



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Marine Fisheries
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Director

January 8, 2026
Marine Fisheries Advisory

Applicants Sought for New England Fishery Management Council

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is seeking qualified individuals for nomination to the New England Fishery Management Council (Council). Candidates must be knowledgeable of and experienced in the fishery resources of New England, either through commercial fishing, the seafood industry, recreational fishing, or other sectors who possess knowledge of and relevant experience in fisheries-related biology, economics, social sciences, environmental or ecological matters, consumer affairs, or related fields.

Four Council seats are open for nomination of Massachusetts candidates. Those seats are currently held by:

- Mr. John Pappalardo of Massachusetts; At-large seat (ineligible for renomination)
- Ms. Jackie Odell of Massachusetts; At-large seat (eligible for renomination)
- Mr. Daniel Salerno of New Hampshire; At-large seat (eligible for renomination)
- Mr. Terry Alexander of Maine; At-large seat (eligible for renomination)

The New England Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional councils that manage most of our nation's marine fisheries seaward of state territorial waters. Candidates for nomination must recognize the important role of Council members as trustees and stewards of our Nation's marine fisheries resources. Responsibilities include the development of fishery management plans that are submitted to NOAA Fisheries and the Secretary of Commerce for approval and implementation. A Council appointment is for a **three-year term** during which members are expected to engage in approximately five (5) Council meeting weeks, as well as serve on several fishery management plan-specific committees that meet throughout the year. Nominees must be willing and able, barring unforeseen circumstances, to fully commit to participating in Council business and related activities for the duration of the term.

Qualified individuals interested in being considered for nomination to the Council by the Governor should contact Kelly Whitmore (Kelly.Whitmore@mass.gov) of the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). Council nomination application kits will be made available upon request. Application kits are due to DMF by the end of the day on **Friday, January 30, 2026**. A review panel will evaluate each applicant's relevant fisheries expertise. Commonwealth nominees are then considered for appointment by the Secretary of Commerce. For further information on the New England Fishery Management Council and the Council process, please visit www.nefmc.org.