



RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

235 Promenade Street, Room 425
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

To all interested parties,

Four at-large seats on the New England Fishery Management Council will become vacant on August 10, 2023. Two seats are currently held by the state of Massachusetts, Elizabeth Etrie is completing her third and final term and John Pappalardo is completing his second term. The other two seats are held by Alan Tracy of Maine who is completing his first term and Daniel Salerno from New Hampshire who is also completing his first term. At-large seats are regional in nature and not obligated to any particular state, however, Rhode Island has long held one at-large seat on the Council.

The appointments to the Council are made by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, based on recommendations from each state's Governor. On behalf of Governor McKee, RIDEM Director Terrance Gray will coordinate the application process for nominees from Rhode Island and submit the application packages to the Governor for review. RIDEM is hereby soliciting candidates from Rhode Island for one or more of the four Council seats.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act) requires the Secretary, to the extent practicable, ensure a fair and balanced apportionment among the commercial and recreational fishery participants or individuals from the "other" sector who have knowledge of, and experience in, biological, economic, or social sciences; environmental or ecological matters; consumer affairs; and associated fields on each regional fishery management council (Council).

NOAA Fisheries has advised the Governors from the New England states that, for this year, they should nominate individuals from any of the three sectors including the private recreational sector in order to maintain balance on the New England Council. Additionally, Governors are encouraged to consider nominees whose backgrounds, perspectives, and skills would contribute to achieving greater diversity in Council membership and best represent the diverse fishing communities the Councils serve. This includes considering qualified women, minorities, and individuals' representative of historically underserved communities, who are currently under-represented on the Councils.

Timing is critical, as the Governor must submit a nomination letter and the completed applications to the Secretary by March 15, 2022. Accordingly, anyone who wishes to be considered as a candidate should notify Scott Olszewski, Deputy Chief, Division of Marine Fisheries of their intent, by Friday, February 17, 2023, and submit a letter of interest, along with a completed Nomination Application Kit, and any letters of recommendation, by Friday, February 24, 2023. Please connect with Mr. Olszewski via email at scott.olszewski@dem.ri.gov

All information submitted by applicants will be forwarded to Director Gray, who will then coordinate with the Governor's Office. The Nomination Application Kit is available at:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/partners/council-nomination-process-guidance>