

NEW JERSEY SHELLFISHERIES COUNCIL  
— ATLANTIC COAST SECTION —  
P.O. BOX 418  
PORT REPUBLIC, NJ 08241

WALTER L. JOHNSON III, CHAIRMAN  
GEORGE W. MATHIS, JR, VICE CHAIRMAN  
PAUL T. FELDER, COUNCILMAN

August 15, 2023

*Re: Shellfish Council Appointments*

Dear Governor Murphy,

The New Jersey Shellfisheries Council is an advisory body to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection that is empowered under Title 50 to advise and consult on all matters regarding the shellfish industry, resources and aquaculture in the state and is given the exclusive authority to grant shellfish aquaculture leases in New Jersey's tidal waters. The Council has served in this capacity for well over 100 years to ensure the growth and sustainability of NJ's shellfish resources and industry. The Council, by State Statute, is comprised of active shellfish industry members with representatives from each coastal county to ensure industry representation. Adequate representation has not been the case for some time now as there are several crucial vacancies on the Council at a time when the industry is evolving and modernizing. Not having full representation inhibits the ability of the Council to operate in its intended charge of representing marine resource stakeholders and to facilitate the growth of the shellfish aquaculture industry.

For the Atlantic Coast Section, there are five seats and two of them are vacant, leaving Atlantic and Monmouth counties unrepresented. The additional members are serving in expired terms. The Council is aware that there are several responsible members of the shellfish industry that have submitted applications to the Governor's Appointments Office expressing their interest in serving, but there has been no movement on these applicants, either through the Appointments Office or at the State Senate Judiciary Committee. The Council is asking the Appointments Office to act swiftly to fill these vacancies and to address expired terms to maintain and grow the industry and support the coastal economy.

Thank you for your attention on this matter. If you or your staff would like to discuss this matter further, please feel free to contact me at (609) 513-4380.

Sincerely,



Walter L. Johnson III, Chair

cc. Senator Michael L. Testa, Jr. (District 1)  
Senator Vincent J. Polistina (District 2)  
Senator Troy Singleton (District 7)  
Senator Christopher J. Connors (District 9)  
Senator James W. Holzapfel (District 10)  
Senator Vin Gopal (District 11)  
Senator Samuel D. Thompson (District 12)  
Senator Declan J. O'Scanlon Jr. (District 13)  
Senator Joseph F. Vitale (District 19)  
Senator Robert W. Singer (District 30)  
Senator Brian P. Stack (Judiciary)  
Senator Nellie Pou (Judiciary)  
Senator Jon M. Bramnick (Judiciary)  
Senator Anthony M. Bucco (Judiciary)  
Senator Kristin M. Corrado (Judiciary)  
Senator Joseph A. Lagana (Judiciary)  
Senator Fred H. Maddan (Judiciary)  
Senator Paul A. Sarlo (Judiciary)  
Senator Troy Singleton (Judiciary)  
Senator Bob Smith (Judiciary)  
Shawn LaTourette, Commissioner of NJDEP  
David Golden, Assistant Commissioner, NJ Fish and Wildlife  
Joe Cimino, Administrator, NJ Marine Resources Administration  
Russ Babb, Chief, Bureau of Marine Habitat and Shellfisheries  
Jeffrey Normant, Supervising Biologist, Bureau of Marine Habitat and Shellfisheries  
Delaware Bay Section of NJ Shellfisheries Council  
NJ Marine Fisheries Council  
Jeffrey Brust, Chief, Bureau of Marine Fisheries