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March 11, 2015

Eileen Sobeck
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
ATTN: Brian Fredieu

Dear Ms. Sobeck:

I am submitting three individuals as nominees for the Massachusetts obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council (Council) that will become vacant on August 10, 2015. Included are the completed application kits for the nominees. I am not submitting nominees for the vacant at-large seat on the Council because of insufficient interest by applicants in the seat.

My selections were made from a list of candidates who responded to the efforts of the Commonwealth's Division of Marine Fisheries (*Marine Fisheries*) to solicit interest in the Council positions. Those efforts included announcement over the Division's email listserv, posting on the *Marine Fisheries* website, and outreach by *Marine Fisheries* staff to potentially qualified candidates. Efforts were made to consider qualified women and minority candidates. Those whom I am nominating are eligible by reason of occupational or other experience, scientific expertise, or training, thereby making them knowledgeable and experienced in ways related to the fishery resources of New England.

For the Massachusetts obligatory seat currently occupied by John F. Quinn, I nominate in order of preference:

John F. Quinn. Over the past 27 years, Mr. Quinn has been involved in many aspects of the New England fishing industry, particularly

- Massachusetts and the port of New Bedford. As a former elected member of the Massachusetts legislature for 18 years and a practicing attorney representing various fishing interests, he worked with the complexities of the rules and regulations in the industry. He has been member to several fishery advisory boards, including the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institute's Advisory Council. He is also a scholar of public administration and policy, gaining skills during his doctoral studies, such as in conflict resolution, which assisted the Council in difficult deliberations during his first term. Mr. Quinn has quickly gained the respect of his fellow Council

members, as evidenced by his leadership role therein (elected vice-chairman). He directs the Public Interest Law Program at UMass Dartmouth's School of Law.

- **Catherine E. O'Keefe.** Ms. O'Keefe's education and career have been singularly focused on fisheries science, management, and policy. Her academic achievements include two advanced degrees in marine fisheries, with emphasis on the resources of New England. As part of her doctoral research at UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST), she co-developed the bycatch avoidance system that has been key to the successful management of the valuable scallop fishery. Ms. O'Keefe has been employed in fisheries research at SMAST for the past nine years, and is currently a Research Assistant Professor there. Her work is often conducted collaboratively with industry members, giving her first hand experience with commercial fisheries. She has been member to multiple Council plan development teams, among numerous other fisheries working groups.
- **Alicia M. Pradas-Monné.** Ms. Pradas-Monné is a senior advisor on policy matters including fisheries and environmental protection within the Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General. As the Office's liaison on all fishery related issues, she has developed knowledge of the pressing natural resource issues facing the Commonwealth's fishing industry and fishery managers. She has earned degrees in both law and biology, and it was an interest in marine fisheries statutes and regulations that led to her matriculation into law school and continued as a focus of her studies there. Prior to her legal training, Ms. Pradas-Monné held several positions in aquatic biology and research.

Through *Marine Fisheries*, I have consulted with the following representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the Commonwealth, including a former chair and the current chair of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission and two former members of the Council, regarding my nominees:

- Mark Amorello (commercial and recreational background)
- Frank Mirarchi (commercial background)
- Jackie Odell (commercial background)
- Angela Sanfilippo (commercial background)

Each of my nominees meets the requirements listed in Section 302(b)(2)(A) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. All have convinced me of their commitment to improving fisheries management in New England and to assist the Council in rebuilding, maintaining, and managing the marine resources so important to the economic vitality of the Massachusetts fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Baker



cc: Secretary Matthew Beaton, EEA
Commissioner George Peterson, DFG
Director Paul Diodati, DMF