



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Marine Fisheries

251 Causeway Street, Suite 400, Boston, MA 02114

p: (617) 626-1520 | f: (617) 626-1509

www.mass.gov/marinefisheries



CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lt. Governor

KATHLEEN A. THEOHARIDES
Secretary

RONALD S. AMIDON
Commissioner

DANIEL J. MCKIERNAN
Director

October 21, 2020

Marine Fisheries Advisory

Division of Marine Fisheries Welcomes Two New Members to the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission

Governor Charlie Baker has appointed two new members to the state's Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission: Dr. Shelley Edmundson of Tisbury and William Amaru of Orleans. Dr. Edmundson and Mr. Amaru are filling vacancies of two former members: Andrew Walsh and Charles Quinn.

Dr. Edmundson is the Executive Director of the Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust. She holds a Ph.D in Zoology/Marine Biology from the University of New Hampshire and her doctoral studies focused on the biology and ecology of channeled whelks. With the goal of helping protect the species and sustainably manage the local fishery, Dr. Edmundson collaborated with many local fishermen throughout her research.

Mr. Amaru is a longtime commercial fisherman with decades of experience in commercial fishing and fisheries management, including serving as former member of the New England Fishery Management Council and past Chair of the Stellwagen Bank Advisory Council. Throughout his career, Mr. Amaru has engaged with numerous academic and government researchers conducting cooperative research on commercial fishing gears.

"I look forward to Shelley's contributions to the Commission and her island perspective. The island fisherman and seafood industry will have a voice on the Commission for the first time in over four decades," said Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission Chairman Ray Kane. "Bill's experience as a lifelong commercial fisherman, especially operating an inshore dragger, brings that valuable expertise to the Commission, while his conservation ethic and creative problem solving is renowned from his work on his various federal fisheries advisory panels."

The Commission was established by the Massachusetts Legislature in 1961 to advise DMF on matters pertaining to marine fisheries. It is a nine-member board, representing conservation, recreational and commercial fishing interests (including seafood dealers) from various parts of Massachusetts. Commissioners are appointed by the Governor to three-year terms and attend monthly business meetings as well as periodic public hearings. Certain regulatory actions taken by the DMF to manage marine fish—including gear restrictions, size limits, open seasons and

hours, quotas, trip limits, and closed seasons—must be approved by the Commission before they can be implemented. “Fish” includes all animal life inhabiting the ocean or its connecting waters including any crustacean, fish, shellfish, or sea worm.

Other current members of the Commission include Raymond Kane of Chatham; Michael Pierdinock, Bill Doyle, and Tim Brady of Plymouth; Kalil Boghdan of Hamilton; Louis Williams of Salem; and Arthur Sawyer of Gloucester.