



**RHODE ISLAND**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR**

235 Promenade Street, Room 425  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

To all interested parties,

One at-large seat and one obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council will become vacant on August 10, 2024. The at-large seat is currently held by the state of Maine and the obligatory seat is held by the state of Rhode Island.

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 these Council seats.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act) requires the Secretary, to the extent practicable, to ensure a fair and balanced apportionment among the commercial and recreational fishery participants or individuals from other sectors 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 all three sectors including the for-hire 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, 2024. Accordingly, anyone who wishes to be considered as a candidate should notify Scott Olszewski, Deputy Chief, Division of Marine Fisheries of their intent, by Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and submit a letter of interest, along with a completed Nomination Application Kit, and any letters of recommendation, by **Friday, February 16, 2024**. Please connect with Mr. Olszewski via email at [scott.olszewski@dem.ri.gov](mailto: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/s3/2024-01/Regional-Fishery-Management-Councils-Nominations-App-Kit-Revised.pdf>