



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

Addendum to March 15, 2024 Letter

June 10, 2024

Ms. Janet Coit
Assistant Administrator for NOAA Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Hwy, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Via email to: Council.Appointments@noaa.gov

Dear Ms. Coit:

Please accept the following list of three nominees, in priority order, for the expiring at-large seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). This position is currently held by Philip Anderson of Westport, Washington. Mr. Anderson is not eligible for reappointment. I strongly encourage you to maintain the regional balance on the PFMC and appoint a Washington resident to this seat.

We have consulted with a broad range of interested parties in seeking nominations. As requested by our federal partners, efforts were made to nominate individuals with knowledge and experience in the conservation and management of marine resources and other sectors including: women, people of color, tribal members, subsistence users, and individuals representative of historically underserved communities. In addition, we have considered the need for experience and perspective related to conservation of fisheries, ecosystems and habitat and respect to environmental protections, especially considering the rapidly changing climate. Furthermore, in conjunction with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, we have evaluated each candidate's leadership and experience relative to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our three nominees not only meet but exceed the knowledge and experience qualification requirements.

I am recommending the following individuals in priority order.

Ms. Aja Szumylo

Seattle, Washington

Executive Director of Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative

Ms. Aja Szumylo represents the commercial fishing industry and Washington At Sea-catcher processor sector. Ms. Szumylo is dedicated to effective fishery management and has well-developed practical experience in addressing and solving fishery management challenges. She led efforts to implement rapid changes to fishery regulations and policy that allowed the Washington fishing industry to operate safely and successfully under extremely challenging conditions. Ms. Szumylo has been able to use her nearly two decades of fishery management experience in combination with her strategic thinking skills, knowledge of marine ecosystems,

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and expertise in federal fisheries regulation and policy to craft solutions to the challenges facing the Washington fishing industry.

Mr. Brian Blake

*Aberdeen, Washington
Ocean Gold Seafood*

Mr. Blake has been a Commissioner on the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission since 2006 and on the Pacific Fishery Management Council Coastal Pelagic Species Advisory Subpanel. Additionally, Mr. Blake served as a state Representative in the Washington State House of Representatives from 2002 to 2020. Mr. Blake is a strong advocate for coastal communities and the health of West Coast ecosystems.

Mr. Larry Phillips

*Olympia, Washington
Policy Director for the American Sportfishing Association (ASA)*

Prior to working at the ASA, Mr. Phillips worked for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife for 21 years including as the Region Six Director from 2017-2022. He was also WDFW's representative on the PFMC's Highly Migratory Species Management Team from 2015-2017. Mr. Phillips is an avid recreational angler with an extensive understanding of how management and science contribute to the conservation of ocean resources for the benefit of Washington state.

All the nominees hold qualities vital to effective representation of the state's interests. Each has shown the ability to work collaboratively and has broad sector support.

Aja Szumylo possesses exceptional leadership, innovation and professional expertise. Moreover, she is an effective strategic collaborator and an ardent supporter of sustainable fisheries with a strong conservation ethic; Aja is my preferred candidate. I believe she is qualified to serve on the Pacific Fishery Management Council and will support management values that promote resource conservation, habitat protection and sustainable fisheries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor

Enclosures: List of Groups Consulted
Nomination kits for Ms. Aja Szumylo, Mr. Brian Blake, Mr. Larry Phillips,

cc: Kelly Susewind, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Morgan Corey, National Marine Fisheries Service

List of Groups Consulted Regarding Nominations for the expiring At-Large Seat on the Pacific Fishery Management Council currently held by Mr. Philip Anderson – 2024 Nomination

American Sportfishing Association
American Seafoods Company LLC
Arctic Storm, Inc.
Coastal Commercial Fishing Coalition
Coastal Trollers Association
Columbia River Crab Fishermen's Association
Environmental Defense Fund
Fishing Vessel Owners Association
Fury Group, Inc.
Ilwaco Charter Association
Lowman & Associates Fisheries Consulting
Midwater Trawlers Cooperative
Ocean Conservancy
Ocean Gold Seafoods
Ocean Outcomes (O2)
Oceana
Oceanbeat Consulting
Pacific Fishery Management Council
Pacific Seafood
Pacific Whiting Conservation Cooperative
Pew Charitable Trusts
Puget Sound Anglers
Purse Seine Vessels Owners' Association
Recreational Fishing
Surfrider Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
Trident Seafoods
United Catcher Boats
University of Washington School and Marine and Environmental Affairs
Washington Dungeness Crab Fishermen's Association
Washington Sea Grant
Washington Trollers' Association
Western Fishboat Owners Association
Westport Charter Association