



New England Fishery Management Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2025

PRESS CONTACT: Alex Dunn
978-465-0492 ext. 112; adunn@nefmc.org

Council Elects Daniel Salerno and Melanie Griffin as Chair and Vice Chair for 2025-2026; Welcomes Andrew Dangelo

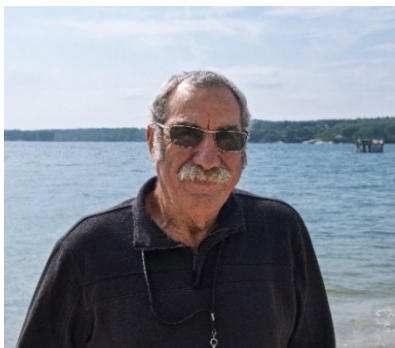
The New England Fishery Management Council opened its [September 2025](#) meeting in Gloucester, Massachusetts with its annual election of officers. The Council elected the current acting chair, Daniel Salerno of New Hampshire as Chair and Melanie Griffin of Massachusetts as Vice Chair. Both Dan and Melanie were nominated and approved by acclamation.

Dan Salerno is a familiar face at the Council having served as the Vice Chair and then Acting Chair. He currently manages two Northeast groundfish sectors and brings over 30 years of industry and research experience. He co-chairs the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel and the U.S. side of the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee. Read his full bio [here](#).

Melanie Griffin is a policy analyst with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries. She represents the state in Council deliberations. Melanie has served on the Council's Executive Committee for several years and Chairs the Scallop Committee. Read her full bio [here](#).



Dan Salerno and Melanie Griffin



Andy Dangelo

The Council also welcomed new member **Andrew “Andy” Dangelo** of Rhode Island. Andy is a veteran headboat operator with more than 40 years of experience in the for-hire recreational fishing industry. Since 1981, he has owned and operated Maridee Inc., running charter trips from Point Judith targeting cod and tuna in Rhode Island Sound and around Block Island. He holds a U.S. Coast Guard Master license and serves as Treasurer of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association. After taking the [Oath of Office](#), Andy became the newest voting Council member. Read his full bio [here](#).

The Council also voted on a slate of five candidates to fill the three spots on the **Executive Committee** which is made up of the Council's Chair, Vice Chair, and three elected Council members. The Council voted to reelect **Megan Ware** of Maine and **John Pappalardo** of Massachusetts and filled the remaining seat with **Michael Pierdinock** also from Massachusetts.

Other recent additions to the Council include **Renee Zobel**, Marine Program Supervisor for the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department, who joined the Council as the New Hampshire state designee in June. Renee sits on the Scallop and Habitat Committee, the On-Demand Fishing Gear Conflict Working Group, and chairs the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Atlantic Herring Technical Committee.

Robert Ruhle has taken on the role of New England Council Liaison from the [Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council](#) (MAFMC). Robert is a 4th generation fisherman from Wanchese North Carolina, where he Captains the F/V DARANA R from which he operates the Northeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program Survey in partnership with the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.



Shown left to right: Andrew Dangelo (Rhode Island), Cate O'Keefe (Council Executive Director), Scott Olszewski (Rhode Island), CAPT John Singletary (U.S. Coast Guard), Renee Zobel (New Hampshire), Peter Arrastad (Connecticut), LT Tom Bleifuss (U.S. Coast Guard designee), Megan Ware (Maine), Peter Whelan (New Hampshire), Mike Pentony (NOAA Fisheries Regional Administrator), Geoffrey Smith (Maine), Michael Pierdinock (Massachusetts), Bill Lucey (Connecticut), Dan Salerno (New Hampshire), Eric Hansen (Massachusetts), Togue Brawn (Maine), Ted Platz (Rhode Island), Melanie Griffin (Massachusetts), Jon Hare (Northeast Fisheries Science Center Director), Mitch MacDonald (NOAA General Counsel), Jackie Odell (Massachusetts), Scott Sakowski (NOAA General Counsel)
Not shown: John Pappalardo (Massachusetts) and Robert Ruhle (MAFMC liaison)

New England Fishery Management Council / 50 Water Street, Mill 2 / Newburyport, MA 01950

Phone: (978) 465-0492 / www.nefmc.org