



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

March 20, 2013

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

Attention: William Chappell

Dear Assistant Administrator:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and other related guidance and your letter advising of the vacancy, I have submitted the names and short biography of four nominees listed below for your consideration to fill One At-Large seat on the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council ("CFMC") currently held by:

Mr. Winston J. Ledee, U.S. Virgin Islands, At Large

These four (4) nominees represent professionals in the Virgin Islands fishery industry. The list characterizes the results of a concerted effort to afford an opportunity to a broad cross section of Virgin Islanders with the desire and experience to be considered as nominees on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. The nominees are listed in order of preference:

Mr. Louis A. Blanchard is a commercial fisherman with over 30 years' hard-earned experience, born and raised on St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Mr. Blanchard has been actively employed in the fishing industry all of his life and performed at every level from mate to captain/owner. Mr. Blanchard currently holds the board position as Vice-President of the St. Thomas Fishermen's Association. He has been an active participant in the Caribbean Fishery Management Council Meetings. His dedication and commitment to protection of our fishery resources is credible and based on his livelihood and his desire to see fishery resources preserved and available for future generations. Mr. Blanchard is very interested in serving his first term on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council.

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Mr. Winston J. Ledee is a commercial fisherman born and raised on St. Thomas, USVI. He currently holds the At-Large and Vice Chair seats on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council. Mr. Ledee is very interested in serving for a third term based on his comprehensive knowledge and experience of fisheries issues, his strong conservation ethics, and his understanding of the Caribbean Fishery Management Council's responsibilities. His expertise in the commercial fishing industry and profound understanding of the management and conservation efforts cited in the MSA exemplify his ability to represent the people and fishery resources of the Virgin Islands on the Council. His capacity to create a positive impact on people is evident in his admirable demeanor and commendable articulation for which he has received outstanding respect from his peers and members of the Council.

Mr. Daryl Bryan is a second generation fisherman born and raised on the island of St. Thomas. Mr. Bryan currently sits on the Advisory Panel of the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council and has been an active participant in Council meetings. He also performs as the Vice President of the St. Thomas Fishermen's' Association. Additionally, Daryl Bryan participated in the NMGS Marine Fisheries MARFIN project identifying species composition from by catch; he served as field coordinator in a NMFS Cooperative Research Program entitled the Trap Vent Study; and he is currently the field coordinator for the CFMC Lobster Tag Recapture Study, designed to provide stock evaluation for the districts of St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix. Mr. Bryan is familiar with the Council mission and process, and looks forward to serving his first term on the Caribbean Fisheries Management Council.

Mr. Claude G. Berry fished commercially in the Virgin Islands full time from 1974 to 2005. His extensive experience allows him to participate on several local fishery committees including the Trap-Reduction Steering Committee and the Fishery Advisory Committee where he helped develop regulations for Conch and Whelk, biodegradable trap panels, and improvements within our local fish market. His personal philosophy circles around the need for fewer fish traps and a healthy breeding environment resulting in an abundance of local fish. Mr. Berry feels there is a manageable balance between conservation measures and a healthy Virgin Islands fishing industry. Claude Berry believes his participation on the Council would help achieve this balance and looks forward to serving his first term.

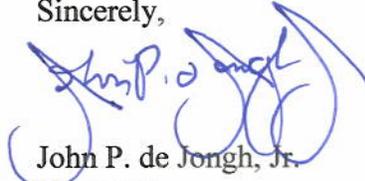
In executing your request to obtain nominees for the At-Large Seat on the Caribbean Fishery Management Council, the Government of the Virgin Islands through the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, Division of Fish & Wildlife, initiated contacts through the St. Thomas/St. John Fishermen's' Association, the St. Thomas/St. John and St. Croix Fishing Advisory Committees and during public meetings.

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The nomination documents are enclosed for each of the eligible candidates. If you have any questions, please submit them to Alicia V. Barnes, Commissioner of the Department of Planning and Natural Resources, (340) 774-3320, or to Nathan Simmonds, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor, (340) 774-0001.

I sincerely appreciate this opportunity to have my nominees considered by you and the Secretary of Commerce.

Sincerely,



John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

Attachments (4)