



February 28, 2014

Governor Rick Scott  
Office of Governor  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott,

The Council for Sustainable Fishing is a nonprofit advocacy group for commercial and recreational fishermen, seafood dealers and wholesalers, restaurateurs, and chefs in the South Atlantic region, including Florida. Our mission is to optimize and sustain fishing opportunities for commercial and recreational fishermen to aid the coastal economy of the region and ensure stable seafood availability to consumers.

We write to urge you to nominate St. Augustine charter boat operator and recreational fisherman Robert Johnson for appointment to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council as your **preferred** nominee. Without doubt, Robert is the most qualified and has by far the most experience as to participation in South Atlantic fisheries and the regional fishery management council process.

Robert has over 30 years of experience as a working Florida charter boat captain. He is a respected leader in recreational and for-hire fishing, who has worked tirelessly to affect fishery management policy for the good of fishermen and the resource.

As a former SAFMC member, I have witnessed the tremendous amount of time and effort Robert has committed to fishery management policy. He has participated for years on SAFMC advisory panels (he is currently the chairman of the Snapper-Grouper Advisory Panel), stock assessment panels, and he regularly attends SAFMC public hearings and meetings.

Last November, Robert was called upon to testify about the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization before the U.S. Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Subcommittee.

He has also worked closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission designing and implementing a tagging program to study red snapper and their spawning aggregations.

The regional fishery management council process is predicated on stakeholders serving as council members. Robert is the most qualified and experienced stakeholder that could be nominated to serve as a Florida representative on the SAFMC.

Again, we urge you to nominate Robert Johnson as your **preferred** nominee for appointment to the SAFMC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

  
Tom Swatzel  
Executive Director

OPTIMIZATION AND SUSTAINABILITY  
FOR THE RECREATIONAL AND COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY