



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

(October 20, 2014) 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, protected resources, environmental, academic, state, tribal, consumer, and other related national interests, and ensure the nation's living marine resource policies and programs meet the needs of these stakeholders.

The new members are:

Terri Lei Beideman, Forked River, New Jersey: Ms. Beideman is the Executive Director of the Blue Water Fishermen's Association and CEO of Vast Array Corporation. She has more than 30 years of experience in US and international fishery management issues, with a particular focus on highly migratory species. She co-owned the commercial fishing vessel the *Terri Lei* for over 12 years; and is a member of the U.S. ICCAT Advisory Committee, Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel, and the Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team. She was instrumental in research projects that showed the efficacy of circle style hooks which reduce harm to incidentally caught sea turtles.

Heather Brandon, Juneau, Alaska: Ms. Brandon is the Senior Program Officer with the World Wildlife Fund's Arctic Program. She has over 20 years of experience in both policy and marine resource management. She works on marine protected species and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing issues in the Bering, Chukchi, and Beaufort Seas, including with colleagues in Russia and Canada. Ms. Brandon was formerly a program officer for the Juneau Economic Development Council and a fishery management policy analyst with the Pacific Fishery Management Council.

Mike Okoniewski, Woodland, Washington: Mr. Okoniewski has been the General & Regional Manager for 20 years with Pacific Seafood, one of the largest seafood companies in North America with extensive holdings along the West Coast in the U.S. and Canada. He has 40 years of experience working in seafood processing and distribution and has extensive experience in fisheries science, management, and

the long term sustainability of fishery resources and healthy coastal communities. Mr. Okoniewski is active on numerous committees, advisory panels, and working groups for NMFS and both the Pacific and North Pacific Councils.

Peter Shelley, Marblehead, Massachusetts: Mr. Shelley is the Senior Council, Vice President and the lead voice on the regional and national fishery management work of the Conservation Law Foundation, where he has worked for over 30 years. He has actively worked directly with fishermen to build new community-based models for fisheries management. Mr. Shelley has been active with the New England Council since 1990, and is currently focused on climate change, its impacts on New England fish and fishing communities, and how management can be responsive and resilient to ecological challenges.

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. MAFAC members represent commercial and recreational fisheries interests, environmental organizations, academic institutions, tribes, and consumer groups from a balance of U.S. geographical regions.

In recent years, MAFAC has provided advice on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization topics, sustainable seafood certification, coordination of consultation processes under the Endangered Species Act, aquaculture policy and research, recreational fishing policies, ocean policy, and catch shares