



# New England Fishery Management Council

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## Council Presents 2022 Award for Excellence to Maggie Raymond

The New England Fishery Management Council honored Maggie Raymond, former Executive Director of Associated Fisheries of Maine and a 25-year participant in the Council process, by presenting her with the 2022 Janice M. Plante Award for Excellence.

Council Chair Eric Reid called the recognition “long overdue.”

“Maggie represents the epitome of someone dedicated to both the commercial fishing industry and sustainable fisheries management,” said Chair Reid. “Her tenure covers a period of tremendous change, stretching from the early days of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to our evolving adaptation to climate change and the challenges of coping with offshore wind development.”

Maggie’s strongest connection with the Council is with groundfish, beginning around the time the Council adopted limited entry and was transitioning the entire fishery to days-at-sea management. It was a period of intense conflict between fishermen and managers, driven by fear in the industry that the changes would collapse the fishery.

“Maggie helped people navigate these tumultuous changes and served as an invaluable conduit to explain the science and management implications to fishermen,” said Chair Reid. “She was a fierce advocate for industry interests.”

Maggie served on the Groundfish Advisory Panel (GAP) for 25 years. The rapid pace of management changes – with over 20 framework actions between 1997 and 2003 – meant a huge time commitment was necessary to be an effective GAP member, which Maggie was.

In addition to being a member of the GAP, she chaired the panel for many



*Council Executive Director Tom Nies (left) and Chair Eric Reid, right, congratulate award recipient Maggie Raymond. – NEFMC photo*



# New England Fishery Management Council

years, including during the development of effort reductions and the initial sector program that were implemented through Amendment 13 in 2004.

She also was the first advisory panel chair to be assigned as a member of the Groundfish Plan Development Team (PDT). As a PDT member, Maggie was diligent in explaining important industry interests and scrupulously avoided advocating solely for any individual segment of the industry. The advice she gave was critical in helping PDT members understand conditions in the fishery and the likely impacts of management actions. Her questions also helped PDT members better prepare for and explain technical issues to both Council members and the public.

Maggie's service on the Groundfish Advisory Panel continued through two other major amendments – the expansion of the sector program in Amendment 16 and the adoption of increased monitoring in Amendment 23.

**Habitat, Monkfish, and More:** In addition to her groundfish contributions, Maggie served on the Habitat Advisory Panel during the development of the Council's Omnibus Essential Fish Habitat Amendment 2, and she spent several years on the Monkfish Advisory Panel, including as chair during the very challenging exploration of a catch share program for the Monkfish Fishery Management Plan.

"Today we're highlighting Maggie's contributions to our own Council process," said Chair Reid, "but her work for fishermen and the fishing industry was not limited to the Council. She was a key member of the New England fishing community for over 27 years and continues to make contributions even in her supposed 'retirement.'"

In addition to her leadership of Associated Fisheries of Maine (AFM), Maggie was a founding member of the Maine Fishermen's Wives Association and worked tirelessly to promote seafood consumption among the general public overall and especially of Maine seafood. The association developed posters, brochures, cookbooks, and other outreach materials. It also hosted seafood receptions for Council members during several of the the Council's meetings in Maine.

Associated Fisheries of Maine was a founding member of the Maine Fishermen's Forum, and



*Maggie Raymond testifies before the New England Council during its January 2014 meeting in Portsmouth, NH. – Steve Kennedy photo*



# New England Fishery Management Council

Maggie served on the forum's board of directors as AFM's representative. She was instrumental in bringing Council staff to the forum to host seminars on the Council's management actions. After arranging countless annual sessions, she approached the forum board about recognizing the Council's contributions in a more formal way. As a result of this initiative, the Maine Fishermen's Forum presented the Council staff with an award for its support of and regular participation in the forum program.

**The National and International Scale:** Maggie was a trusted voice for fishermen in the halls of Congress, testifying on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization in 2006. She frequently was sought out by Maine's congressional staff for advice on legislative issues.

She was appointed to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee (MAFAC), which was "...established in 1971 under a federal charter by the Secretary of Commerce to provide advice on living marine resource matters under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Commerce." MAFAC addresses fisheries and policy issues that span the nation.

Maggie served two four-year terms as a Commissioner for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). She organized public support for the survivors of several at-sea fishing tragedies. She was the co-owner of a large offshore groundfish boat and, for a period, a second smaller boat.

**The Award's Purpose:** The Council's Award for Excellence was established in 2015 to annually honor an individual who has produced exceptional work "to further the effectiveness of the fishery management process in New England." In particular, the Council seeks to pay special tribute to people who have displayed an outstanding commitment to the Council fishery management system and contributed time and energy to the process.

Maggie's professionalism, dedication, and achievements more than meet the standards set for this award.

*"Maggie helped people navigate the tumultuous changes in the groundfish fishery and served as an invaluable conduit to explain the science and management implications to fishermen."*

*- New England Council Chair Eric Reid*

