



NEWS: Secretary of Commerce Appoints Four New Committee Members to NOAA's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee

(November 12, 2015) Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker has announced the appointment of four new advisors to NOAA's Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, bringing the group's membership to the full complement of 21. The Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee, or MAFAC, advises the Secretary of Commerce on all living marine resource matters that are the responsibility of the Department of Commerce.

MAFAC members draw on their expertise to evaluate and recommend priorities and needed changes in national programs and policies, including the periodic reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act. The members represent a wide spectrum of fishing, aquaculture, protected resources, environmental, academic, tribal, state, consumer, and other related national interests from across the U.S., and ensure the nation's living marine resource policies and programs meet the needs of these stakeholders.

NOAA Fisheries greatly appreciates the contributions of Anthony (Tony) Chatwin, Paul Clampitt, Ken Franke, and Keith Rizzardi who were active participants and leaders on MAFAC for six years. Their terms ended in October 2015.

The four new members are:

Erika Feller, Washington, District of Columbia: Ms. Feller serves as the Program Director for North American Fisheries for The Nature Conservancy. She has 20 years of experience working directly with fishermen, harbor masters and government officials on innovative projects to promote sustainable fishing to meet community needs while reducing bycatch risk and protecting important fish habitat. She previously held a seat on MAFAC (2009 – 2010) but stepped down while working at the Council on Environmental Quality as lead staff on habitat restoration. Prior to her role at The Nature Conservancy, Ms. Feller was a Senior Legislative Assistant to Representative Wayne Gilchrest, as well as a Sea Grant Fellow. Her educational background is in resource economics.

Peter Moore, Newark, Delaware: Mr. Moore is the Stakeholder Liaison for the Mid-Atlantic Regional Association Coastal Ocean Observing System. He is a trained fisheries scientist and former commercial fisherman and policy expert with experience in the production, delivery, and use of marine environmental information for management. Since 2003, he has served as Advisor to the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the NOAA-NMFS Shad / River Herring Technical Expert Working Group. Mr. Moore has been a Partner and Director of Governmental and Scientific Affairs for Northern Pelagic Group LLC, New Bedford, MA, as well as a consultant to the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corp, a leading Alaska CDQ corporation on seafood industry investments, domestic and international seafood product and market development.

James Parsons, Sumner, Washington: Mr. Parsons is a fish biologist and owner of Troutlodge, Inc. with over 30 years of experience in aquaculture. His background in aquaculture research dates back to 1978 in research genetics and research and development at numerous companies, including Weyerhaeuser, Clear Springs Foods, Pisces Investments, and Blue Lakes Trout Farms. He currently serves on the Board of the National Aquaculture Association (NAA) and chairs the NAA Marine Aquaculture Committee. Mr. Parsons also serves on several other boards, including USDA's National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education and Economics Board; Western Regional Aquaculture Center, and its Industry Advisory Committee; United States Trout Farmers Association; and USDA's Subcommittee on Aquatic Animal Health.

Harlon Pearce, New Orleans, Louisiana: As owner and operator of Harlon's LA Fish LLC, a seafood processing and distribution company, Mr. Pearce has more than 46 years of experience in the seafood industry. He has been an advocate for developing strong and viable seafood industries, a "go to" source for the media and seafood events, and a guest speaker and lecturer. He served as the Louisiana Representative on the Gulf Council for nine years, during which time he chaired the Data Collection Committee. Mr. Pearce served as the Chairman of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board for 11 years, through challenges such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and Ike and the BP oil spill. He also created The Gulf Seafood Institute which works to connect Gulf producers with consumers.

MAFAC, is the only federal advisory panel charged with making recommendations to NOAA and the Secretary of Commerce on the department's living marine resource responsibilities. In recent years, MAFAC has provided advice on the NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy, coordination of consultation processes under the Endangered Species Act, aquaculture policy and research, recreational fishing policies, Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization topics, sustainable seafood certification, ocean policy, and catch shares. Member terms are three years, and members may serve two consecutive terms.