



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

March 11, 2015

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

Attention: Brian Fredieu

Subject: New England Fishery Management Council Nominations

Dear Mr. Fredieu:

I am pleased to forward the names of three highly qualified individuals as nominees for Connecticut's obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council. Connecticut's seat is currently held by Matthew McKenzie. Enclosed you will find a complete nomination package for each candidate. There is also a vacancy for one at-large seat for which I decline to submit nominations at this time.

The following nominees for Connecticut's obligatory seat meet what I believe to be pressing needs for Connecticut and the region's fisheries. The state is best served by members who are knowledgeable and experienced in marine fisheries conservation, fishing communities, commercial fisheries interests and recreational fisheries interests. I ask that you give your fullest consideration to Connecticut's nominees in the priority order presented below:

Dr. Matthew G. McKenzie
Mr. Gregory Myerson
Mr. Franklin Rathbun

Dr. McKenzie is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, who teaches and has published on subjects of Historical Marine Ecology and Marine Environmental History, and has lectured on historical New England fisheries management issues. He has extensive experience in environmental and fisheries policy. As stated in his

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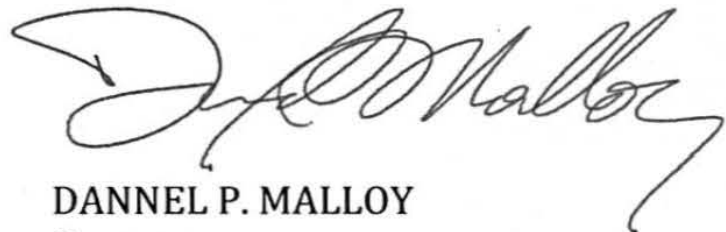
application, Dr. McKenzie's research focuses on "the changing relationship between New England communities and regional marine ecosystems..." and includes "how changes in scientific understandings, commercial uses, fishing practices, cultural representations, coastal fishing and fishing community structures, and regulatory approaches affected marine ecosystem function and composition over time." As such Dr. McKenzie's knowledge and experience reflects especially valuable and rare connections between social/economic and science/ecosystem functions for a Council member. Indeed during his first term serving as a Council member he has proven to be an effective advocate for conservation and has worked diligently with fellow Council members to implement both the spirit and letter of the Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

Mr. Myerson is an avid life-long recreational fisherman who also has experience working on charter fishing vessels. He is an outdoor writer for various fishing magazines. He has made a study of fish and fishing in the pursuit of his sport including studying underwater acoustics and raising fish. His knowledge of and passion for fishing has lead him to open World Record Striper Company, a tackle manufacturing business. Mr. Myerson holds multiple world records for striped bass including the largest fish ever landed in sport fishing at 81 pounds 14 ounces.

Mr. Franklin Rathbun is a former charter boat captain with more than 30 years in that business, much of that time working with his father, former New England Fishery Management Council member Benjamin Rathbun. Mr. Rathbun is past President of the Connecticut Party and Charter Boat Association.

Thank you for considering my nominations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Malloy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DANNEL P. MALLOY
Governor

cc: Robert Klee, Commissioner
Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner
William Hyatt, Natural Resources Bureau Chief
David Simpson, Marine Fisheries Division Director



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GOVERNOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 11, 2015

Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
ATTN: Brian Fredieu

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

I am submitting three individuals as nominees for the Massachusetts obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) that will become vacant on August 10, 2015. Included are the completed application kits for the nominees. I am not submitting nominees for the vacant at-large seat on the Council because of insufficient interest by applicants in the seat.

My selections were made from a list of candidates who responded to the efforts of the Commonwealth's Division of Marine Fisheries (*MarineFisheries*) to solicit interest in the Council positions. Those efforts included announcement over the Division's email listserv, posting on the *MarineFisheries* website, and outreach by *MarineFisheries* staff to 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 Massachusetts obligatory seat currently occupied by John F. Quinn, I nominate in order of preference:

John F. Quinn. Over the past 27 years, Mr. Quinn has been involved in many aspects of the New England fishing industry, particularly

- Massachusetts and the port of New Bedford. As a former elected member of the Massachusetts legislature for 18 years and a practicing attorney representing various fishing interests, he worked with the complexities of the rules and regulations in the industry. He has been member to several fishery advisory boards, including the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute's Advisory Council. He is also a scholar of public administration and policy, gaining skills during his doctoral studies, such as in conflict resolution, which assisted the Council in difficult deliberations during his first term. Mr. Quinn has quickly gained the respect of his fellow Council

members, as evidenced by his leadership role therein (elected vice-chairman). He directs the Public Interest Law Program at UMass Dartmouth's School of Law.

- **Catherine E. O'Keefe.** Ms. O'Keefe's education and career have been singularly focused on fisheries science, management, and policy. Her academic achievements include two advanced degrees in marine fisheries, with emphasis on the resources of New England. As part of her doctoral research at UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), she co-developed the bycatch avoidance system that has been key to the successful management of the valuable scallop fishery. Ms. O'Keefe has been employed in fisheries research at SMAST for the past nine years, and is currently a Research Assistant Professor there. Her work is often conducted collaboratively with industry members, giving her first hand experience with commercial fisheries. She has been member to multiple Council plan development teams, among numerous other fisheries working groups.
- **Alicia M. Pradas-Monné.** Ms. Pradas-Monné is a senior advisor on policy matters including fisheries and environmental protection within the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. As the Office's liaison on all fishery related issues, she has developed knowledge of the pressing natural resource issues facing the Commonwealth's fishing industry and fishery managers. She has earned degrees in both law and biology, and it was an interest in marine fisheries statutes and regulations that led to her matriculation into law school and continued as a focus of her studies there. Prior to her legal training, Ms. Pradas-Monné held several positions in aquatic biology and research.

Through *Marine Fisheries*, I have consulted with the following representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the Commonwealth, including a former chair and the current chair of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission and two former members of the Council, regarding my nominees:

- Mark Amorello (commercial and recreational background)
- Frank Mirarchi (commercial background)
- Jackie Odell (commercial background)
- Angela Sanfilippo (commercial background)

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,

Charles D. Baker



cc: Secretary Matthew Beaton, EEA
Commissioner George Peterson, DFG
Director Paul Diodati, DMF



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attention: Brian Fredieu

Dear Ms. Sobeck,

It is my pleasure to submit the following names for consideration for appointment to the at-large seat and the obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) for the State of Maine.

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has been in contact with a number of organizations and individuals across the coast with knowledge and interest in marine fisheries. These organizations include Associated Fisheries of Maine, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, the Penobscot East Resource Center, Maine Lobstermen's Association, Downeast Lobstermen's Association, Maine Seaweed Council, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Aquaculture Association, Maine Association of Charterboat Captains, and Maine Professional Guides Association.

The individuals listed below are qualified by residency and in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act.

It is worth noting that my nominations are prioritized in order based on my strong views of how best to represent Maine's interests on the Council, as well as the long-term stewardship of New England's fishery resources.

For the at-large seat currently held by Vincent M. Balzano:

1. Vincent M. Balzano
2. Raymond C. Swenton
3. Margaret J. Raymond

1. Vincent M. Balzano

Vincent Balzano is a third generation fisherman who has been involved in the fishing industry for over 25 years as a participant in a number of fisheries. Vincent is the owner/operator of a small groundfish trawl/seine vessel located in Portland and is a current NEFMC member.



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Vincent serves as the Chairman of the Whiting Committee, and is on the Groundfish, Habitat, Atlantic Herring, Monkfish and Research Steering Committees.

2. Raymond C. Swenton

Ray Swenton has worked in the seafood industry for over forty years. He has been actively engaged in seafood processing and is the founder and current Chairman of Bristol Seafood in Portland. Ray is committed to seafood sustainability and promotion, demonstrated by his role as chair of the Fisheries Improvement Plan work group for Jonah Crab, membership on the Department of Marine Resources Scallop Advisory Council, membership on the NOAA Fisheries Seafood Marketing Committee. Ray also serves as the current President of the Portland Fish Exchange Board of Directors.

3. Margaret J. Raymond

Maggie Raymond has been the Executive Director of Associated Fisheries of Maine for over twenty years, and has over twenty-five years of experience managing her family's groundfishing business. Maggie has initiated and participated in a number of fisheries research projects, serves on the Board of Directors for the Maine Fishermen's Forum, and represents the U.S. as a Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Knowledgeable about the midsize and large trawl vessel fisheries, Maggie has been an active participant and valuable contributor in the NEFMC process as well. Maggie currently serves on the Groundfish and Habitat Advisory Panels, and is a former chair of the Monkfish Advisory Panel.

For the obligatory seat held by Terry A. Alexander:

1. Terry A. Alexander
2. Margaret J. Raymond
3. Raymond C. Swenton

1. Terry A. Alexander

Terry Alexander is the owner of two groundfish vessels and is a current member of the NEFMC. Terry serves as the Chairman of the VMS/Enforcement Committee and is on the Ecosystem-Based Management, Groundfish, Habitat, Monkfish, Research Steering and Observer Policy Committees.

2. Margaret J. Raymond

Maggie Raymond has been the Executive Director of Associated Fisheries of Maine for over twenty years, and has over twenty-five years of experience managing her family's groundfishing business. Maggie has initiated and participated in a number of fisheries research projects, serves on the Board of Directors for the Maine Fishermen's Forum, and represents the U.S. as a Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Knowledgeable about the midsize and large trawl vessel fisheries, Maggie has been an active participant and valuable

contributor in the NEFMC process as well. Maggie currently serves on the Groundfish and Habitat Advisory Panels, and is a former chair of the Monkfish Advisory Panel.

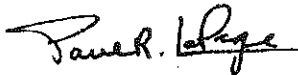
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I appreciate your consideration of these individuals for these critical appointments; I am confident of their experience and qualifications to represent our state on behalf of Maine's fisheries and coastal communities. I will follow up with you, as will my staff, to reiterate the importance of the priority order presented in this letter.

Please contact Commissioner Patrick Keliher at the Department of Marine Resources to answer any questions or concerns that your agency may have.

Sincerely,



Governor Paul R. LePage

Cc: Patrick Keliher, Commissioner, Maine Department of Marine Resources



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR GINA M. RAIMONDO

GINA M. RAIMONDO, GOVERNOR

March 13, 2015

Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, Room 14636
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Nominations for New England Fishery Management Council – Rhode Island Obligatory Seat

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

I write in response to your letter of January 28, 2015, seeking nominees for two New England Fishery Management Council seats, which will become vacant on August 10, 2015.

I am forwarding you the nomination packages for four highly qualified candidates from Rhode Island for the Rhode Island obligatory seat: Theodore Platz, Eric Reid, Donald Fox, and Gregory Mataronas.

Having carefully considered the qualifications of each of the four candidates, I respectfully recommend the appointment of Mr. Platz.

Theodore Platz has nearly 30 years of experience as a commercial fisherman, including several years working as a deckhand for fish trap and lobster operations, several years as captain of an inshore lobster boat, and since 1994, as the owner and operator of commercial vessels engaged in lobstering and gill netting for monkfish, skate, and dogfish. In recent years, Mr. Platz has expanded his company – Ocean Harvest, Inc. operating out of Newport, RI – to include a fleet of three commercial vessels and two refrigeration trucks; his company also serves as a federally permitted fisheries dealer.

Mr. Platz has a B.A. degree in Economic Theory from Emory and Henry College. He has participated in the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resources Education Program, and served as a moderator for the Program. In 2006, Mr. Platz formed the Rhode Island Monkfishermen's Association, and has continued to serve as President of the Association since its inception. He is a member of the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island, and recently served as the President of that organization, whose membership includes most of the commercial fishing organizations in Rhode Island.

Ms. Sobeck
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Mr. Platz has been deeply involved in marine fisheries issues pertaining to the New England Council for over nine years. He has been appointed by the Council to serve on the Council's Research Steering Committee, Skate Advisory Panel, and Monkfish Advisory Panel, and was recently named Chairman of the latter. He is a regular attendee at Council meetings, and regularly contributes to Council discussions and deliberations.

In addition to a strong resume, Mr. Platz has the knowledge, energy, and fortitude to function effectively in the very challenging arena of marine fisheries management in the New England region. He has many ideas on how the management system can be improved, and is not shy about advancing them. He is conservation minded, understands the needs and interests of the fishing industry, and recognizes the importance of managing fishery resources on the basis of sound science and with a view to long-term sustainability.

I am impressed by the solid support for Mr. Platz's candidacy offered by an array of interests associated with Rhode Island's commercial fishing industry. He is clearly well-regarded among his peers. I received strong letters of support for Mr. Platz from both the Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association (Christopher Brown, President), and The Town Dock, Narragansett, RI (Ryan Clark, Vice-President).

The other three nominees I am submitting for the Rhode Island obligatory seat are also strong candidates.

Eric Reid has actively participated in commercial and recreational fisheries in Rhode Island for 42 years. He first worked as a deckhand on for-hire vessels, then became licensed and ran the vessels as a captain. He did this while attending the University of Rhode Island, from which he graduated in 1981 with an A.S. degree in Fisheries and Marine Technology. Following graduation, he began working as a commercial fisherman, serving as both deckhand and captain on bottom trawl and longline vessels operating out of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Jersey ports.

After 10 years of experience on the water, Mr. Reid redirected his fisheries focus to shoreside processing. Since 1983, he has worked for seven different seafood processing companies. After brief stints with the Tri-Coastal Co-Op in Gloucester, MA and the Atlantic Coast Fisheries Corp. in New Bedford, MA, he began working as Production Manager and Plant Manager for several Rhode Island-based companies: Point Judith Packing Co.; Seafresh USA, Inc.; and The Town Dock, Inc. Having established himself as an industry leader in Rhode Island's premier fishing port, Mr. Reid then started his own business in Galilee – Deep Sea Fish of Rhode Island, Inc. – which he owned and operated for eleven years, through 2013. His facility was a full-service vessel unloading facility and fresh fish production plant, and was one of the most active operations in the port. Since 2013, Mr. Reid has served as General Manager at Seafreeze Shoreside, Inc., a large, full-service seafood processing facility in Galilee.

Throughout his long and successful career, Mr. Reid has also taken the time to engage in the fisheries management process. A strong advocate for the industry, and for sound resource conservation, he has served in leadership roles in numerous capacities – as (past) president of both the Rhode Island Seafood Council and the American Seafood Institute, and as the founding member of both the East Coast Fisheries Association and the New England Seafood Producers Association. He has contributed to numerous marine fisheries policy initiatives in Rhode Island, and he has testified on fisheries issues at the Rhode Island State House. At the federal level, Mr. Reid is engaged via his regular participation in meetings of the New England Fisheries Management Council, and his membership on the Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Advisory Panel for the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Mr. Reid has the experience, smarts, poise, and thoughtfulness to serve the interests of the New England Council well. He has a firm grasp on the issues, he is immersed in the Rhode Island commercial fishery and is well-regarded by his peers, and he has a personality and sensibility ideally suited to the challenging task of being a Council member. He is an impressive candidate, and I am proud to include him as part of the Rhode Island slate.

Mr. Reid has been highly recommended for the seat by the Rhode Island Fishermen's Alliance (Richard Fuka, President).

Donald Fox has been deeply involved in commercial fishing in southern New England for 32 years. He began working as a deckhand, worked his way up to captain, and ultimately became part-owner of a major commercial dragger, operating out of Galilee, RI. An experienced bottom-trawler, Mr. Fox has long been a fixture, and influential member, of the Rhode Island commercial fishing community. After many years at sea, he recently transitioned to the role of Fleet Manager for The Town Dock, one of the premier seafood processing companies/facilities in Galilee. In this capacity, he is responsible for the maintenance, business, and fishing operations for the company's six commercial vessels. Mr. Fox has also been a member of Northeast Groundfish Sector V since 2010, and currently serves on the Sector's Board of Directors.

Mr. Fox completed the Marine Resource Education Program (Gulf of Maine Research Institute) in 2013. For many years, he has been a member of the Rhode Island Fishermen's Alliance. Over the past twenty years, he has served with distinction as a member of the Rhode Island Marine Fishery Council's Advisory Panel for Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. He is a regular attendee at meetings of both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils.

Mr. Fox offers both a wealth of experience, and a pragmatic view of the issues facing the New England Council. He has spent the majority of his life chasing, and catching, fish; now, he is coming forward with a sincere desire to refocus his fisheries interests in the management arena. Mr. Fox is well-respected in the commercial fishing community, and maintains excellent working relationships with the harvest and the processing sectors of the industry. He, too, is an impressive candidate, and I am equally proud to include him as part of the Rhode Island slate.

Gregory Mataronas embodies the future of marine fisheries. He is relatively young, 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 some 25 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 has been deeply immersed in fisheries policy and management. He serves on the New England Fishery Management Council's Skate Advisory Panel. He is a member of the Board of the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation, based in Kingston, RI. He serves as an officer with three organizations: the Rhode Island Lobstermen's Association, Rhode Island Monkfishermen's Association, and the Sakonnet Point Fishermen's Association. He also serves on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Area 2 Lobster Conservation Management Team. He has engaged in several collaborative fisheries research projects. He is a regular attendee at New England Fishery Management Council and Rhode Island Fishery Management Council meetings, and reliably offers thoughtful and meaningful input on pending management issues.

Mr. Mataronas is well-known, well-liked, and well-respected throughout the Rhode Island commercial fishing community. His candidacy for a seat on the New England Council received a letter of support from the Rhode Island Monkfishermen's Association (Ted Platz, President).

With his breadth of experience, education, energy, and commitment, Mr. Mataronas is well-positioned for a promising future as both a successful commercial fishermen and a leader in the fishing community. He rounds out the very impressive slate of candidates for the Rhode Island obligatory seat, and it is a pleasure and honor for me to recommend him for consideration.

In considering the candidacies of Mr. Platz and the other nominees, I, through the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, consulted with a range of individuals from Rhode Island's marine fishing community, including: Rick Bellavance, President, Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association; Christopher Brown, President, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association; Ryan Clark, Vice-President, The Town Dock, Inc.; Richard Fuka, President, Rhode Island Fishermen's Alliance; and David Preble, Member, New England Fishery Management Council.

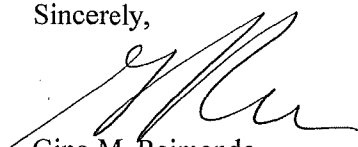
Ms. Sobeck
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Although the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management reached out to Rhode Island's entire marine fisheries community, broadly soliciting candidates for the two vacancies, we received no requests for consideration by any women or minorities. All of the candidates for the current vacancy were given full and equal consideration.

Finally, I am not submitting nominees for the one at-large vacancy on the New England Fishery Management Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gina M. Raimondo
Governor