



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 11, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

In response to the request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC), I wish to submit the following nominees to be considered for the two at-large seats which will become vacant on August 10, 2015. The four candidates should be considered for both seats.

Mr. William L. "Tres" Atkins, III, Galveston, Texas
Mr. Troy Bello Williamson, III, Portland, Texas
Captain Michael "Mike" Jennings, Angleton, Texas
Mr. Ronald O. "Ronnie" Luster, Houston, Texas

Enclosed are the nomination packets for the four nominees. These individuals are all knowledgeable of the conservation and management of fishery resources and each possesses a unique background and experience as it relates to resource management.

William L. "Tres" Atkins, III is a commercial fishing captain with over 20 years of experience in both charter for hire, recreational and commercial fishing industries and holds a Master 100 Tons License issued by the United States Coast Guard. He is owner and operator of Atkins Seafood and Coastal Charter Adventures, which specializes in private guided fishing tours in the Galveston, Freeport, and Gulf of Mexico areas, and is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance and the Charter Fisherman's Association. Mr. Atkins is also an active participant in both national and state fisheries meetings such as, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department public hearings and Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council meetings and scoping hearings.

Troy Bello Williamson, II, is an attorney in private practice in Corpus Christi and a recreational fisherman. Mr. Williamson has demonstrated his concern and commitment to fisheries management issues through his service on numerous panels and commissions. He is a

Commissioner on the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. Mr. Williamson is also a member of the Gulf Of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Snapper Advisory Panel, Coastal Migratory Pelagics Advisory Panel, Ad Hoc Red Snapper IFQ Advisory Panel, Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter for Hire Advisory Panel and Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Advisory Panel.

Michael "Mike" Jennings owns and operates two federally permitted charter vessels that take recreational fisherman offshore for private fishing charters. He has been a charter fisherman for 27 years. Mr. Jennings dedicates a substantial portion of his time advocating on behalf of his industry and sustainability in the fishery as President of the Charter Fisherman's Alliance. Mr. Jennings is also a member of the Gulf Of Mexico Fishery Management Council's King Mackerel Advisory Panel.

Ronald O. "Ronnie" Luster is a property and casualty insurance broker specializing in the oil and gas industry. He is a founding member of Gulf Coast Conservation Association (now Coastal Conservation Association). Mr. Luster is a member of the Commercial/Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission. In 2006, Field and Stream magazine named Mr. Luster a winner of their National Hero of Conservation for initiating the volunteer driven retrieval of abandoned crab traps.

In compliance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, we have conferred with representatives from the recreational and commercial fishing communities regarding the nominees. In addition, my staff has also consulted with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, which has a significant number of public advisory groups on marine related issues. My appointments staff actively encourages and sought nominees from diverse ethnic backgrounds and various areas of the state.

I recommend you to consider these nominees for the available seats on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. I believe they are highly qualified and possess the talents and experiences necessary to make any of them an effective council member. I appreciate your consideration of the nominees.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Governor

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Enclosures