



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

March 12, 2013

Mr. Samuel D. Rauch, III
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch:

In response to the request for nominations to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council, I wish to submit the following nominees to be considered for Texas' obligatory seat and the at-large seat. The seats are currently held by Douglass Boyd of Texas and Lawrence Abele of Florida. The four candidates below should be considered for both seats.

Mr. Douglass Boyd, Boerne, Texas
Mr. Troy Williamson, Portland, Texas
Dr. Gregory Stunz, Port Aransas, Texas
Mr. John Blaha, Rockport, Texas

Enclosed are the nomination packets for each of the four 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 Boyd is the preferred nominee for Texas' obligatory seat on the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Mr. Boyd currently serves with distinction as chairman of the Council and I urge you to give his potential reappointment to the Council the upmost consideration. Mr. Boyd is a small business owner and recreational fisherman who has long held an interest in the issues facing Gulf of Mexico fisheries. In addition to his service on the Council, Mr. Boyd is former vice chairman and current member of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and a board member of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. 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 Williamson, III is a self-employed attorney and 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. Mr. Williamson 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 Ad Hoc Private Recreational Data Collection Panel.

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

John Blaha is an assistant director of Coastal Conservation Association Texas (CCA Texas) and director of Habitat Today for Fish Tomorrow (HTFT) initiative of CCA Texas. HTFT works with organizations, academia and state agencies to create and restore coastal marine habitat in Texas. Mr. Blaha is a member of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council's Texas Habitat Protection Advisory Panel and Texas Sea Grant College Program's Sea Grant Advisory Committee. Additionally, he writes conservation articles for CCA Texas' state newsletter, *Currents*, and other published fishing magazines based in Texas.

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. The 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 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 one of them an effective Council member. I appreciate your consideration of these nominees. Please do not hesitate to call upon me if you have further questions on this matter.

Sincerely,

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

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:llg
Enclosures