



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PAT McCrory
GOVERNOR

March 13, 2015

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

Dear Ms. Sobek:

Thank you for your agency's letter of Jan. 28, 2015 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. General Statute 113-260 charges the N.C. Marine Fisheries 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 four individuals for my consideration, and I have selected the following candidates as nominees for an at-large appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council: Mr. Kenneth "Casey" Wagner, Jr., Ms. Sara E. Winslow, and Dr. Roger A. Rulifson. I have selected Mr. Kenneth "Casey" Wagner, Jr. as a preferred nominee.

As a result of the statutory makeup of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission (please see enclosed list), compilation of the list of nominees by that body meets the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Section 302(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 of 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:

Mr. Kenneth "Casey" Wagner, Jr. Mr. Wagner received a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1979. He owns real estate and rental property businesses in Atlantic Beach, N.C. Mr. Wagner has been involved with the charter and recreational fishing industry for more than forty years. He has owned and operated the charter boats Wavedancer and Triple Header, and currently owns and operates the Inspiration. In addition, he has captained many private boats and has operated as an inshore fishing guide. Mr. Wagner has fished the waters of the Mid-

Atlantic as well as tropical environments, and has held a 100 ton Masters License since 1984.

Mr. Wagner is a long-time member of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament Board of Directors and has served as its president for seven years. During that time, the Big Rock Tournament has grown from a small local tournament to one of the most prestigious billfish tournaments in the world. In addition, he serves on the Board of Directors for the newly formed Atlantic Billfish Championship Series and is on the Advisory Board for the N.C. Governor's Cup Conservation Series.

Mr. Wagner participates in six to ten fishing tournaments each year with a major focus on the N.C. Governor's Cup Series. In 2014, he fished in nine tournaments and won the 2014 Big Rock Tournament, placed second in the Keli Wagner Ladies Tournament, came in third in the Ducks Unlimited Tournament, and placed second in the N.C. Governors Cup Series.

Ms. Sara E. Winslow. Ms. Winslow received a B.S. degree in Marine Biology from UNC-Wilmington in 1978 and began her career with the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries in January 1979. She worked in various positions until 1988, when she was promoted to the Northern District Biologist Supervisor position. In that capacity, she was responsible for overseeing biological staff and projects in N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries offices located in Elizabeth City, Manteo and Columbia. In December 2000, Ms. Winslow was promoted to the Northern District Manager position where she was responsible for all regional N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries projects. She served as the division's project leader for a variety of anadromous species projects, and was instrumental in the development of many of the division's early fishery management plans. Ms. Winslow also participated in numerous N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission meetings and activities until her retirement in February 2011.

At the interstate level, Ms. Winslow served on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission Technical Committees for Shad and River Herring, Striped Bass and the Striped Bass Tagging Committee. For 21 of 23 years, Ms. Winslow participated in the Cooperative Winter Tagging Cruise, a collaborative effort among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries and several other Atlantic coast states. Ms. Winslow currently serves on the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Finfish and Northern Regional Advisory Committees, as well as the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council River Herring and Shad Advisory Committee.

Dr. Roger A. Rulifson. Dr. Rulifson is the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor, and Senior Scientist within the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy at East Carolina University. He received his B.S. in Biology and French from the University of Dubuque (Iowa), and M.S. in Marine Science and Ph.D. in Marine Science & Engineering at N.C. State University. Dr. Rulifson has over 30 years of fisheries research and teaching experience, with topics ranging from anadromous species life history and population estimates to cooperative gear research and bycatch reduction. He has authored or co-authored over 200 publications, technical reports, and book chapters during his career.

Dr. Rulifson has participated in multiple advisory committees and technical panels at both the state and federal level. He has been a member of both the N.C. River Herring

and N.C. Estuarine Striped Bass Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committees, as well as a member of the Spiny Dogfish Stock Assessment Review Committee (SARC 37) for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He served on the Transboundary Resources Assessment Committee and the Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Maritimes Region Science Advisory Process for Spiny Dogfish. He is also currently a member of the Atlantic Acoustic Tracking Network and the NMFS River Herring Technical Expert Workgroup. Dr. Rulifson has received several awards, including the Governor's Conservation Achievement Award (Water Conservationist of the Year, 1991). He is an active member of the American Fisheries Society, having served as both President and Past President of the Marine Fisheries Section, as well as on the Board of Governors.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat McCrory". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "P".

Pat McCrory

Enclosures

PC:md

cc: Donald van der Vaart
Sammy Corbett
Louis Daniel
Charles Duckett

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