



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

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

Dear Ms. Sobeck,

It is my pleasure to submit the following names for consideration for appointment to the at-large seat and the obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) for the State of Maine.

The Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has been in contact with a number of organizations and individuals across the coast with knowledge and interest in marine fisheries. These organizations include Associated Fisheries of Maine, the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association, the Penobscot East Resource Center, Maine Lobstermen's Association, Downeast Lobstermen's Association, Maine Seaweed Council, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Aquaculture Association, Maine Association of Charterboat Captains, and Maine Professional Guides Association.

The individuals listed below are qualified by residency and in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act.

It is worth noting that my nominations are prioritized in order based on my strong views of how best to represent Maine's interests on the Council, as well as the long-term stewardship of New England's fishery resources.

For the at-large seat currently held by Vincent M. Balzano:

1. Vincent M. Balzano
2. Raymond C. Swenton
3. Margaret J. Raymond

1. Vincent M. Balzano

Vincent Balzano is a third generation fisherman who has been involved in the fishing industry for over 25 years as a participant in a number of fisheries. Vincent is the owner/operator of a small groundfish trawl/seine vessel located in Portland and is a current NEFMC member.



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Vincent serves as the Chairman of the Whiting Committee, and is on the Groundfish, Habitat, Atlantic Herring, Monkfish and Research Steering Committees.

2. Raymond C. Swenton

Ray Swenton has worked in the seafood industry for over forty years. He has been actively engaged in seafood processing and is the founder and current Chairman of Bristol Seafood in Portland. Ray is committed to seafood sustainability and promotion, demonstrated by his role as chair of the Fisheries Improvement Plan work group for Jonah Crab, membership on the Department of Marine Resources Scallop Advisory Council, membership on the NOAA Fisheries Seafood Marketing Committee. Ray also serves as the current President of the Portland Fish Exchange Board of Directors.

3. Margaret J. Raymond

Maggie Raymond has been the Executive Director of Associated Fisheries of Maine for over twenty years, and has over twenty-five years of experience managing her family's groundfishing business. Maggie has initiated and participated in a number of fisheries research projects, serves on the Board of Directors for the Maine Fishermen's Forum, and represents the U.S. as a Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Knowledgeable about the midsize and large trawl vessel fisheries, Maggie has been an active participant and valuable contributor in the NEFMC process as well. Maggie currently serves on the Groundfish and Habitat Advisory Panels, and is a former chair of the Monkfish Advisory Panel.

For the obligatory seat held by Terry A. Alexander:

1. Terry A. Alexander
2. Margaret J. Raymond
3. Raymond C. Swenton

1. Terry A. Alexander

Terry Alexander is the owner of two groundfish vessels and is a current member of the NEFMC. Terry serves as the Chairman of the VMS/Enforcement Committee and is on the Ecosystem-Based Management, Groundfish, Habitat, Monkfish, Research Steering and Observer Policy Committees.

2. Margaret J. Raymond

Maggie Raymond has been the Executive Director of Associated Fisheries of Maine for over twenty years, and has over twenty-five years of experience managing her family's groundfishing business. Maggie has initiated and participated in a number of fisheries research projects, serves on the Board of Directors for the Maine Fishermen's Forum, and represents the U.S. as a Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization. Knowledgeable about the midsize and large trawl vessel fisheries, Maggie has been an active participant and valuable

contributor in the NEFMC process as well. Maggie currently serves on the Groundfish and Habitat Advisory Panels, and is a former chair of the Monkfish Advisory Panel.

3. Raymond C. Swenton

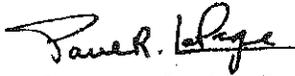
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I appreciate your consideration of these individuals for these critical appointments; I am confident of their experience and qualifications to represent our state on behalf of Maine's fisheries and coastal communities. I will follow up with you, as will my staff, to reiterate the importance of the priority order presented in this letter.

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Please contact Commissioner Patrick Keliher at the Department of Marine Resources to answer any questions or concerns that your agency may have.

Sincerely,



Governor Paul R. LePage

Cc: Patrick Keliher, Commissioner, Maine Department of Marine Resources