

Acting Chair



New England Fishery Management Council

Daniel Salerno was elected Vice Chair of the New England Fishery Management Council in September 2024 and is currently serving as Acting Chair. He manages two groundfish sectors: Northeast Fishing Sector XI (New Hampshire Sector) and Sector V (Rhode Island/Long Island day-boat sector). He 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, Daniel 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.

2nd Term expires 8/10/26

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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

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

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

Jacqueline “Jackie” Odell is the Executive Director of the Northeast Seafood Coalition (NSC or Coalition), a position she has held since 2003. The Coalition represents small commercial fishing businesses in the federal northeast multispecies (groundfish) fishery in the regulatory, policy, and stock assessment processes. Prior to becoming a Council member, Jackie served on the Council’s Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) for 20 years and was the GAP’s vice chair for the last 10 years. She has been a member of the NOAA Fisheries Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team since 2010 and is a member of the board of directors for the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership and the Northeast Sector Service Network. She was a member of the Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund until 2023. Prior to being employed by the NSC, Jackie worked as a project coordinator for the NOAA Fisheries Study Fleet Program. She also served as a research assistant at URI’s Coastal Institute during the process to restructure the state of Rhode Island’s commercial fishing license program. Jackie received a Bachelor of Arts in an Individualized Major in Biology and Environmental Studies from Providence College, and she holds a Master of Arts in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island (URI). Her thesis work focused on the perception of legitimacy in fisheries management. While attending URI, Jackie was selected to serve as a Rhode Island Senate Policy Fellow and was an intern for the NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division. She also served as a consultant for the International Finance Corporation to conduct an evaluation of a seafood processing plant in Fort Dauphin, Madagascar. Jackie co-authored an article, “Managing offshore wind developments in the United States: Legal, environmental and social consequences using a case study in Nantucket Sound,” which was published in *Ocean & Coastal Management* in 2004. In 2006, she served on a panel that provided Congressional testimony on legislation introduced to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Jackie co-authored a chapter, “Stakeholder Participation in Management Science,” in a book titled *Management Science in Fisheries: A practical introduction to simulation-based methods*, which was released in 2015. She also presented her paper, “Rebuilding Program Requirements and Timelines: A Perspective from the Northeast Commercial Groundfish Fishery,” at the Managing our Nations Fisheries Conference in Washington, D.C. May 2013.

1st Term expires 8/10/26

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New England Fishery Management Council

John Pappalardo is the chief executive officer (CEO) of the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance. He served as the organization's policy director for a decade before assuming the CEO position in 2010. He also helped build the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association, the predecessor to the Alliance, in 1999. John was a member of the New England Council from 2002-2011 and served as Council chairman five of those years. During that time, he helped guide the Council through the implementation of the newly amended Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as well as the region's first two catch share programs. He was reappointed to the Council on January 6, 2015 to fill a mid-year vacancy and has remained on the Council since then. Among other responsibilities, he is deeply involved in the Council's work on ecosystem-based fishery management. A native New Englander, John came to Cape Cod after completing a B.A. at Seton Hall University. While working as a commercial fisherman and clammer, he became interested in the plight of the region's small-boat fishing industry and was determined to advocate for its future. He has spent his career working to protect the traditions of Cape Cod's oldest industry and to create new opportunities for the next generation of fishermen. John spent 13 years on the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission. He also spent time on the National Organics Safety Board. He currently serves on the Joint Oceans Commission Initiative and the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation.

3rd Term expires 8/10/26

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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

Peter Arrestad is director of the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection's (CT DEEP) Fisheries Division. He has worked for the agency on a variety of fisheries programs since 1987. For many years, he served as director of the state's inland fisheries programs. Today, he heads up both marine and inland programs under DEEP's Fisheries Division. He received his B.S. in biology from Eastern Connecticut State University in 1985 and a M.S. in natural resource management – with a fisheries focus – from the University of Connecticut in 1992. Pete has served as Connecticut's designee to the Council since April 2018. He previously represented the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies on the National Fish Habitat Board. He is a long-standing member of the Northeast Fisheries Administrator's Association and currently serves on the Farmington River Coordinating Committee and the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources Advisory Board. Pete also represents the state of Connecticut on the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative.

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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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