



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

March 9, 2016

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 in the following order of priority for the one obligatory seat for the State of Texas and the one at-large seat, which will become vacant on August 10, 2016. The three candidates should be considered for both seats.

Mr. Douglass W. "Doug" Boyd, Boerne, Texas
Mr. Troy Bello Williamson, III, Portland, Texas
Mr. Ronald O. "Ronnie" Luster, Houston, Texas

Enclosed are the nomination packets for the three 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.

Douglass W. "Doug" Boyd is the preferred nominee for the Texas obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. In his 6 years on the council, he served as Vice Chairman (2011) and Council Chairman (2012 and 2013). He is eligible to serve a third and final term. Mr. Boyd is a small business owner and recreational fisherman who has a long held interest in the issues facing Gulf of Mexico fisheries. In addition to his service on the Council, he is a former vice chairman and current member of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) and represents the Council as a board member on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP). He was a representative of the SFBPC on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan committee that developed and recommended the NFHAP program to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Commerce for their approval. As an engaged member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Mr. Boyd has applied his talents to the conservation needs of Texas and the nation.

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 was appointed to the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission in 2011 by Governor Perry and reappointed in 2014. Additionally, he is a member of Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Red Drum Advisory Panel, Reef Fish Advisory Panel (includes red snapper), Ad Hoc Artificial Substrate Panel, Ad Hoc Red Snapper Individual Fishing Quota Panel and Ad Hoc Red Snapper Charter for Hire Panel. Mr. Williamson is also a member of Executive Committee of Harte Research Institute, Center for Sportfish Science & Conservation, Texas A&M – Corpus Christi.

Ronald O. "Ronnie" Luster is a property and casualty insurance broker specializing in the oil and gas industry. Mr. Luster is a founding member of Gulf Coast Conservation Association (now Coastal Conservation Association). He 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

GA:ls

Enclosures