



## New England Fishery Management Council

**Eric Reid** was the Council's vice chair for two years and took over as acting chair in mid-August 2021 before being elected chair in September. He is a fisheries consultant based in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. Eric has a long history in seafood processing and previously owned and operated his own vertically integrated business for 11 years. In addition, he worked for numerous other companies over the years, including Seafreeze Shoreside Inc., Seafresh USA, and The Town Dock, as well as in various plants in Gloucester and New Bedford. Over his 54-year career in commercial and recreational fisheries, Eric has been actively engaged in all facets of the industry. He first worked as a deckhand on for-hire vessels. He then became licensed and sailed as captain while attending the University of Rhode Island, where he graduated in 1981 with an A.S. degree in fisheries and marine technology. Next, he began working as a commercial fisherman – both on deck and at the helm – on bottom trawl and longline vessels operating out of ports in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Jersey. After 10 years of experience on the water, he redirected his focus to shoreside processing. Eric served as past president of both the Rhode Island Seafood Council and the American Seafood Institute. He was a founding member of the East Coast Fisheries Association, the New England Seafood Producers Association, and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. Eric serves as the New England Council's liaison to the Mid-Atlantic Council and represents the New England Council on several Mid-Atlantic Council committees. He also is a U.S. Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and serves as Rhode Island State Senator Susan Sosnowski's proxy on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC).

3<sup>rd</sup> Term expires 8/10/24



# Vice Chair



## New England Fishery Management Council

**Capt. Rick Bellavance** is the owner/operator of Priority Charters, LLC, a charter fishing business located in Point Judith. A lifelong Rhode Island resident, he has engaged in a variety of recreational and commercial fishing industries for over 30 years. Rick currently serves as the president of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association. For more than a decade, he has represented the recreational for-hire fishing industry on state, regional, and federal panels, committees, and commissions. Rick has worked steadily to help develop electronic reporting tools that can improve recreational catch estimates. He also strongly supports improvements to the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), which, in turn, lead to better recreational fishery management. He represents the Council on the NOAA Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of ICCAT. He also represents the New England Council on several Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic Council committees.

3<sup>rd</sup> Term expires 8/10/25





## 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.

NOAA Fisheries, Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office  
55 Great Republic Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
(978) 281-9283, fax (978) 281-9207  
[REDACTED]



## 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.

Maine Department of Marine Resources  
21 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333  
(207) 446-0932  
[REDACTED]



# New England Fishery Management Council

**Alan Tracy** is the owner and chief executive officer of Vessel Services, Inc., which is located on the Portland Fish Pier in Portland, Maine. Vessel Services supplies fuel, ice, and gear to the fishing industry and is instrumental as a shoreside support business on the working waterfront of Maine's largest fishing port. Alan is a licensed attorney and joined Vessel Services after 10 years in private practice. He is actively engaged in city planning and political activities related to the Portland waterfront and state fisheries issues. These responsibilities include engagement with the city-owned Portland Fish Pier, which is home to both Vessel Services and the Portland Fish Exchange, the city's non-profit seafood display auction. The pier also provides berthing for the majority of the state's offshore groundfish fleet. Alan is an appointee to the Maine Working Waterfront Access Protection Program panel and active in Town of Freeport civic organizations. He received a B.A in history from Providence College, a M.Ed from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a J.D. from the Connecticut School of Law.

2<sup>nd</sup> Term expires 8/10/26





# 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/24





## 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/24





## New England Fishery Management Council

**Cheri Patterson** is chief of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department's Marine Division, which manages and monitors estuarine, diadromous, and marine natural resources, habitats, and fisheries. The Great Bay Estuarine Research Reserve and the Great Bay Discovery Center are part of the division. Cheri and staff work closely with other state and federal agencies to address marine resource issues for both commercial and recreational fisheries. She has been with New Hampshire Fish and Game for 46 years, starting off as a biological aide and then rising through the ranks to become supervisor of marine programs prior to becoming chief. In addition to serving on the New England Fishery Management Council, she is New Hampshire's administrative commissioner on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and represents the department on other inter-and-intrastate committees and boards. Cheri is the New England Council's representative on the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team. She has a B.S. in zoology from the University of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department  
225 Main Street  
Durham, NH 03824  
(603) 868-1095, fax (603) 868-3305  
[REDACTED]





## 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/25

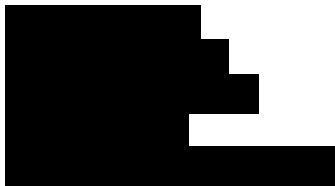




## New England Fishery Management Council

**Daniel Salerno** is the manager of two groundfish sectors – Northeast Fishing Sector XI, known as the New Hampshire Sector, and Northeast Fishing Sector V, referred to as the Rhode Island/Long Island day-boat sector. He has been involved with sector management since its broad-scale implementation in 2010. He also has been actively engaged in marine science and biology through his education, work, and research since 1992. Daniel has worked directly with the commercial fishing industry in various capacities as a mate on a fishing vessel, fisheries biologist, research technician, collaborative research associate, and, currently, as a sector manager and independent fisheries scientist. He is a supporter of conservation and management of living marine resources based on sound science that balances the biological needs of the resources and the social and economic needs of the fishing industries that rely on those resources. Daniel serves as the New England Council Co-Chair on the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel (NTAP) and as the U.S. Co-Chair on the Transboundary Management Guidance Committee (TMGC). He has a B.S. in marine biology from Long Island University – Southampton and a M.S. in marine biology from the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth.

2<sup>nd</sup> Term expires 8/10/26





## 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.

Division of Marine Fisheries





# 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, the Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, and the Northeast Sector Service Network. 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/26





# 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.

3<sup>rd</sup> Term expires 8/10/26





## 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. Currently, he is vice chair of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission and president of the Stellwagen Bank Charter Boat Association. He also serves on the National Marine Fisheries Service's Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, as well as on the Executive Committee of the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance's Advisory Council. Mike is a member of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). He was a U.S. delegate at the annual ICCAT meetings in Morocco, Croatia, and virtually due to COVID-19. Before being appointed to the New England Council in 2021, he served on the Council's Recreational Advisory Panel. He presently is a managing partner at Lightship Engineering and has over 35 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. Mike 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.  
1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/24





# 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.

1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/25





## New England Fishery Management Council

**Peter Aarrestad** 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. Peter 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 he also currently serves on the Farmington River Coordinating Committee and the Connecticut Institute of Water Resources Advisory Board.

CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection  
79 Elm Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127







## New England Fishery Management Council

**Mark Alexander** retired from the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) in 2018. He began his career in 1982 in the Marine Fisheries Program of the Fisheries Division and became assistant division director in early 2017, overseeing that program. During his time at DEEP, Mark was instrumental in many initiatives that became the foundation for the agency's recreational and commercial fisheries statistics and assessment monitoring program. He designed the database that houses DEEP's commercial fisheries effort and landings data. He also played a critical role in the development of the Standard Atlantic Fisheries Information System (SAFIS) and in the implementation of the Electronic Dealer Reporting module. Furthermore, he worked on the redesign and implementation of Connecticut's online licensing system to accommodate marine waters and commercial fishing licenses. For part of his time at DEEP, he also served as Connecticut's administrative commissioner on the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Mark served as Connecticut's designee to the New England Council from late 2008 to early 2018 and played an especially key role as the Council's designee to the Northeast Ocean Plan's Regional Planning Body. In 2022, he was appointed to the American Fisheries Advisory Committee, which provides recommendations to NOAA for Saltonstall-Kennedy grant program priorities and grant award funding. Mark received his B.S. in marine biology from Nicholls State University and his M.S. in marine environmental science from the Marine Sciences Research Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook.

1<sup>st</sup> Term expires 8/10/24





# 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, assisting with 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 has been the principal investigator of the state's coastal trawl survey since 2006. Scott 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.

RI Division of Marine Fisheries  
3 Fort Wetherill Rd.  
Jamestown, RI 02835

