

Committee Reports





ROY COOPER
Governor

MICHAEL S. REGAN
Secretary

STEPHEN W. MURPHEY
Director

Nov. 1, 2018

MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission

FROM: Chris Batsavage, Special Assistant for Councils

SUBJECT: South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Obligatory Seat Nominations for North Carolina

Issue

N.C. General Statutes require the Marine Fisheries Commission to approve nominees for federal fishery management council seats for the governor's consideration and allows the governor to consult with the commission regarding additions to the list of candidates. The governor must nominate no fewer than three individuals for a federal fishery management council seat to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Findings

The Marine Fisheries Commission's Nominating Committee voted to forward the names of the following individuals to the Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration for North Carolina's Obligatory Seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

- Robert (Tim) Griner, a commercial fisherman and dealer from Charlotte and the current North Carolina obligatory member on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council
- Brian (Scott) Buff, a commercial fisherman and dealer from Oak Island City
- Samuel (Sammy) Corbett, a commercial fisherman and dealer from Hampstead
- Jack Cox, a commercial fisherman and dealer from Morehead City and former North Carolina obligatory member on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council

Action Needed

The commission needs to approve nominees for the North Carolina Obligatory Seat on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council.





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MEMORANDUM

TO: N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission
MFC Nominating Committee

FROM: Chris Batsavage and Nancy Fish
Division of Marine Fisheries, DEQ

DATE: Oct. 29, 2018

SUBJECT: Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee Meeting Minutes

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Nominating Committee met on Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2017 at 4 p.m. at the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries Headquarters Office, 3441 Arendell Street, Morehead City, N.C.

The following were in attendance:

Committee members: Chuck Laughridge (Chairman), Cameron Boltes (via phone), Pete Kornegay (via phone), Mike Blanton (via phone)

Staff: Chris Batsavage, Nancy Fish, Steve Murphey, Steve Poland

Public: none

Chairman Laughridge called the meeting to order. The agenda was approved without modification.

Motion by Pete Kornegay to approve the minutes from the Oct. 4, 2017 Nominating Committee meeting, seconded by Cameron Boltes. Motion passed without dissent.

Public comment

No members of the public were in attendance, nor was any public comment received via email.

Review of N.C. General Statutes and federal Magnuson-Stevens Act requirements

Batsavage briefly reviewed the N.C. General Statutes pertaining to the selection of nominees for federal fishery management council seats. He stated that the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission must approve a slate of candidates for the governor's consideration, and that the statutes allow the governor to consult with the commission regarding additions to the list of candidates. Batsavage also described the federal statutes and regulations pertaining to qualification of candidates and noted that the governor must submit a list of no less than three nominees for an appointment. The commission will review the list of candidates approved by the committee at its business meeting in Kitty Hawk on Nov. 14-16, 2018.

 Nothing Compares

Review and selection of candidates for South Atlantic Fishery Management Council obligatory appointment

Laughridge reviewed the attached bios of the candidates for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council obligatory seat, briefly describing the background and qualifications of each: Tim Griner (incumbent), Scott Buff, Sammy Corbett and Jack Cox. Batsavage noted that Mr. Griner is completing his first three-year term and is eligible for another three-year term. He also reminded commissioners that staff always advises the committee and the full commission that they not select a preferred candidate for any appointment, but rather leave that decision to the governor. Steve Poland, the director's liaison to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, provided additional background regarding the three candidates.

After a brief discussion of the candidates, the committee made the following motion:

Motion by Mike Blanton to forward the names of Tim Griner, Scott Buff, Sammy Corbett and Jack Cox to the Marine Fisheries Commission for consideration for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council obligatory seat. Seconded by Pete Kornegay. Motion passed without dissent.

Meeting adjourned.



Robert Timothy Griner, Charlotte, NC. Mr. Griner was born and raised in Charlotte, but grew up fishing the inshore and offshore waters of Brunswick County. He earned a B.S. in engineering from North Carolina State University and had a successful career in civil engineering, mostly in commercial construction. In 2009, business began to slow, and Mr. Griner found himself spending more and more time fishing. He began sharing his catch with family and friends; after some of his friends showed their chef friends those fish, the chefs approached Mr. Griner to see if he would be interested in supplying fish for a few local Charlotte restaurants. In 2010, Mr. Griner obtained his state and federal dealer and vessel permits, and started the Charlotte Fish Company. The business started with small trips, bringing back fish for just a few restaurants, but since then Mr. Griner has focused on building a clientele of small Charlotte restaurants whose menus cater to use of locally-sourced ingredients. He now supplies over 60 restaurants in the Charlotte area. Mr. Griner holds federal vessel permits for snapper grouper, dolphin wahoo, and king and Spanish mackerel. In addition to the two vessels he owns, Mr. Griner also packs fish for two additional vessels out of Brunswick County. Over the past several years, Mr. Griner has become more involved in management of the fishery, attending South Atlantic Council public hearings, including Snapper Grouper Visioning Project port meetings. He is dedicated to educating both chefs and consumers about the wide variety of available from North Carolina's offshore waters.

2018 Update:

- Appointed to the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council in 2016, currently serving as the NC commercial representative (Obligatory Seat).
- Completed NMFS/NOAA Council Training Course – Silver Spring, MD
- Completed MREP Fisheries Science Workshop
- Completed MREP Fisheries Management Workshop
- Participant in the 2018 SEDAR Cobia Stock ID Workshop
- SAFMC Representative for the Gulf of Mexico Council Meeting: 2017 Biloxi, Miss.
- SAFMC Representative for the Gulf of Mexico Council Meeting: 2018 Gulf Shores, AL.

Brian Scott Buff – Oak Island, NC: I was born and raised in Morganton, North Carolina and moved to Brunswick County, North Carolina in the late 90's. I have been an owner, operator and very passionately active in the industry since 1998 when I purchased my first commercial vessel. Today, I now own and operate 7 Snapper/Grouper boats in the South Atlantic and 2 in the Gulf of Mexico. 1 shrimp vessel, 1 Gulf of Mexico charter vessel, 1 Gulf of Mexico Snapper/Grouper vessel, a Fish House (fish market) in Supply, North Carolina and 2 retail markets in Southport, NC and Supply, NC respectively. In addition to my 20 years of experience in the industry I also have held my 100 Ton Master License for 17 years. I am very knowledgeable with in the industry; having already served one term on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel. I look forward to the opportunity for consideration with in the council, to provide my passion and knowledge in order to positively impact our fishing community.

In addition to my aforementioned fishing industry engagement, I am the owner of a respectable General Contracting company in Oak Island, NC since 2003.

Mr. Samuel (“Sammy”) Corbett: Mr. Corbett is an active full-time commercial fisherman and seafood dealer based out of Hampstead, North Carolina and served as chairman of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission from 2014 to 2018. He grew up on the waterfront in Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach, where he served as mate on numerous charter boats. He has held a commercial fishing license since he was 16 years old, participating in both offshore federal fisheries and inshore coastal fisheries. Mr. Corbett started snapper grouper fishing in 1977 and was one of the first fishermen in southeastern North Carolina in the longline fishery for sharks, snowy grouper, and golden tilefish; and was part of the initial development of the wreckfish fishery off Wrightsville Beach. He also ran a swordfish boat. In 1992 he suffered a back injury, and due to the extensive recovery period from surgery, was unable to meet the 50 percent income requirement to maintain his federal permits. Once he was able to fish again, Mr. Corbett shifted to inshore and nearshore fisheries. He has held a seafood dealers license for the nearly 20 years and now actively fishes for blue crabs, mullet, spot and Spanish mackerel. He also has productive oyster and clam leases.

Jack Cox - Atlantic Beach, NC: Jack Cox's career in the fishing industry spans over three decades. Growing from an early love of the surrounding waters, a native of North Carolina, Jack's pastime evolved into a passionate career. With diverse and ongoing pursuits as a practicing fisherman, Jack has extensive experience with captaining a charter boat, spearfishing, bandit fishing, and sea bass trap fishing. Jack started commercial fishing when he was 16 by going out on four to five day trips as a crew member for a snapper grouper vessel. After high school, he started fishing to earn money for college money on his 25-foot center console boat. Most of this fishing was done out of Morehead City, NC.

The work ethic instilled in his early years has proven to be the platform for a career that has expanded to the wholesale and retail seafood business. After college, Jack went to work for a local seafood company selling local seafood to restaurants and for wholesale throughout the U.S. and Japan. Jack spends most of his time selling finfish and snapper grouper for fishermen in our community. He sells for five full-time snapper grouper boats and several day trippers. He and his partner own Crystal Coast Fisheries as well as Blue Ocean Seafood Market which enables them to serve the retail community as well as wholesale avenues.

Believing in taking care of our resources, Jack is committed to giving back and preservation of our future. In doing so, Jack has had extensive involvement in associations dedicated to the industry. In addition to serving on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council from 2013 to 2016, Jack has been a member of the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission's Finfish Advisory Committee, the Commission's committee to define a commercial fisherman, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council LAPP workgroup (2007-2008), and serving on the board of Carteret Catch, a local organization dedicated to promoting local fishermen and their seafood.

Since his appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council in 2013, Jack has served on multiple council committees including Snapper Grouper, Data Collection, Law Enforcement, Mackerel and Advisory Panel Selection, among others. He has served as a Council-appointed observer for the Red Snapper and Gray Triggerfish stock assessment data workshop. He was also appointed as the Council's representative on the NMFS Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team, as well as the Council's representative on the ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) Advisory Panel. He is a current board member of Seafood Harvesters of America. He attended the advancing ecosystem based management workshop in San Diego summer of 2018.

Jack has a vested interest in working together with others to celebrate, protect and grow the fishing industry.