

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

ROBERT BENTLEY  
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100  
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## STATE OF ALABAMA

Mr. William Chappell  
March 7, 2014  
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Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
Attn: William Chappell

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to nominate persons to fill the at-large seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council that is currently held by Dr. Robert Shipp of Alabama. Dr. Shipp has been a valuable member of the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council. I am proud of Dr. Shipp's service, and I hope that an Alabama representative will be appointed to his seat to continue the valuable work he has done over the last nine years. In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act and 50 CFR 600.215, the State of Alabama would like to nominate the following four individuals for the at-large seat that is to be filled in 2014: Joey Dobbs, Jr. (recreational and other knowledgeable person in fisheries), David Walker (commercial), Randy Boggs (charter fisherman and recreational), and Troy Frady (charter).

Joseph G. Dobbs, Jr. is the owner of Landscape Workshop, LLC. Mr. Dobbs is a member of the Alabama Conservation Advisory Board and was a founding member of the Gulf Coast Conservation Association. He is a current member of the Coastal Conservation Association, Birmingham, Alabama Chapter. Mr. Dobbs is an avid fisherman for inshore, offshore, and reef fish species. He spends the majority of his time in Coastal Alabama and has been active on fisheries issues in our state. Mr. Dobbs has a vast knowledge of coastal fisheries and active involvement with persons in Alabama and other states as well, concerning coastal fisheries issues. He founded Landscape Workshop in 1986. Landscape Workshop now has four locations in Alabama and has over 300 employees. Dobbs is a board member of the Birmingham Association of Landscape Professionals, the Birmingham Construction Authority, the Auburn School of Horticulture, and the American Subcontractors Association - Alabama Chapter. Mr. Dobbs is also on the executive committee of Magic Moments, which benefits children with life altering and life threatening diseases. Mr. Dobbs has relationships with commercial, recreational, and charter fishermen along the Gulf Coast. He is open minded and wants to work



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cooperatively with all sectors, the other Gulf States, and the Federal Government. He uses best management practices to ensure viability of our marine resources. **For this reason, I recommend that Mr. Joseph Dobbs, Jr. be appointed to the at-large seat being vacated by Dr. Robert Shipp.**

Captain David Walker is the owner and operator of the F/V June Sue. He holds federal commercial permits for Gulf Reef Fish, Coastal Migratory Pelagic Fish, and Shark Incidental. Mr. Walker has been a commercial fisherman for over 30 years. He is extremely knowledgeable about the fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. He is a member of the Gulf Coast Professional Fishermen and is a former member of the Gulf of Mexico Shareholders Alliance. He has been an active participant in the Council process. Mr. Walker has served on several advisory panels and is currently serving on the Red Snapper Advisory Panel, the Reef Fish Advisory Panel, the Ad Hoc 5-Year Red Snapper Review Advisory Panel, and the Ad Hoc Commercial Reef Fish Advisory Panel. Mr. Walker is an excellent communicator and works well with recreational, commercial, and charter fishing organizations. **I recommend that Mr. David Walter also be considered for the at-large seat.**

Randy Boggs is the dock manger of the Reel Surprise Dock Store in Orange Beach, Alabama. He sells fuel, ice, and bait to recreational, for-hire, and commercial fishermen from the dock store. Mr. Boggs also manages the dockage of recreational vessels at the San Roc Cay Marina. Mr. Boggs has been involved in the recreational fishery for over 36 years and interacts with recreational fishermen on a daily basis. He is also the owner of B and D Maritime, Inc. and books fishing trips for 15 for-hire vessels. Mr. Boggs is the owner/operator of the charter boats, "Reel Surprise", "Gulf Winds II", and "Wishbone." Mr. Boggs is an active participant in the Council process.

Troy Conrad Frady is a self-employed charter fisherman. He is the owner and operator of the charter vessel "Distraction." He has been active in attending Gulf Council meetings. Mr. Frady is currently a member of the Recreational Fisheries Working Group that advises the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee. He is a board member of the Orange Beach Fishing Association. Frady is a member of the Limited Access Privilege Program Advisory Panel, the Data Collection Advisory Panel, and the Reef Fish Advisory Panel. He has had many years of experience in the

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business and corporate sectors before entering the charter business. He has a B.A. from the University of Alabama. He is also a U.S. Navy veteran.

The nomination process is important to the State of Alabama. The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources/Marine Resources Division (ADCNR/MRD) has met with a variety of groups before selecting the above nominated individuals. The following organizations were consulted in the process: the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama, Serve the Gulf, the Alabama Seafood Association, the Alabama Seafood Dealers, the Coastal Conservation Association, the Alabama Coastal Fishermen Association, Orange Beach Fishing Association, the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission, the University of South Alabama, other charter fishermen, recreational fishermen and marina operators, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, and other concerned and knowledgeable individuals.

In an effort to consider minority and female candidates, AMRD/MRD discussed the nomination process with the Organized Seafood Association of Alabama (OSAA). No minority or female candidates provided nomination applications. ADCNR/MRD will continue to work with organizations in Alabama to diversify the nominations for future seats on the Council and in nominations for advisory panels.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bentley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Robert Bentley  
Governor of Alabama

Enclosure

c: N. Gunter Guy, Jr.  
Chris Blankenship