

Chair



New England Fishery Management Council

Daniel Salerno was elected Chair of the New England Fishery Management Council in September 2025, prior to which served as both Vice Chair and Acting Chair. Dan is a manager for two groundfish sectors: Northeast Fishing Sector XI (New Hampshire Sector) and Sector V (Rhode Island/Long Island day-boat sector) and has been involved in sector management since its broad-scale implementation in 2010. With a background in marine science and biology dating back to 1992, Dan has worked extensively with the commercial fishing industry; as a mate on a fishing vessel, fisheries biologist, research technician, collaborative research associate, and now as a sector manager and independent fisheries scientist. Dan is committed to the conservation and management of marine resources through sound science that balances ecological needs with the social and economic needs of fishing communities. He currently serves as the New England Council co-chair on the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) and the U.S. co-chair on the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC). He holds a B.S. in Marine Biology from Long Island University–Southampton and an M.S. in Marine Biology from the University of Massachusetts–Dartmouth.

3rd Term expires 8/10/29

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Vice Chair



New England Fishery Management Council

Melanie Griffin is a fishery policy analyst for the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). She has been the division's designee on the New England Fishery Management Council since 2010 and the lead DMF representative on both the Groundfish Committee and the Scallop Committee. She now serves as the state's principal representative for all full Council meetings. Melanie has led DMF's federal groundfish disaster aid programs on multiple levels. She also is the Policy Director of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute. In earlier years, she served as DMF's proxy on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council and coordinated the division's work on state and federal legislative issues. At the start of her career, Melanie spent time as a research assistant at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories and as an intern at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, FL. She has a M.S. in marine science and technology from the University of Massachusetts-Boston and a B.A. in ecology and evolutionary biology, coupled with a minor in marine biology, from Cornell University.

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New England Fishery Management Council

Michael Pentony is the Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries' Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (GARFO), position he has held since January 2018. As GARFO's Regional Administrator, Mike oversees approximately 200 staff members who are based at GARFO's main office in Gloucester, Massachusetts, as well as in field offices in Maine, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia. GARFO's jurisdiction spans from Maine to Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, and includes the Great Lakes. It also covers rivers and estuaries within this range. GARFO's work focuses on ensuring sustainable fisheries, recovering endangered and threatened species and marine mammals, and protecting important habitats within the Northeast ecosystem. Mike has been with NOAA Fisheries since 2002, where he worked in a number of capacities. Prior to being named the Regional Administrator, he served as Assistant Regional Administrator for the Sustainable Fisheries Division, where he oversaw all aspects of 14 management plans under the wings of both the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils. Before joining NOAA Fisheries, he worked for four years as a policy analyst for the New England Council, primarily on issues related to habitat, marine protected areas, and the Atlantic deep-sea red crab fishery. Mike has a B.S. in engineering from Duke University and a M.S. in environmental management from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment. He spent six years as an officer in the U.S. Air Force between earning his college and graduate degrees.

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New England Fishery Management Council

Megan Ware is director of external affairs for the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). She joined DMR in March 2019 after spending four years as a fishery management plan coordinator for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC). Her work with ASMFC focused on American lobster, Atlantic herring, and Atlantic menhaden. At DMR, Megan holds a leadership position and helps strategize policy solutions for fishery issues. She regularly engages with a wide variety of fishermen, state and federal agency personnel, elected officials, environmental organizations, and other fishery stakeholders. She also is involved in policy surrounding North Atlantic right whales. Megan represents DMR and votes on behalf of the department on the New England Council and several ASMFC management boards. Megan holds a B.A. in environmental analysis and policy with a minor in marine science from Boston University. In 2015, she earned a Masters of Environmental Management with a concentration in coastal environmental management from Duke University.

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New England Fishery Management Council

Terry Alexander is a fourth-generation commercial fisherman from Cundy's Harbor, Maine, with more than 40 years of experience in the groundfish and squid fisheries. He grew up fishing with his father and took the helm in his early twenties. Today he owns and operates the *F/V Jocka*, a 62-foot trawler targeting cod, haddock, hake, monkfish, and squid. Over the years, Terry has built a reputation as both a skilled fisherman and a thoughtful leader who bridges the gap between science and the fishing community. He has been deeply involved in cooperative research, including the development of the Nordmore grate to reduce juvenile shrimp bycatch and participation in the industry-based cod surveys in the Gulf of Maine. He has served in multiple fisheries leadership roles, including as President of the Sustainable Harvest Sector and as a long-serving member of the Associated Fisheries of Maine. Terry served on both the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and three terms on the New England Fishery Management Council from 2012 to 2021, where he contributed to key management actions for groundfish and other species.

1st Term Expires 8/10/29

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New England Fishery Management Council

Geoff Smith has been the marine program director for the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy since 2006. Prior to that, he was the regional fish conservation manager for The Ocean Conservancy. Geoff has worked in natural resources management for over two decades and been an active participant in fisheries management in the state and region. He often collaborates with industry to develop practical solutions for operational and management challenges, as demonstrated by his extensive work on the development of electronic monitoring strategies for the groundfish fishery. Geoff is the Council's representative to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). He currently serves on the Maine Coast Community Groundfish Sector Board of Directors and previously served on the Maine Department of Marine Resources Advisory Council. Before becoming a Council member in 2021, Geoff also served on the Council's Groundfish Advisory Panel and Habitat Advisory Panel. Earlier in his career, he was a staff scientist at the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula, Montana, working to protect and restore the Clark Fork River basin. Before that, he worked as a geologist and project manager at the Northeast Research Institute, carrying out environmental site assessments through soil gas surveys. Geoff earned a B.A. in environmental studies from Rollins College in 1988, a M.S. in environmental sciences from the University of Montana in 1998, and a M.St. in environmental law from Vermont Law School in 2001.

2nd Term expires 8/10/27

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New England Fishery Management Council

Togue Brawn has been involved in fisheries management and the seafood industry in New England for more than two decades. She owns and operates a direct-to-consumer seafood company, Downeast Dayboat, that sources scallops from the Maine dayboat fleet. Prior to starting Downeast Dayboat, Togue was a resource management coordinator for the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR). While at DMR, she worked on several fisheries, including scallops, groundfish, and urchins, and led a complete revision to Maine's state waters scallop fishery management plan. Both before and after her time at DMR, Togue worked as an independent fisheries consultant and continues to do so today. She is the current chair of the DMR Advisory Council and serves on the Maine Fishermen's Forum Board of Directors. Togue earned a B.A. with distinction in geology from Duke University in 1992 and a M.S. in marine policy from the University of Maine at Orono in 2002. 2nd Term expires 8/10/27

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New England Fishery Management Council

Capt. Peter Whelan is the owner of Shoals Fly Fishing and Light Tackle, a Portsmouth, New Hampshire-based business that offers guided fly fishing and light tackle charters off the seacoast. Peter has over 15 years of experience as a charter captain and conducts trips from the *Miss Jodine*, a 23' Mako that docks in New Castle. The business specializes in striped bass, bluefish, and bluefin tuna recreational fishing trips. Peter serves on the board of directors for both the American Saltwater Guides Association and the Coastal Conservation Association of New Hampshire, of which he is a past president. He also is a member of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Atlantic Striped Bass Advisory Panel. Peter continues to serve on New Hampshire's Advisory Committee on Marine Fisheries and has been active in habitat issues. He has a B.A. from Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Virginia.
2nd Term expires 8/10/28

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New England Fishery Management Council

Renee Zobel is the Marine Program Supervisor for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. She serves as the Department's designee on the New England Fishery Management Council and represents New Hampshire at both Council meetings, the Habitat Committee, and the On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group. She has played a key role in state and interstate management processes, representing New Hampshire on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) on both the board and as chair of their Atlantic Herring Technical Committee. She joined New Hampshire Fish and Game in 2004, where she has led and contributed to multiple programs, including those focused on lobster, groundfish, and anadromous species, as well as fisheries data collection and analysis. Earlier in her career, Renee worked on fisheries statistics and invertebrate monitoring and has supervised technical staff across a range of marine projects. She brings nearly two decades of experience in collaborative fisheries science and policy to her Council role. Renee holds a B.S. in biology from Wheaton College in Illinois.
1st Term expires 8/10/28

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New England Fishery Management Council

Jacqueline “Jackie” Odell has served as Executive Director of the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC) since 2003. The Coalition represents small commercial fishing businesses in the federal Northeast groundfish fishery, advocating for its members in fisheries management, regulatory, policy, and stock assessment processes. She also serves on the NOAA Fisheries Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team and as a member of the Massachusetts Commercial Fisheries Commission and sits on the boards of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership and the Northeast Sector Service Network. Her previous experience includes work as a project coordinator for the NOAA Fisheries Study Fleet Program and former board member of the Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund. Jackie holds a B.A. in Biology and Environmental Studies from Providence College and an M.A. in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island. She has testified before Congress on the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, co-authored peer-reviewed publications on fisheries management, offshore wind development, and stakeholder participation in fisheries science. Before becoming a Council member, Jackie served for 20 years on the Council's Groundfish Advisory Panel, including 10 years as vice chair. She is widely recognized for her leadership in advancing sustainable fisheries management and the interests of commercial fishing businesses and communities.

2nd Term expires 8/10/29

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New England Fishery Management Council

Kirby Aarsheim is a partner at Farrell Smith O'Connell Aarsheim Aprans LLP. She built her career in maritime law after being immersed in the commercial fishing industry from a very young age. Kirby and her family operate commercial scallop fishing vessels F/V SELJE and F/V AARSHEIM JUNIOR based out of the Port of New Bedford, Massachusetts. This upbringing gave her a unique, hands-on perspective on the operational, regulatory, and financial challenges that vessel owners face. Today, she applies this lifetime of experience to defend vessel owners, handle marine casualties, navigate fisheries regulations, and manage complex civil maritime litigation. Kirby is involved in regional fishery management and maritime policy and served as an Advisor on the Council's Sea Scallop Committee Advisory Panel as well as the Enforcement Committee Advisory Panel. Her leadership extends nationally and locally as the Immediate Past Chair of the American Bar Association's Admiralty Maritime Law Committee and the current Vice President of the Propeller Club Port of Boston. Kirby holds a B.S. cum laude from Bentley University. She earned her J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law, where she received CALI Awards for achieving the highest grades in Maritime Personal Injury Law and Fisheries Law.
1st Term expires 8/10/29

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New England Fishery Management Council

Mike Pierdinock is a lifelong angler and recreational fisheries advocate. He is the owner/operator of the charter boat *Perseverance*, which has targeted various inshore, offshore, and groundfish species since 2003. In addition to his successful charter boat business, Mike actively participates on various committees, councils, and advisory panels that impact recreational anglers and the for-hire industry. He is the president of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association and serves as a recreational advisor on the National Marine Fisheries Service's Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel and the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). He also has served as a U.S. delegate at annual ICCAT meetings. Mike actively participates in ongoing efforts to assess the impact of climatic shift on our fishery stocks and subsequent impact to fishery management through the use of citizens science and scientific-based studies. These efforts focus on improving recreational catch data used in the Marine Recreational Information Program. Mike presently is a managing partner at Lightship Engineering and has over 39 years of experience providing environmental services associated with the assessment and cleanup of surface water, sediment, groundwater, soil, and air impacted by oil and hazardous materials, munitions, and radiological waste that provides insight into contaminants that impact our fishery and ecosystem. He earned a B.S. in environmental science from Stockton State College in 1983 and a M.S. in civil engineering from Tufts University in 1996.

2nd Term expires 8/10/27

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New England Fishery Management Council

Eric Hansen has over 40 years of experience in the commercial scallop fishery. He started as a deckhand in 1978 and worked his way up the ladder. In 1988, he became the owner of the *F/V Endeavor*, which is based out of New Bedford, Massachusetts. He captained the vessel until 2004. In 2019, he expanded his business by purchasing an additional scallop vessel, the *F/V Intrepid*. Today, he focuses on running his business, Hansen Scalloping Inc., which oversees the operation of the two boats. Eric's family has been involved in the harvesting of fish and scallops from New England waters for most of the last century. He is committed to continuing this heritage. Prior to becoming a New England Fishery Management Council member, Eric served on the Council's Scallop Advisory Panel and Monkfish Advisory Panel. He continues to be actively involved in fishing industry associations and serves on several advisory bodies, including the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute's Advisory Committee, the UMass Dartmouth School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) Fishermen's Steering Committee, and the Commonwealth's Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Wind Energy. Eric is president of the Fisheries Survival Fund, which represents the majority of full-time Atlantic scallop fishermen on the East Coast, and he was a founding member of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA). He continues to serve on RODA's board of directors and is a past member of the New Bedford Port Authority's Working Group on Offshore Wind Development. In the past, Eric served as a member of U.S. Representative Bill Keating's Federal Fishing Advisory Board and New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell's Ocean and Fisheries Council Steering Committee. Eric has a first-hand understanding of the real-world implications of fishery regulations. He seeks to balance the economic and cultural importance of commercial fishing with habitat protection and the sustainable management of marine resources.

2nd Term expires 8/10/28

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New England Fishery Management Council

Mathew Gates is the Fisheries Statistics and Management Supervisor with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. He oversees fisheries data collection and management programs that support the assessment and sustainable management of Connecticut's marine fisheries. His work includes coordinating fishery monitoring efforts, analyzing biological and recreational fishing data, and contributing to state and regional fisheries management. Matt has been actively involved in the New England Fishery Management Council for several years where he chairs the Monkfish Committee and serves on both the Skate and Scallop Committees, helping guide the development of management measures for these Fishery Management Plans. Additionally, he represents Connecticut on several Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission management boards. His background in fisheries monitoring and his leadership on regional management committees provide practical insight into the scientific and regulatory issues affecting both Connecticut's and New England's marine resources.

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New England Fishery Management Council

William (Bill) Lucey is the Long Island Soundkeeper for Save the Sound, a non-profit organization. In this capacity, he advocates for improvements to water quality and sustainable fisheries within Long Island Sound, which spans Connecticut and New York state waters. Bill is a resident and native of Connecticut. He holds a graduate certificate in Fisheries Management from the University of Oregon and a B.S. in Fisheries Biology from the University of Vermont. After college, he joined the U.S. Peace Corps as a fisheries extensionist in Central America. From there, he took a job in Yakutat, Alaska as a federal fisheries technician for the USDA Forest Service, Tongass National Forest, where he remained for 20 years. He also worked during that time for the local municipality dependent on commercial fishing as its primary industry. From 1997 to 2013, Bill held troll, gillnet, and longline permits for salmon and halibut and operated small fishing boats in the Gulf of Alaska. At the same time, he continued working as a field biologist conducting multiple research projects centered on fish, marine mammals, and salmon restoration. As a coastal program planner, he secured funding to upgrade fishing-related infrastructure and establish a regional seafood branding program. He also promoted beneficial fisheries policies at the state and federal level. In addition, he has 46 years of recreational fishing experience. Bill's dual careers as a fisherman and biologist, coupled with his current position in the non-profit conservation community, provide him with a well-rounded perspective on the fisheries management process.

1st Term expires 8/10/27

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New England Fishery Management Council

Scott Olszewski has been with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management's Division of Marine Fisheries since 1995, first as a biologist and, beginning in 2015, as a supervisor, overseeing the administration of the agency's \$4.1 million marine fisheries program. He became the division's deputy chief in early 2018 and has served as the Rhode Island director's designee to the Council since then. Scott received his B.S. in fisheries from the University of Rhode Island in 1994 and began his career with the division conducting lobster and horseshoe crab research. He served as the principal investigator of the state's coastal trawl survey and has participated on many technical committees and previously served on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's (ASMFC) Lobster Plan Development Team. He currently is a member of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team.

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New England Fishery Management Council

Ted Platz has been a commercial fisherman for over 35 years. He has fished for monkfish, skate, dogfish, and various finfish for most of his career, and he was an active lobsterman for 15 years. Ted has experience fishing inshore and offshore from his homeport of Newport, Rhode Island. Originally fishing out of Little Compton, Rhode Island, he moved his boat and business to Newport in 1994. Prior to being appointed to the Council, he served on the Monkfish Advisory Panel for 20 years, most recently as chair. He also was a member of the Council's Skate Advisory Panel from 2008-2024 and, at various times, served on the Groundfish and Dogfish Advisory Panels. Ted has participated in numerous fishery science and management seminars over his many years of active engagement in the fishery management process. As a strong believer in cooperative research, he has partnered with numerous science and academic institutions to do research on both monkfish and skate stocks. Ted has a BA in Economic Theory from Emory and Henry College. His background in economics and experience with running multiple businesses in and out of the fishing industry strongly influence his decision-making on fishery management issues. 1st Term expires 8/10/27

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New England Fishery Management Council

Andrew J. Dangelo is a veteran Rhode Island headboat operator with over four decades of experience in the for-hire recreational fishing industry. He is the owner and operator of Maridee Inc., running recreational and charter fishing trips out of Point Judith since 1981. His operations primarily focus on cod and tuna fishing in Rhode Island Sound and around Block Island. Andy graduated from Colorado State University in 1973 with a Bachelor of Science degree in wildlife biology and earned an Associate degree in Commercial Fishing and Marine Technology from the University of Rhode Island. He began his fishing career in the commercial swordfish harpoon fishery aboard the *F/V Bob and Barry* from 1976 to 1977, and operated party boats including the *F/V Julie C.* and *Super Squirrel* from 1978 to 1981 before launching Maridee Inc. He holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master of Steam or Motor Vessels license (under 100 gross tons). Andy has been elected Treasurer of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association for the past 20 years and remains actively involved in industry leadership. He currently serves on the Fishermen's Advisory Board to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC), advising on offshore wind and marine spatial planning issues.

1st Term expires 8/10/28

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