March 15, 2022

Paul Doremus  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Room 14636  
Silver Springs, MD 20910  
ATTN: Kelly Denit

RE: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Nominations to the New England Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Doremus:

I am submitting four (4) individuals as nominees for the at-large seat currently held by Dr. Michael Sissenwine of Massachusetts and the at-large seat currently held by Mr. Rick Bellevance of Rhode Island on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC). These seats will become vacant in August, 2022. Included are the completed application kits for the nominees.

My selections were made from a list of candidates who responded to the efforts of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to solicit interest in the NEFMC positions. Outreach included announcements over the Division’s email distribution service, posting on the DMF website, and direct contact with potentially qualified candidates. Efforts were made to consider qualified women and minority candidates. Those whom I am nominating are eligible by reason of occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, thereby making them knowledgeable and experienced in ways related to the fishery resources of New England.

For the at-large seat currently held by Dr. Michael Sissenwine of Massachusetts; I nominate:

- Eric Hansen (commercial sector)
- Jackie Odell (commercial sector)
- Peter Seminara (other sector)

Candidate descriptions are listed below:
• **Eric Hansen (commercial sector).** Mr. Hansen has over 30 years of experience in the commercial scallop fishery. He has been the co-owner/owner of a scallop vessel and business operating out of New Bedford since 1988, serving as vessel captain until 2004. In 2019, Mr. Hansen expanded his business by purchasing an additional scalloping vessel. Mr. Hansen’s family has been involved in the harvesting of fish and scallops from New England waters for most of the last century, and he is committed to continuing this heritage. He is deeply rooted in many important fishery constituency groups, and has emerged as a leader in his home community. He is actively engaged in the Council management process as a member of the Council’s Scallop and Monkfish Advisory Panels. Mr. Hansen also serves on multiple other constituent panels, including the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute’s Advisory Council, SIAST Fishing Industry Advisory Panel, and the Commonwealth’s Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Renewable Energy. He is also president of the Fishery Survival Fund, which represents the majority of scallop permits on the east coast. Additionally, Mr. Hansen serves as a founding member of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. In the past, he has been a member of U.S. Representative Bill Keating’s Federal Fishing Advisory Board, and New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell’s Ocean and Fisheries Council. Mr. Hansen will bring an intimate and first hand understanding of the complex implications fishing regulations bring to the industry. He seeks to promote a rational policy for New England’s fisheries that balances the economic and cultural importance of fishing with preservation of the environment and our marine resources.

• **Jackie Odell (commercial sector).** Ms. Odell is the Executive Director of the Northeast Seafood Coalition. She holds a Master’s degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island, and a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from Providence College. Ms. Odell currently maintains several memberships including: Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Member of Board of Directors; Northeast Sector Service Network, Member of Board of Directors; Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership, Member of Board of Directors; Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership, Member of Board of Directors; New England Fishery Management Council, Vice Chair of the Groundfish Advisory Panel; NOAA Fisheries Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team, Industry Member; and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, Member. Ms. Odell’s support of the Council process established by the MSA is rooted in a belief that utilizing data, sound science and comprehensive analyses are essential to the management decision-making process. Encouraging advancements in the science and evolving scientific methodologies is vital to ensure successful management measures.

• **Peter Seminara (other sector).** Mr. Seminara of Rockport, MA is the shellfish constable for the City of Gloucester where he manages the shellfish fishery. Peter holds a Bachelor’s degree in environmental studies from Eckerd College, and has been involved in local recreational and commercial fisheries since 1994. Overall, he has twenty-one years of experience in commercial fisheries and over 30 years of experience recreational and charter fisheries. He is a member of the Massachusetts Lobster Association and the Massachusetts Shellfish Officer’s Association. He also served on the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative Taskforce as a proxy for the Mayor of Gloucester. He seeks to
maintain sustainable fisheries to protect the marine ecosystem as well as continuing to provide employment for thousands of commercial and charter fishermen in New England through fisheries management, utilizing science, education, outreach, and experience.

For the at-large seat currently held by Mr. Rick Bellavance of Rhode Island; I nominate:

- Jackie Odell (commercial sector)
- Eric Hansen (commercial sector)
- Paul Vincent Hagan (commercial)

Candidate descriptions are listed below:

- Jackie Odell (commercial sector). See above.
- Eric Hansen (commercial sector). See above.

- Paul Vincent Hagan (commercial). Mr. Hagan of Duxbury, MA is the owner and founder of Denarius Trading Co. which was founded in 2021. His business model focuses on shellfish and other sustainable items. He works with a large network of over 40 independent fishermen and farmers from all over Massachusetts. Mr. Hagan began his career in 2003 as a farm hand in Duxbury, Massachusetts. He then progressed to work in a number of smaller retail fish markets along the south shore of Massachusetts. Mr. Hagan is a founding member of the Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative and attends various vibrio management meetings annually.

Through DMF, I have consulted with representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the Commonwealth regarding the nominees, including members of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission—a nine-member citizen advisory board, representing recreational and commercial fishing interest (including seafood dealers). Additionally, many unsolicited letters of support for some of the candidates were received.

Each of my nominees meets the requirements listed in Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. All have convinced me of their commitment to improving fisheries management in New England and to assist the Council in rebuilding, maintaining, and managing the marine resources so important to the economic vitality of the Massachusetts fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Governor Charles D. Baker

cc: Secretary Kathleen A. Theoharides, EEA
Commissioner Ronald S. Amidon, DFG
Director Daniel J. McKiernan, DMF
March 7, 2022

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

Dear Ms. Coit:

Enclosed are New Hampshire’s nominees for the upcoming vacancies on the New England Fishery Management Council. The individuals listed are qualified by residency and in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act. For New Hampshire’s obligatory seat, I request the following applicants be considered; Mr. Peter Whalen (recreational sector), Mr. David Goethel (commercial sector), and Ms. Ellen Goethel (other/environmental and conservation sector). See attached nomination packets for detailed information on their qualifications.

Mr. Whalen has been actively involved in New Hampshire’s recreational marine fisheries since 1991. Peter is an active charter captain on the Seacoast for the last 12 years. He has served as President of Coastal Conservation of New Hampshire for many years and remains on its Board of Directors. He also is a board member of the American Saltwater Guides Association. He continues to serve on the Governor’s Advisory Committee of Marine Fisheries and is currently on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Striped Bass Advisory Board representing New Hampshire and has been on the Habitat Committee.

Until recently, Mr. Goethel was a commercial fisherman since 1979 and owned and operated F/V Ellen Diane, a 44-foot dragger. He previously worked for and captained recreational charter party boats and commercial fishing vessels. Mr. Goethel served three terms on the Council in New Hampshire’s obligatory seat from 2004-2013 during which he chaired a number of committees including the Research Steering, Habitat, and Whiting Committees. He currently serves on the Council’s Groundfish Advisory Panel, Small Mesh Species Advisory Panel and the Northeast Trawl Survey Advisory Panel. In addition he has served on several Advisory Panels of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He is also on the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Commercial Fisherman’s Association, Northeast Seafood Coalition, Yankee Fishermen’s Cooperative, and the Center for Sustainable Fisheries. Locally, Mr. Goethel was a long time member of the Governor’s Advisory Committee of Marine Fisheries.
Ms. Goethe! is a marine educator and has been co-owner of a 44 foot stern trawler and headboats. She is a past member of the New England Fishery Management Council (2013-2016) in NH’s obligatory seat where she served on a variety of committees including the Groundfish, Small Mesh Multispecies, Research Steering, and Enforcement Committees. In addition, she is very knowledgeable of marine fisheries issues and was previously appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to serve on the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee and is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. Ms. Goethe! is also a current member of the Governor’s Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries, serves on the Board of Directors of the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire, and has served on the Town of Hampton, NH Conservation Commission as well as on a number of community programs.

The State of New Hampshire has actively sought qualified applicants from all societal sectors for the Council seats. Our nominee list includes members from both the commercial and recreational sectors. Potential candidates were sought via two press releases to a variety of state newspapers as well as discussions with several marine fishing and conservation organizations. Nominees were interviewed by representatives of the State’s Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries, the New Hampshire Commercial Fisherman’s Association, the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire, as well as members of the general public, during two candidates’ meetings hosted by the NH Fish and Game Department’s Marine Fisheries Division.

The individuals selected for consideration recognize the extensive time obligation the Council seats require and have demonstrated their willingness to make the necessary time commitment. All three are equally and individually uniquely qualified to be productive and interactive members of the New England Fisheries Management Council.

I would like to thank Morgan Corey of your staff for the well organized and detailed nominee package. It was very helpful when trying to meet the required deadline.

I will not be making any other nominations for the other available seats this year. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding New Hampshire’s obligatory seat nominees to the New England Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

Enclosures

Cc: Scott R. Mason, Executive Director, NHFG
    Cheri Patterson, Chief, Marine Fisheries, NHFG
March 1, 2022

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

Re: Nominations for New England Fishery Management Council

Dear Ms. Coit:

I write in response to your January 11, 2022 letter seeking nominees for two at-large seats on the New England Fishery Management Council, both of which will become vacant on August 10, 2022.

I am forwarding the nomination packages for three highly qualified candidates from Rhode Island: Richard Bellavance, Andrew Dangelo, and Gregory Mataronas. The first two candidates represent the recreational for-hire sector; the third represents the commercial sector.

Having carefully considered the qualifications of the three candidates, I respectfully recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Bellavance to the at-large seat he currently holds.

Captain Bellavance is well-versed in, and well-connected to, all issues and all sectors associated with New England’s marine fisheries; however, his primary affiliation is with the recreational (for-hire) sector. As such, I am recommending him as a nominee from the recreational for-hire sector, consistent with the guidance set forth in your letter.

Captain Bellavance was first appointed to this seat on the New England Council in 2016 and is now completing his second term. By all accounts, he has served with distinction and is highly deserving of reappointment to a third term. His election last year by the Council to the position of Vice-Chair speaks volumes about the respect and admiration he has earned among his peers.

Captain Bellavance has had a long and impressive career as a Rhode Island fisherman, representative of the Rhode Island fishing community, and member of various fishery management boards. He brings a wealth of experience, expertise, and common sense to the
Captain Bellavance grew up in Rhode Island and has been actively engaged in recreational and commercial fishing since childhood. He owns and operates Priority Charters, LLC, a top-notch, for-hire fishing business in Galilee, RI. A few years ago, he expanded his business and now owns and operates the F/V Done as well. He is the long-standing President of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association (58 members). He has participated in the Gulf of Maine Research Institute’s Marine Resource Education Program (three courses and former Board member), and he has served with distinction on a myriad of fisheries councils, commissions, committees, and panels, including:

On the New England Council:

- Groundfish and Whiting Committee (Chair)
- Skate Committee
- EBFM Committee
- Scallop Committee
- Herring Committee

New England Council Representative to/on:

- ICCAT IAC
- NOAA’s Highly Migratory Species AP
- South Atlantic Council’s Dolphin/Wahoo Committee
- Mid-Atlantic Council’s Spiny Dogfish Committee
- Mid-Atlantic Council’s River Herring/Shad Committee
- Mid-Atlantic Council’s Summer Flounder, Scup, Black Sea Bass Committee
- South-Atlantic Council’s Dolphin/Wahoo Committee

Past Positions

- New England Fishery Management Council - Groundfish Advisory Panel
- Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council - Scup/Black Sea Bass/Summer Flounder Advisory Panel
- NMFS Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel
- NMFS Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee - Recreational Fishing Working Group
- National Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (legislative proxy)
- ASMFC Scup/Black Sea Bass/Summer Flounder Advisory Panel
- Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program - Advisory Panel, Chair
- RI Marine Fisheries Management Council
- RI Industry Advisory Committee, Chair (subset of RI Fisheries Council)
- RI Coastal Resources Management Council – Fishermen’s Advisory Board

Captain Bellavance has also served as a fishery liaison for the Deepwater Wind project off Block Island, RI, and he continues to serve on the RI Coastal Resources Management Council’s Fishermen’s Advisory Board. He has served on the board of the RI-based Commercial Fisheries
Research Foundation, and he continues to serve on the board of the RI Commercial Fisheries Center (per his status as President of the RI Party and Charter Boat Association). While primarily a recreational (for-hire) fisherman, Captain Bellavance also holds a RI commercial fishing license and occasionally engages in commercial (rod and reel) fishing. Captain Bellavance has long maintained a strong commitment to the sound protection of fishery resources and the fishermen who depend on them. He has also long advocated for, and piloted, innovative approaches to data collection, research, and management, putting him at the fore of an industry that is increasingly embracing progressive, science-based initiatives as a means for achieving growth and stability, as well as flexibility. His strong and diverse background, his grasp of the issues, his leadership skills, and his forward-thinking approach to fisheries management render him well-suited for reappointment to the New England Council.

**Captain Andrew Dangelo** is also a solid, well-qualified candidate. He has owned and operated the F/V Maridee, one of the premier charter fishing boats in Galilee, since 1981. He has served in the leadership of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association since 1995. Prior to 2015, he served on two RI-based fishery advisory panels. In 2015, Captain Dangelo was appointed to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council as a representative of the sportfishing industry. Over the past six years, he has served on the RI Fisheries Council with distinction, contributing sound, well-informed advice on a host of state regulatory issues pertaining to marine fisheries, both recreational and commercial. While Captain Dangelo has long been chiefly affiliated with the recreational (for-hire) fishing sector, he has long held a RI commercial fishing license and continues to engage in commercial rod and reel fishing as a supplement to his for-hire business. He also operates a bait and tackle shop, affording him continuous access to a large segment of Rhode Island’s recreational fishing community.

**Gregory Mataronas** embodies the future of marine fisheries. He is relatively young, exceptionally bright, level-headed, and well-versed on a wide range of marine fisheries issues. His age notwithstanding, he has fished his entire life, and already has over 30 years of experience. He comes from a fishing family, so he was able to get his start in the business at a very young age. Much of his early experience involved lobster fishing. He then branched out, still as a trap fisherman, into whelk, sea bass, and scup. He captained two different offshore lobster boats at various times since 2003. Recently, he entered into a partnership with his brother, and is now the co-owner of a major fishing business involving a gillnet vessel that primarily targets monkfish, skates, and summer flounder.

Mr. Mataronas has a strong educational background. He graduated magna cum laude from Southampton College/Long Island University in 2003 with a B.S. in Marine Biology. He then worked his way through the University of Rhode Island’s Masters Program in Aquaculture (thesis and degree pending). Recently, he completed the Marine Resource Education Program (Gulf of Maine Research Institute).

Rounding out his strong background, Mr. Mataronas is deeply immersed in fisheries policy and management. He serves on the New England Fishery Management Council’s Skate and Monkfish Advisory Panels. He is a member of NOAA Fisheries’ Large Whale Take Reduction Team. He also serves on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Area 2 Lobster Conservation Management Team, and the RI Coastal Resources Management Council’s
Fisheries Advisory Board. In 2019, he participated in a Regional Council Training Session in Silver Springs, Maryland. He has engaged in several collaborative fisheries research projects. He is a regular attendee at New England Fishery Management Council meetings, and reliably offers thoughtful and meaningful input on pending management issues.

He is an industry leader, serving as an officer with two premier organizations: the Rhode Island Lobstermen’s Association (President) and the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island (Vice-President).

Mr. Mataronas is well-known, well-liked, and well-respected throughout the Rhode Island commercial fishing community and to an ever-increasing extent, throughout the region. With his breadth of experience, education, energy, and commitment, Mr. Mataronas is well-positioned for a promising future as both a successful commercial fisherman and a leader in the fishing community. He is a solid candidate for appointment to the New England Council. It is an honor for me to recommend him for consideration, particularly with regard to the at-large seat on the New England Council that will become vacant this year.

In considering the candidacies of Mr. Bellavance, Mr. Dangelo, and Mr. Mataronas, acting through the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, I consulted with a range of key individuals who represent commercial and recreational fishing interests in Rhode Island, including: David Borden, Executive Director, Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen’s Association; Christopher Brown, President, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen’s Association and President, Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island; Fred Mattera, President, Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island; David Monti, Vice-Chair, Rhode Island Fisheries Management Council; Michael Marchetti, President, Eastern New England Scallop Association; and Greg Vespe, President, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association.

The RI Department of Environmental Management openly solicited candidates for the two seats. The Department received no requests for consideration from any women, minorities, or individuals representative of historically underserved communities.

Thank you for your oversight of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. McKee
Governor

RHODE ISLAND STATE HOUSE, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903