



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
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**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

March 5, 2019

Chris Oliver  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway  
Room 14636  
Silver Springs, MD 20910  
ATTN: Hannah Hafey

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

Dear Mr. Oliver:

I am submitting three individuals as nominees for the at-large seat currently held by Dr. Michael Sissenwine of Massachusetts on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) that will become vacant on August 10, 2019. 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 (*Marine Fisheries*) to solicit interest in the NEFMC positions. Outreach included an announcement over the Division's email listserv, posting on the *Marine Fisheries* 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 resource of New England.

For the at-large seat currently held by Dr. Michael Sissenwine of Massachusetts, I nominate in order of preference:

- **Michael Sissenwine, Ph.D. (incumbent, Other Sector).** Dr. Sissenwine has provided scientific advice in support of fisheries management worldwide for over 40 years. Following retirement from an extensive career at NOAA Fisheries, he became an independent marine science consultant, member of the New England and Caribbean Fishery Management Councils' Scientific and Statistical Committees, Visiting Scholar of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and Adjunct Professor at the University of Massachusetts School for Marine Science and Technology. Dr. Sissenwine held numerous leadership positions within the federal fisheries agency, including Senior Scientist (overseeing the agency's scientific programs throughout the country) and

Director of the Northeast Fisheries Science Center (responsible for the administration of five national laboratories and 11 agency programs). He has authored over 100 scientific reports and publications on a wide range of topics within his discipline, co-edited three books, served on numerous regional, national, and international committees, and been recipient of various civil, private, and academic achievement awards. He holds a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Massachusetts and a Ph.D. in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island. In addition to chairing the NEFMC's Observer Policy Committee and Research Set-Aside Program Review Panel, Dr. Sissenwine serves on the Sea Scallop Committee, Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management Committee and Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel. He is the Council's representative to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and served on the NEFMC's Research Steering Committee until it was disbanded in 2019.

- **Michael Pierdinock (Recreational Sector).** Mr. Pierdinock is a lifelong angler and recreational fisheries advocate. He is the owner/operator of the charter boat *Perseverance* that has targeted various inshore, offshore, and groundfish species since 2003. In addition to his successful charter boat business, Mr. Pierdinock actively participates on various committees, councils, and advisory panels that impact recreational anglers and the for-hire industry. Currently, he serves on the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (Vice Chair), Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association, U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee, NMFS Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, and NEFMC Recreational Advisory Panel. Mr. Pierdinock is also a regular contributor to industry magazines and radio shows, discussing the latest fishery management issues that impact recreational fishermen. Mr. Pierdinock seeks to bring his experience as a charter boat captain and in the management process at the state and federal level to the Council to assist in making sound management decisions that consider the economic and social impacts to all stakeholders.
- **Dawn Stolfi Stalenhoef (Other Sector).** Dawn Stolfi Stalenhoef has been practicing environmental and regulatory law for the past twenty years. Currently she serves as senior counsel of Klavens Law Group. Dawn as regulatory attorney, providing regulatory compliance and transactional counseling across a broad array of subjects including environmental regulation, land use permitting, municipal law, and energy regulation. Prior to joining Klavens Law Group, Dawn was Chief Regional Counsel for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Southeast Regional Office, where she assisted in the development and implementation of policy, enforcement strategy and regulatory programs. Through her diverse experience, Dawn has served as a regulator and enforcer in the public sector, and as an advocate and legal advisor to the regulated community in the private sector. Dawn seeks to bring her unique expertise navigating multi-jurisdictional permitting and regulatory schemes to the Council. She believes through active listening and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders, regulators can balance competing needs and develop forward-thinking solutions. Dawn holds a B.A. from Merrimack College, a M.A. from Simmons College, and a J.D. from Suffolk University Law School, and is admitted to practice in Massachusetts.

Nominations are not being made for the at-large seat currently held by Rick Bellavance of Rhode Island.

Through the Division of Marine Fisheries, I have consulted with following representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the Commonwealth regarding my nominees, including former members of the NEFMC and members of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC)—a nine-member citizen advisory board, representing recreational and commercial fishing interest (including seafood dealers):

Recreational Background

Kalil Boghdan (MFAC)  
Tim Brady (MFAC)  
C. Rip Cunningham (former MFAC and NEFMC)

Commercial Background

Beth Casoni (MA Lobstermen's Association)  
William Doyle (MFAC)  
Vito Giacalone (Northeast Seafood Coalition)  
Raymond Kane (MFAC)  
Angela Sanfilippo (MA Fishing Partnership)  
Arthur Sawyer (MFAC)  
Lou Williams (MFAC)  
Andrew Minkiewicz (scallop industry)

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 Matthew Beaton, EEA  
Commissioner Ronald S. Amidon, DFG  
Director David E. Pierce, PhD, DMF



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

March 13, 2019

Mr. Chris Oliver  
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway Room 14636  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Oliver:

Enclosed are New Hampshire's nominees for the upcoming vacancies on the New England Fishery Management Council. For New Hampshire's obligatory seat, I request the following applicants be considered in the following order of preference:

Mr. Mark Godfroy (recreational)  
Mr. Nathaniel Ribblett (recreational)  
Mr. David Goethel (commercial)

Mr. Godfroy is owner and captain of two party boats (Lady Traci Ann II and Lady Courtney Alexa) that operate out of Seabrook, NH as part of Eastman's Fishing Fleet where he has been a charter/party boat captain for nearly 20 years. He is completing his first term on the New England Fishery Management Council in New Hampshire's obligatory seat and has been active on the Council's Groundfish and Enforcement Committees. Mr. Godfroy is also a member of the Gulf of Maine Charter and Recreational Fishing Association, the New Hampshire Sea Grant Policy Advisory Committee and, prior to being appointed to the Council, was a member of the Council's Recreational Advisory Panel. Mr. Godfroy is a supporter of proactive management that provides for sustainable resources and businesses that thrive.

Mr. Ribblett has worked the past 16 years for Eastman's Fishing fleet in Seabrook, NH; 10 years as a full time captain of the F/V Annie B targeting groundfish and striped bass. He also has 9 years of experience working on a commercial gill net and trawl vessels targeting groundfish and northern shrimp. Mr. Ribblett has been a partner on cooperative research projects studying mortality rates on released haddock, cod, and cusk caught by anglers.

Mr. Goethel is currently a commercial fisherman who owns and operates the 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 Fishermens Cooperative and the Center for Sustainable Fisheries. Locally, Mr. Goethel was a long time member of the Governor's Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries where his degree in biology combined with extensive experience in both the recreational and commercial fishing industries have made him a valuable asset to the state.

The State of New Hampshire has actively sought qualified applicants from all societal sectors for the Council seats. Our nominee list includes members of the commercial and recreational sectors. Potential candidates were sought via 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 a candidates' night hosted by our Marine Fisheries Division. The public input was very helpful in determining the order of preference for each of our highly qualified nominees.

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.

I would like to thank Hannah Hafey 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 nominations for the available at-large 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.

Regards,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor

Enc.

Cc: Glenn Normandeau NHFG  
Douglas Grout, NHFG



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

GINA M. RAIMONDO, GOVERNOR

March 8, 2019

Chris Oliver  
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 – At-Large Seat**

Dear Assistant Administrator Oliver:

I write in response to your letter of February 5, 2019 seeking nominees for two at-large seats on the New England Fishery Management Council, which will become vacant on August 10, 2019.

I am forwarding you the nomination packages for three highly qualified candidates from Rhode Island for the seat currently held by Richard J. Bellavance, Jr.: Richard J. Bellavance, Jr., Steven D. Anderson, and Andrew Dangelo, Jr.

**Having carefully considered the qualifications of the three candidates, I respectfully recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Bellavance to the seat.**

**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 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 first term. By all accounts, he has served with distinction and is highly deserving of reappointment to a second term.

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 table. He is well-versed in the fisheries management arena. He understands the resources, the industry, and the management system. He is energetic, committed, and overflowing with good ideas

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. He recently 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 (65 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 Committee
- Skate Committee
- EBFM Committee
- Scallop Committee
- Herring Committee

New England Council Representative to/on:

- ICCAT
- 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

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, I had the honor of appointing him to the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council as a representative of the sportfishing industry. Over the past three 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.

**Captain Steven Anderson** is also a solid, well-qualified candidate. Since 2005, he has been the owner/operator of Bare Bones Charters, which specializes in fishing the waters of Narragansett Bay and Block Island Sound. For many years, he has served as Vice-President of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association; in that capacity, he routinely attends fisheries management meeting and contributes to the discussions and deliberations by the RI Department and Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Fishery Management Council regarding modifications and improvements to RI's marine fisheries management and regulatory programs. For about the past ten years, he has served on the Council's Industry Advisory Committee as an appointed member, representing the interests of Rhode Island's for-hire sector. He also serves on the Advisory Committee to the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. He has participated in the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Education Program. While Captain Anderson is now chiefly affiliated with the recreational fishing sector, he has held a Rhode Island commercial fishing license for most of his life. During his early years, he was engaged initially in commercial shellfishing and offshore trawling; more recently, he shifted to commercial rod and reel fishing, which he continues to do as a supplement to his primary focus on charter boat fishing. He has a strong personal and professional commitment to preventing overfishing, and supporting programs and policies that advance conservation and accountability in the fisheries.

In considering the candidacy of Captain Bellavance and the other nominees, acting through the RI Department of Environmental Management, I consulted with a range of key individuals who represent commercial and recreational fishing interests in RI, 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; Richard Fuka, President, Rhode Island Fishermen's Alliance; Michael

Marchetti, President, Eastern New England Scallop Association; and Stephen Medeiros, President, Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association.

The RI Department of Environmental Management received no requests for consideration for this seat by any women or minorities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Raimondo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gina" and last name "Raimondo" clearly distinguishable.

Gina M. Raimondo  
Governor

GMR/jm