



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**KATHY HOCHUL**  
GOVERNOR

Emily Menashes  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
Via Email: [Council.Appointments@noaa.gov](mailto:Council.Appointments@noaa.gov)  
NOAA Fisheries Directorate  
1315 East-West Highway  
14th Floor  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Acting Assistant Administrator Menashes,

Thank you for your agency's letter of March 12, 2025, requesting that I nominate at least three qualified candidates for consideration by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for an out-of-cycle partial term At-Large Member appointment to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC). I am pleased to share with you the names of three highly qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to fill the vacant At Large seat on the MAFMC, which was previously held by Danny Farnham (NY) (commercial sector).

The state and region are best served by council members who are knowledgeable and experienced in marine fisheries conservation, fishing communities, commercial fisheries interests, and recreational fisheries interests. The process we used to encourage applications included discussions between the Department of Environmental Conservation's Director of the Division of Marine Resources with leaders of commercial, for hire and recreational fishing organizations in New York and with individuals who have attended and provided input at management meetings, including the New York Marine Resources Advisory Council and public meetings on individual Fishery Management Plans. Additional outreach occurred at the New York State Park's Fishing Advisory Board meeting as well as regional fishing shows. These efforts resulted in the consideration of several candidates, who by reason of their occupational or other experience, are knowledgeable regarding conservation and management, and the complexities of commercial or recreational fisheries sectors of the fishery resources of the Mid-Atlantic Region in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Act, Section 302(b)(2).

The following, in order of preference for the out-of-cycle "At-Large" seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, are New York State's 2025 nominees:

Laurie A. Nolan (Commercial)  
Brian T. Culhane (Other)  
Joseph Beneventine (Recreational)

The submission material for all nominated candidates is available in the NOAA Fisheries Regional Fishery Management Council Appointment System. Please find below a brief summary of the experience that qualifies each nominee to serve as a member of the MAFMC:

1. Laurie Nolan (**Commercial**) With more than forty-five years in the fishing industry, and prior experience as an MAFMC appointee (from 2011 – 2020), Laurie Nolan is imminently qualified to responsibly manage fisheries in Mid-Atlantic federal waters. As the onshore manager for F/V Sea Capture, Inc. she is intimately familiar with industry issues and the complexities of species management.
2. Brian Culhane (**Other**) Following a lengthy career in public service which included working as a New York State senator's legislative director for environmental issues (specializing in marine and environmental policies), and as the senator's proxy at marine fishery meetings, Brian Culhane has most recently served as an experienced field technician supporting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey efforts of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and he is also a recreational angler. He would bring a unique perspective to the council.
3. Joseph Beneventine (**Recreational**) Mr. Beneventine is an accomplished recreational angler with over 50 years of knowledge covering Long Island's marine fisheries. Joseph not only brings a lifetime of hands-on experience and a profound respect for marine ecosystems but also a strong commitment to advocating for sustainable practices among the recreational angling community in the Long Island Sound Region, ensuring the health and vitality of marine species for future generations.

I highly recommend Laurie Nolan and respectfully request your consideration of her appointment for the out-of-cycle partial term At Large seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Hochul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" and last name "Hochul" clearly distinguishable.

Kathy Hochul

Dated: May 12, 2025