.

In summary, my recommendation is as follows:

1. Juan "John" Sanchez
2. Casey Streeter
3. Austin Abrams

I appreciate your consideration of my nominees for this important Florida seat and look forward to seeing citizens of Florida continue their service on the Councils in ways that will help ensure wise and sustainable use of our saltwater fishery resources in the Gulf of Mexico. Florida continues to include quality candidates to serve on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. We remain steadfast in our commitment to find qualified individuals by soliciting applications for appointments across the state, including women, minorities, and underserved communities. I believe these candidates represent a broad range of backgrounds and perspectives. Please contact my office if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron DeSantis".

Ron DeSantis  
Governor

RD/ca



Jeff Landry  
Governor

State of Louisiana  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
P.O. BOX 94004  
BATON ROUGE  
70804-9004

March 12, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Coit:

Enclosed, please find my nominations for the available Obligatory and At-Large Seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council). Each candidate would be an asset to the Council; their qualifications and applications are enclosed. Consultations regarding these nominees were made with representatives from Louisiana's commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities, as well as other stakeholders in federal fisheries management. Please see the enclosed list of individuals consulted. Female and minority candidates have also been considered.

The following are my nominees for the Obligatory Seat currently held by Jonathan (JD) Dugas/LA (Recreational). The first name listed is my preferred nominee:

- Jonathan (JD) Dugas
- Michael Frenette
- Joshua Ellender

The following are my nominees for the At-Large Seat currently held by Billy Broussard/LA (Commercial). The first name listed is the preferred nominee:

- Billy Broussard
- Christopher Macaluso
- Campos Matens

I recommend this list as the most qualified. Your consideration of these nominees is greatly appreciated.

For Louisiana,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Landry".

Jeff Landry  
Governor

enclosures

cc: Madison Sheahan, Secretary, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries



## **Qualifications of 2024 Nominees, Listed Alphabetically by Last Name**

### **Billy Broussard**

- Voting Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- Commercial fisherman for more than 25 years
- Current General Manager of Vermilion Corporation, a management company that leases property for commercial fishing for blue crab, shrimp, and alligator
- Former commissioner, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (Commission); member, Commission's Legislative Committee
- Member, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Artificial Reef Committee
- Five years' experience as charter fishing guide

### **Jonathan (JD) Dugas**

- Voting Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
- 30 years as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico species
- Member, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council Ad Hoc Red Snapper Private Angler Advisory Panel
- State Board Member, Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana

### **Ioshua Ellender**

- 30 years' experience as a recreational fisherman for both inshore and offshore species
- Fishing guide to include inshore and offshore fishing (2008-2011)
- For-hire charter captain, inshore and offshore fishing (2012-present)
- Completed the MREP Southeast science workshop. Scheduled to complete the MREP Management section in April
- Member of the Gulf Council's Reef Fish Advisory Panel
- Participant in SEDAR 70: Gulf of Mexico Greater Amberjack stock assessment
- Board member of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Board member of the Houma Area Convention and Tourist Bureau

### **Michael Frenette**

- Over 40 years' experience as a charter guide captain
- 50 years of recreational fishing experience
- Owner of the Redfish Lodge of Louisiana in Venice, LA
- Received Top 50 Captains of the World Award Saltwater Sportsman
- Current member and former president of the Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Received Redfish World Series Lifetime Achievement Award

### **Christopher Macaluso**

- Commercial fisherman for over 35 years
- Received the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana's Coastal Stewardship Reward



- Member, Louisiana Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation
- Marine Fisheries Director for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Former Assistant Director for the Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana
- Former Coastal Outreach Coordinator for the Louisiana Wildlife Federation

#### Campos Matens

- 70 years' experience as recreational fisherman in the Gulf of Mexico
- Member Coastal Conservation Association of Louisiana and America
- Member Redstick Fly Fishers Management Board
- Served 3 terms on the Gulf of Mexico Marine Fisheries Commission
- Former Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council member

## **Persons Consulted Regarding 2024 Nominations**

The following persons from Louisiana's commercial, recreational, and for-hire fishing communities were consulted regarding 2024 nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council:

- Ashford Rosenberg, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
- Eric Brazer, Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance
- Bill Butler, Owner, Venice Marina
- Chris Moran, Owner, Moran's Marina
- David Cresson, Executive Director, Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) – Louisiana Association
- Jeff Barger, Ocean Conservancy
- Rebecca Triche, Louisiana Wildlife Federation
- Richard Fischer, Executive Director, Louisiana Charter Boat Association
- Sepp Haukebo, Environmental Defense Fund
- Stan Harris, Louisiana Restaurant Association
- Dr. Rex Caffey, Louisiana Sea Grant Marine Extension
- Senator Allain, Senator District 21
- Chad Hanson, Science and Policy Officer, PEW Charitable Trust

**2024 Statement on Effort to Consider Qualified Women and/or Minority Candidates**

A high level of importance was placed on soliciting applications from and considering qualified minority candidates for nomination to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. After thorough review of potential candidates' qualifications, no minority candidate was selected.



# State of Mississippi

TATE REEVES  
Governor

March 1, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Coit:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit nominations for the at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Gulf Council) currently held by Dale Diaz. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR § 600.215, the State of Mississippi nominates the following three individuals to the at-large seat to be filled after August 10, 2024: Jason Osborne, Michael Brainard and John Marquez. My top recommendation to represent Mississippi as a Gulf Council member for the at-large seat is **Jason Osborne**.

After reviewing the education, experience and background of each of the nominated individuals and consulting with appropriate representatives of the environmental community, the recreational, the commercial and the for-hire charter segments of the fisheries, I feel each of these individuals meet the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. More importantly, their qualifications identify them not only as efficient stewards of fisheries resources but also as individuals prepared to meet the task of attaining the desired management goals of the Regional Fisheries Management Councils.

My top nominee Jason Osborne is an appointed member of the Mississippi Advisory Commission on Marine Resources, where he is involved in the rules and regulations necessary for the protection, conservation or propagation of both the commercial and recreational fisheries in the marine waters of the State of Mississippi. Mr. Osborne previously worked for Alaska Senator Ted Stevens on the 1996 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. He brings more than 30 years of experience working on national and international government affairs, serving in senior roles in Presidential and international administrations providing high-profile legislative advocacy, in addition to serving as a consultant to the Center for Sportfishing Policy in Washington DC. Mr. Osborne also has been directly involved in the fishing industry in the Pacific, most recently working with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands representatives of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.



Ms. Janet Coit  
March 1, 2024  
Page 2

Michael Brainard has 33 years of experience in fisheries management in the State of Mississippi working for the Department of Marine Resources as a fisheries biologist, Director of the Shrimp and Crab Bureau, and Deputy Director of the Office of Marine Fisheries. Mr. Brainard has been appointed to a variety of fisheries-related commissions and councils throughout his career including the Gulf Council's Special Shrimp Science and Statistical Committee (SSC).

John Marquez is the Director of Coastal Policy and Program at the Mississippi Wildlife Federation where he oversees coastal policy advocacy with an emphasis on transparent and science-based decision making for coastal restoration projects and sound fisheries policies for both state and federally managed species. He has served on several Gulf Council Advisory Panels including the Reef Fish AP, Data Collection AP, Red Snapper Ad-Hoc AP and the SEDAR 74 Stock Assessment Panel.

I have provided written statements and the application kits for each of the nominees. Should you require any additional information, please contact my counsel Joseph Sclafani at (601) 668-0438.

Sincerely,



Tate Reeves  
Governor

cc: Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Joe Spraggins, Executive Director, Mississippi Dept. of Marine Resources