



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

March 13, 2014

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

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 for one of the three at-large vacancies open to nominations from any governor in the GMFMC region. The seat is currently held by Patrick Riley of Texas. The three candidates below should be considered for the seat.

Dr. Gregory Stunz, Port Aransas, Texas
Mr. Troy Williamson, III, Portland, Texas
Mr. William L. "Tres" Atkins, III, Waxahachie, 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.

Gregory Stunz is the preferred nominee for the at-large vacancy. Dr. Stunz is the endowed chair for Fisheries and Ocean Health and executive director of the Center for Sportfish Science and Conservation at the Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. He is also a professor of Marine Biology at Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi College of Science and Technology. After 20 years researching marine fisheries, he is well-versed with the issues facing the GMFMC and is an author of over 40 scientific papers in national and international journals. He is a member of the GMFMC Scientific and Statistical Committee, the Gulf Estuarine Research Society, and the Coastal Conservation Association. He also serves on the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and as a marine fisheries representative for the American Fisheries Society.

Troy Williamson, III, is an attorney in private practice 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 is a member of the Gulf States Marine Fisheries Commission and vice chair of the Coastal Resources Advisory Committee for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. He is also a member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery

Management Council's Ad Hoc Reef Fish LAPP Advisory Panel, Ad Hoc Mackerel LAPP Advisory Panel, Ad Hoc 5-Year Red Snapper IFQ Review Panel, and AdHoc Private Recreational Data Collection Panel.

William L. "Tres" Atkins, III, is a commercial fishing captain with over 20 years of experience in both charter for hire recreational and commercial fishing industries, and holds a Master, 100 Tons License issued by the United States Coast Guard. He is owner and operator of Atkins Seafood and Coastal Charter Adventures, which specializes in private guided fishing tours in the Galveston, Freeport, and Gulf of Mexico areas, and is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Shareholders' Alliance and the Charter Fisherman's Association. Atkins is also an active participant in both national and state fisheries meetings, such as the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Council, local Texas Parks and Wildlife Department public hearings, and the Days-at-Sea Pilot Program scoping meetings in Galveston.

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 encouraged and sought nominees from diverse ethnic backgrounds and various areas of the state.

I recommend you consider these nominees for the available seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. I believe they are highly qualified and possess the talents and experiences necessary to make any one of them an effective council member. I appreciate your consideration of these nominees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The letters are written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry
Governor