

From: [O'Brien, Shawn](#)
To: [IFQ Applicants](#)
Subject: Application for IFQ Focus Group - Shawn O'Brien - Knowledgeable Person Position
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:18:21 AM

I am applied for a position on the IFQ Focus Group as a Knowledgeable Person. My application is in the email below. I am submitting my resume as suggested in the application.

I am Shawn O'Brien from Houston, Texas. I am a lawyer in Houston and have been practicing for over 24 years. I have been fishing all of my life since growing up in New Orleans, Louisiana and fishing the marshes and Gulf coast of Louisiana before moving to Texas 24 years ago where I now fish inshore and offshore GOM out of Freeport/Surfside Beach, Texas. I primarily target different species as a private angler such as: (inshore) speckled trout, redfish, flounder and (offshore) Red Snapper, Vermillion Snapper, Cobia, Kingfish, Grouper, Amberjack, Tuna, Swordfish, Tilefish. I keep my boat at Surfside Marina in Freeport, Texas so I am also exposed to many other anglers around the marina who are serious fishermen.

I am interested in getting involved with the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council after gaining a better understanding of how the Council operates. I am very familiar with IFQ programs from studying the publicly available data, minutes of meetings, and any recommended rule changes. I am impressed with how detailed and professional the Council conducts itself. I believe I can contribute by helping the Council monitor the upper Gulf coast fishery. I understand the upper Gulf coast area very well based on the significant time I spend on the water. I am an advocate for conservation while fishing and while interacting with other private and commercial fisherman. I also interact with TPWD regarding the various Texas committees, data, and rule changes.

I would be honored to serve on the Council's IFQ Focus Group as a Knowledgeable Person. Please let me know if to need any additional information from me. My professional bio can be found at: <https://www.mayerbrown.com/en/people/o/obrien-shawn-r?tab=overview>

Thank you,
Shawn O'Brien
281-300-2890

From: Google Forms <forms-receipts-noreply@google.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 9:02 AM
To: O'Brien, Shawn <SOBrien@mayerbrown.com>
Subject: Application for IFQ Focus Group

****EXTERNAL SENDER****



Thanks for filling out [Application for IFQ Focus Group](#)

Here's what was received.

Application for IFQ Focus Group

You are applying for the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (Council) IFQ Focus Group. Applications are due by December 17 at 5:00 PM EST/4:00 PM CST. Members of the IFQ Focus Group shall be appointed at the Council's discretion. Consideration for appointment may include the appropriate experience, as well as other factors such as a record of fishery violations. Although the potential positions have specific requirements, the Council will consider the range of experience across applicants; thus, it is possible some positions may not be filled. There are 10 potential positions on the IFQ focus group, and you may apply for all those for which you qualify:

1. Dealer – Must have a Gulf and South Atlantic Dealer Permit and have received IFQ landings through their account.
2. Crew with no shares – Not required to have shares or a permit, but serves as captain or crew of a vessel that participates in the IFQ program.
3. Permit holder who leases allocation – Must have a commercial reef fish permit associated with the same account used to transfer and land allocation. Does not have shares.
4. Eastern Gulf longliner who leases red snapper allocation – Must have an Eastern Gulf Reef Fish Bottom Longline Endorsement and a Commercial Reef Fish Permit associated with the same account used to transfer and land red snapper allocation. Does not have red snapper shares.
5. Shareholder (3 positions available-SEE BELOW; staff will determine the appropriate position based on your shareholdings.)
 - Small shareholder – Holds a small amount of shares of red snapper and/or red grouper and a commercial reef fish permit. Among shareholder accounts that hold shares in these two categories, applicant is approximately among the bottom third of shareholders by shareholding volume for one or both share categories. Applicant's shareholdings are approximately within the bottom third across all share categories.
 - Medium shareholder – Holds an intermediate amount of shares of red snapper and/or red grouper and a commercial reef fish permit. Among shareholder accounts that hold shares in these two categories, applicant is approximately among the middle third of shareholders by shareholding volume for one or both share categories.
 - Large shareholder – Holds a large amount of shares of red snapper and/or red grouper and a commercial reef fish permit. Among shareholder accounts that hold shares in these two categories, shareholdings place applicant approximately among the top third of shareholdings by volume in one or both share categories.
6. Public participant – Holds red snapper and/or red grouper shares, but does not have a commercial reef fish permit.
7. New entrant – Holds a commercial reef fish permit and purchased shares and/or allocation for the first time within the last 3-5 years.
8. Knowledgeable person, not financially invested (i.e., non-participant) – Has a solid understanding of the Gulf IFQ programs, or catch shares more broadly, but is not a permit holder or shareholder. The following questionnaire is designed to help provide the Council with information on your background and experience with the commercial IFQ programs. Please answer all questions unless stated otherwise. Click the SUBMIT button at the end to complete your application.

Email *

sobrien@mayerbrown.com

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Please provide the following information

FIRST Name *

Please enter your first name only

Shawn

Middle Name (if applicable)

Please enter your middle name

Robert

LAST Name *

Please enter your last name only

O'Brien

Suffix (Jr., Sr., II, III, etc. - if applicable)

Please enter your suffix only

Street Address *

Please enter your # Street (example: 123 East Road)

3234 Reba Drive

Apt. # / Suite # (if applicable)

Please enter your Apt. # or Suite #

City *

Houston

Zip Code *

Enter your 5-digit zip code

77019

Telephone (enter as 000-000-0000) *

Enter as 000-000-0000 (maximum of 12 characters)

281-300-2890

Please check the position(s) for which you are interested in serving and for which you meet the position requirements. Then, complete the associated questions. *

check all that apply

DEALER

PERMIT HOLDER who leases allocation

EASTERN GULF LONGLINER who leases red snapper allocation

NEW ENTRANT

PUBLIC PARTICIPANT

SHAREHOLDER (3 positions—staff will determine appropriate position based on the volume of your shareholdings)

CREW (including hired captain). If this box is checked please provide further information located in the next section



KNOWLEDGEABLE NON-PARTICIPANT. Email your resume to IFQ.APPLICANTS@GULFCOUNCIL.ORG if you would like it to be used in consideration for the position.

CREW

Complete only if you selected CREW in the previous section (click NEXT if not applicable)

Provide the Vessel ID (i.e., USCG Documentation Number or State Registration Number) for the vessel on which you work. Also provide the name and phone number for the vessel's captain; or for a hired captain, provide the name and phone number of the vessel's permit holder.

TX 8314HW Shawn OBrien 281-300-2890

POSITION REQUIREMENTS-IFQ ACCOUNT(S)

Some positions require you to own a permit or shares, and other positions require that you do not have a permit or shares. Complete the following questions regarding your ownership of IFQ shares and relevant federal permits. (click NEXT if not applicable)

IFQ ACCOUNT INFORMATION: Provide the 8-digit IFQ Online Account UserID for each IFQ account you own or partially own, including shareholder accounts (whether or not shares are held in the account) and dealer accounts. If you are partial owner of an account, include your percentage ownership in the business entity.

(Click NEXT if not applicable)

NONE

POSITION REQUIREMENTS-PERMIT(S)

Some positions require you to own a permit or shares, and other positions require that you do not have a permit or shares. Complete the following questions regarding your ownership of IFQ shares and relevant federal permits. (click NEXT if not applicable)

Provide the Permit Number for each Commercial Reef Fish permit (RR), Eastern Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish Bottom Long Line Endorsement (RRLE), and/or Gulf and South Atlantic Dealer Permit (GSAD) you own or partially own, and the Vessel ID (i.e., USCG Documentation Number of State Registration Number), if applicable. If you are partial owner of an account, include your percentage ownership in the business entity.

(Click NEXT if not applicable)

I do not hold any permits. Vessel ID TX 8314HW

EXPERIENCE

Please describe your experience with the Red Snapper and/or Grouper-Tilefish IFQ programs to support the position(s) to which you applied. (You may want to use a bulleted list.) You should include the number of years of experience you have for the position(s) to which you are applying.

I am applying as a Knowledgeable Person. I have deep experience with fishing for Red Snapper, Grouper, and Tilefish. I regularly fish offshore out of Freeport/Surfside Beach Texas for these species. I am very familiar with IFQ programs by studying the publicly available data, minutes of meetings, and any recommended rule changes. I am an advocate for conservation while fishing and while interacting with other private and commercial fisherman. I also interact with TPWD regarding the various Texas committees, data, and rule changes.

FISHING VIOLATIONS (read carefully)

The presence of a fishing violation is an important aspect in consideration of appointment. The Council has determined: 1) Applicable fishing violations include only violations of federally managed species in either State or Federal waters; 2) Individuals are ineligible to serve within three (3) years of the finding of liability through adjudication, settlement, or default; and, 3) Vessel owners shall not automatically be held responsible for violations by a crew member when the owner is not present. This information will be provided to Council members and NOAA/State Law Enforcement only and will be kept in strict confidence.

Fishing Violations: Please check one *



NO. I have not received a fishery violation in the past three years as described above.

YES. I have received a fishery violation in the past three years as described above. Please provide a detailed explanation below.

Explanation of Fishery Violation(s) (if applicable)

Consent to marine fishery violation background check. Please note: Results will be provided to the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. *



I give my consent to allow NOAA and State law enforcement to provide a marine fishery violation background check

Driver's License or State Issued Identification Number *

Please enter your Driver's License or State Issued ID Number (no need to type in dashes or other special characters)

Texas 00815055

State that issued driver's license or state issued identification *

Please enter the state that issued your official identification. If the state is not listed, please select OTHER and type in that state's two digit abbreviation.

AL (Alabama)

FL (Florida)

LA (Louisiana)

MS (Mississippi)



TX (Texas)

Other:

Date of Birth *

Please enter your date of birth.

MM DD YYYY

06 / 28 / 1971

FINAL STEPS

Signature (by typing your first and last name you affirm that the information provided is accurate and correct to the best of your knowledge) *

Enter your full name (must match what you've entered above)

Shawn Robert O'Brien

Today's Date *

MM DD YYYY

11 / 23 / 2021

Application Submission

You must click the SUBMIT button below to complete the application process. You will receive a confirmation via e-mail from Google Forms once you click the SUBMIT button below.

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