NEW JERSEY MARINE FISHERIES COUNCIL

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The Honorable Philip D. Murphy

Governor

The State House

PO Box 001

Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Governor Murphy:

I am writing to you on behalf of the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council (Council) to encourage your review and approval of candidates to fill two vacant seats on Council.

As established through NSJA 23:2B sections 4 and 5, the Marine Fisheries Council is comprised of 11 members representing commercial and recreational fishing interests and the general public for the purpose of advising the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on conservation and management rules, regulations, and policies regarding marine fisheries resources, their habitats, and the commercial and recreational industries that rely on them. Two of these 11 seats have been vacant for several years: one representing the general public since August 2019, and one representing recreational anglers since August 2020.

Without adequate representation, it is difficult for Council to fulfill its obligations. New Jersey’s commercial and recreational fisheries are among the most vibrant and active in the nation, contributing over $3 billion dollars to the economy annually. Failure to manage them effectively puts them at risk and poses a disservice to countless commercial and recreational fishery participants, their support industries, and all New Jerseyans.

It is my understanding that numerous applications have been submitted to fill these vacancies. I urge your office to review these applications and make appointments to Council to fill these long-vacant seats.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Herb

Acting Chairman

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)

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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

Jeffrey Brust, Bureau of Marine Fisheries

Russ Babb, Chief, Bureau of Marine Habitat and Shellfisheries

Delaware Bay Section of NJ Shellfisheries Council

Atlantic Coast Section of NJ Shellfisheries Council