

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

LEGISLATIVE RESOURCE CENTER

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

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This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the Annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 29, **employees must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House, 135 Cannon House Office Building, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please do not file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Augustus Ashton
2. a. Name of accompanying relative: _____ or None
 b. Relationship to Traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates of departure and return: Departure: April 4, 2018 Return: April 6, 2018
 b. Dates at personal expense (if any): _____ or None
4. Departure city: Washington, DC Destination: Galveston, TX Return city: Washington, DC
5. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Seafood Harvesters of America
6. Describe meetings and events attended: Fishing trip with discussion of Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization and accountable fishing practices. Tour of seafood delivery and system to maintain accountability of catch, along with processing and tracking through the supply chain.
7. Attached to this form are EACH of the following (*signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*):
 - a. a completed Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form;
 - b. the Primary Trip Sponsor Form completed by the trip sponsor prior to the trip, including all attachments and Grantmaking or Non-Grantmaking Sponsor Forms;
 - c. page 2 of the completed Traveler Form submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. (*Signify that statement is true by checking box*):
 b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF TRAVELER:  DATE: April 20, 2018

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure form were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: John Culberson DATE: April 20, 2018

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER: 

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U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. *A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated on the trip within 10 days of their return.* You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House rules and the Committee's travel regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Seafood Harvesters of America

2. Travel Destination(s): Galveston, TX (By way of Houston)

3. Date of Departure: April 4, 2018 Date of Return: April 6, 2018

4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): Gus Ashton

(NOTE: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if all information is identical for each person listed.)

5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in response to Question 4:

| | Total Transportation Expenses | Total Lodging Expenses | Total Meal Expenses | Other Expenses (dollar amount per item and description) |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Traveler | 485.36 | 273.70 | 222.41 | |
| Accompanying Relative | | | | |

6. All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. (Signify statement is true by checking box):

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name: Scott Coughlin Title: Executive Director (Interim)

Organization: Seafood Harvesters of America

I am an officer of the above-named organization (signify statement is true by checking box):

Address: 3033 Wilson Blvd. Suite 765

Arlington, VA 22201

Telephone number: (206) 228-4141

Email Address: scott@seafoodharvesters.org

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at (202) 225-7103.

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Augustus Ashton
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): The Seafood Harvesters of America
3. Travel destination(s): Galveston, TX
4. a. Date of departure April 4, 2018 Date of return: April 6, 2018
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? Yes No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a relative at the sponsor's expense? Yes No
b. If yes:
(1) Name of accompanying relative: _____
(2) Relationship to traveler: Spouse Child Other (specify): _____
(3) Accompanying relative is at least 18 years of age: Yes No
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(d) on the Primary Trip Sponsor Form (*i.e.*, travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent and you are requesting lodging for two nights)? Yes No
b. If yes, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted:
The educational event on April 5th runs from 8am to 9pm.
7. Primary Trip Sponsor Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments and contributing sponsor forms: Yes No
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.
I am a legislative assistant and my issue areas include natural resources. The Magnuson Stevens Reauthorization is expected this year which the educational event will inform of fisheries management.
9. Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, and/or arranging the trip? Yes No

10. **FOR STAFF TRAVELERS:**

TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: February 28, 2018



Signature of Employing Member

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a Traveler Form at least 30 days before the start date of the trip. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee Web site (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips.

1. Sponsor (who will be paying for the trip): _____
The Seafood Harvesters of America
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent (*signify that the statement is true by checking box*):
3. *Check only one:* I represent that:
 - a. the primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip *or*
 - b. the trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds *or*.
 - c. the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.
If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____
4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members and employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary):
See Attached: Educational Fact-Finding Trip Invitation List
5. Is travel being offered to an accompanying relative of the House invitee(s)? Yes No
6. Date of departure: April 4, 2018 Date of return: April 6, 2018
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
b. Destination(s): Galveston, TX
c. City of return: Washington DC
8. I represent that (*check one of the following*):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: *or*
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent: *or*
 - c. The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist/foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.
9. Check one of the following:
 - a. I checked 8(a) or (b) above:
 - b. I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging:
 - c. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night: *or*
 - d. I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights:
If "d" is checked, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted: _____
The educational event on April 5th runs from 8am to 9pm. Two nights lodging in Galveston is required in order to attend.

10. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities the House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees) (indicate agenda is attached by checking box):

11. Check one:

- a. I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (signify that the statement is true by checking box): **or**
b. N/A – trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For **each** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip **and** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:

The Seafood Harvesters of America represent commercial fishermen operating from the Bering Sea to the Gulf of Mexico and north to New England. Federal fishery management regulations and practices are of vital interest to Harvesters' members. The Harvesters' role in organizing this trip include: inviting Congressional staff; preparation and presentation of written materials and briefings; and making all necessary travel, lodging and meal arrangements.

13. Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary.

- a. Mode of travel: Air Rail Bus Car Other (Specify: _____)
b. Class of travel: Coach Business First Charter Other (Specify: _____)
c. If travel will be first class or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

15. I represent that either (check one of the following):

- a. The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: **or**
b. The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation:

If "b" is checked:

1) Detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): _____
\$75 per person

2) Provide reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: _____
Galveston is a thriving commercial fishing port, and a significant number of Harvesters' members make their living there. The location is conducive to having Congressional staff meet commercial fishermen and hear from them directly on successes and challenges of fisheries management.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:

Hotel name: Tremont House City: Galveston, TX Cost per night: \$137

Reason(s) for selecting: Proximity to educational event and reasonable cost

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

Hotel name: _____ City: _____ Cost per night: _____

Reason(s) for selecting: _____

17. I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. (signify that the statement is true by checking box):

18. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

| <input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates | Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant | Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant | Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant |
|---|--|---|--|
| For each Member, Officer, or employee | \$450.00 | \$275.00 | \$180.00 |
| For each accompanying relative | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | <i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount per item) | Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| For each Member, Officer, or employee | N/A | N/A |
| For each accompanying relative | N/A | N/A |

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

19. Check one:

- a. I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below. *or*
 b. N/A – sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. I certify that I am not a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent for any sponsor of this trip.

21. I certify by my signature that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Name: **Scott Coughlin**

Title: **Interim Executive Director**

Organization: **The Seafood Harvesters of America**

Address: **3033 Wilson Blvd, Suite 765, Arlington VA 22201**

Telephone number: **703-647-4136 office 206-228-4141 mobile**

Email address: **scott@seafoodharvesters.org**

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (general fax)

Susan W. Brooks, Indiana
Chairwoman
Theodore E. Deutch, Florida
Ranking Member



ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

April 4, 2018

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1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

Mr. Augustus Ashton
Office of the Honorable John Culberson
2161 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Ashton:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Galveston, Texas, scheduled for April 4 to 6, 2018, sponsored by the Seafood Harvesters of America. We remind you that, because the trip sponsor employs a federal lobbyist, you may participate in officially-connected activity on one calendar day only.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. You must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$390 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Susan W. Brooks
Chairwoman

Theodore E. Deutch
Ranking Member

SWB/TED:kej

Educational Fact-Finding Trip Invitation List
Seafood Harvesters of America
Galveston, TX April 4-6, 2018

Below is the list of Congressional staff invitees that we have invited to this event.

Evan Lee

Legislative Director, Rep. Dunn (R-FL-02)

Phone: 202-225-5235

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Dunn serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Florida are impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Evan Lee to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Chris Sweet

Legislative Director, Rep. Diaz-Balart (R-FL-25)

phone: (202) 225-4211

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Diaz-Balart serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Florida are impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Chris Sweet to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Charles Castagna

Legislative Assistant, Rep. Curbelo (R-FL-26)

Phone: (202) 225-2778

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Curbelo serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Florida are impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Charles Castagna to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Kelley Hudak

Director of Coalitions, Leader Scalise (R-LA-01)

Phone: (202) 225-3015

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Curbelo serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Louisiana are impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Kelley Hudak to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Sarah Hanson

Legislative Assistant, Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL-13)

Phone: (202) 225-5961

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Crist serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Florida is impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Sarah Hanson to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Kevin Karpay

Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL-14)

Phone: (202) 225-3376

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Castor serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Florida is impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Kevin Karpay to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Dan Sadlosky

Policy Advisor, Leader Scalise (R-LA-01)

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Scalise serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Louisiana are impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Dan Sadlosky to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Stuart Burns

Chief of Staff, Rep. Babin (R-TX-36)

Phone: (202) 225-1555

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Burns serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Texas are impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Stuart Burns to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Ben Couhig

Legislative Director, Rep. Babin (R-TX-36)

Phone: (202) 225-1555

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Babin serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Texas is impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Ben Couhig to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Kelly Waterman

District Director, Rep. Babin (R-TX-36)

Phone: (202) 225-1555

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Babin serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Texas is impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Kelly Waterman to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Michelle Stoika

Legislative Assistant, Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX-14)

phone: 202-225-2831

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Babin serves a coastal district and has a constituency that includes both recreational and commercial fishermen as well as other seafood supply chain participants. The economic viability of coastal communities in Texas is impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Michelle Stoika to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

Gus Ashton

Legislative Assistant, Rep. John Culberson (R-TX7)

Phone: (202) 225-2571

REASON FOR INVITING: Representative Culberson serves on the subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science, or CJS. The CJS Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the Department of Commerce, which in turn controls NOAA and the National Marine Fisheries Service, the regulatory body for U.S. fisheries. The economic viability of coastal communities in Texas is impacted significantly by federal fisheries management decisions. It will be useful for Gus Ashton to understand recent improvements in federal fisheries management practices and see first-hand how the Gulf of Mexico seafood supply chain works.

**Fisheries Management Fact-Finding Trip
Galveston, Texas
Seafood Harvesters of America
April 4-6, 2018
Agenda**

April 4, 2018

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 4:00 pm | Arrive at Houston (Hobby) Airport, Southwest Flight #42 |
| 4:30 pm | Meet shuttle (Galveston Limo Service) at Zone 4 |
| 5:30 pm | Arrive at hotel - The Tremont House 2300 Ships Mechanic Row, Galveston (409) 763-0300 |
| 7:00 pm | Dinner on your own and discretionary time |

April 5, 2018

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 6:45 am – 7:30 am | Breakfast - The Tremont Café, The Tremont House |
| 7:45 am | Shuttle to fishing vessel from the Tremont House |
| 8:00 am – 3:00 pm | Fishing trip and discussions of accountable fisheries management practices. Lunch included on boat. |
| 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm | Deliver catch to Galveston fish buyer; tour of seafood processing and retail operation. |
| 4:00 - 4:15 pm | Shuttle to Tremont House |
| 4:15 - 5:45 pm | Discretionary time |
| 5:45 pm | Shuttle to Olympia Grille from the Tremont House |
| 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm | Seafood dinner and discussion of U.S. fishery management issues - Olympia Grille, 100 21st St, Galveston |

April 6, 2018

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 6:30 am – 7:15 am | Breakfast - The Tremont Café, The Tremont House |
| 7:15 am | Shuttle to Houston (Hobby) Airport - The Tremont House |
| 10:05 am | Southwest Flight #1753, Houston (Hobby) Airport |