



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

Terence R. McAuliffe
Governor

March 11, 2015

Brian Fredieu
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Fredieu,

I am proud to nominate, in order of preference, Peter deFur, Ken Neill, and Meade Amory for an obligatory seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Each of these candidates is fully qualified for this position by reason of their occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, are knowledgeable regarding the conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest, of the fishery resources. Ensuring the vitality of our tidal waters natural resources is essential to a vigorous economy for our coastal communities, and each of these individuals would prove an asset to the Council.

Serving the Commonwealth for much of their career, each candidate's experience and expertise has enhanced the sustained use and productivity of our fisheries and each candidate has shown a commitment to stewardship of our marine resources. The above nominations are, in part, the result of consultations with members of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and its Finfish Management Advisory Committee, the Virginia Seafood Council, the Shellfish Growers of Virginia, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and the Virginia Charter Boat Association. Along with those considerations, a great deal of thought and expertise from state agencies – principally the Virginia Marine Resources Council and its staff – went into the selection of Virginia's Nominees.

I am committed to the goal of increasing women and minority representation throughout government and on boards and commissions like the MAFMC. Efforts were made to identify qualified women and minority nominees, but given the constraints of the concurrent Virginia Legislative session and the relatively short period between receipt of the nomination packet and the nomination deadline, none could be found with the appropriate credentials, experience and

willingness to serve. An effort is now in place and will remain ongoing to pre-select women and minority candidates for future openings and the Commission should expect to see a very diverse slate of nominations from Virginia in the future.

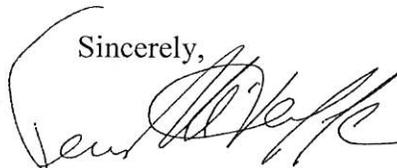
In addition to his career as a marine scientist, Peter deFur is also a veteran of the MAFMC. Peter's prior experience would allow him to step into a familiar role at the MAFMC and act with confidence and competence. Ken Neill has been involved in both fisheries research for many years through the Virginia Institute of Marine Science and Old Dominion University, and is a respected member of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and its advisory boards. As a member of the business community and owner of Amory Seafood, Meade Amory has a first-hand understanding of the health and vitality of our fisheries, from both an economic and harvesting basis. Although each of these candidates offers different backgrounds, they all share a significant commonality – a lifetime of dedication to our marine resources.

These candidates demonstrate the skills necessary to carefully strike a balance between a flourishing economy and habitat and species conservation. While respecting the delicate nature of competing interests, each candidate has a firm grasp on decisions that best fit the needs of our Nation's marine resources. These candidates are ready to manage the many aspects of MAFMC by aiding informed decision-making on fisheries and other resources throughout this North Carolina-New York region of federal waters, developing management plans for our federally- or jointly-managed coastal resources, promoting recreational activities, and participating in local, interstate, and federal fishery organizations.

These candidates have a long-standing, deeply rooted, and enduring interest in the conservation and management of our coastal fisheries throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Their experience, knowledge, and expertise are sure to prove valuable to the citizens of all of the member states of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

I am pleased to nominate Peter, Ken, and Meade for MAFMC's vacancies and I am confident that you find each of these candidates as qualified as I do. Given that only one of Virginia's nominees for the open obligatory seat on the MAMFC will be chosen, the Commonwealth of Virginia respectfully submits that the other two nominees put forth be given consideration for any additional open seats on the Commission. No other nominees will be put forward at this time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terence R. McAuliffe", written over a large, faint, circular watermark or stamp.

Terence R. McAuliffe