



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Eugenio Piñeiro Soler
Assistant Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway, 14th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

June 17, 2025

Dear Administrator Piñeiro Soler,

It is my pleasure to submit the following names for consideration to the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) on behalf of the State of Maine. These nominations are for an at-large seat on the NEFMC which will be vacated by Alan Tracy on June 30, 2025.

Through its work, the Maine Department of Marine Resources (ME DMR) is in regular contact with numerous organizations and individuals across the coast with knowledge and interest in marine fisheries. In addition, ME DMR supports several industry-based advisory councils which provide input and recommendations to the Department on the management of marine species. Through these interactions, ME DMR has identified three candidates for this NEFMC seat.

The individuals listed below are qualified by residency and in accordance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Conservation and Management Act. We are not providing a rank order for the applicants.

For the at-large seat on the New England Fishery Management Council currently held by Alan Tracy, which will become vacant effective June 30, 2025:

- **Terry Alexander**
("Commercial")
- **Vincent Balzano**
("Commercial")
- **Dana Hammond**
("Commercial")

Terry Alexander

Terry Alexander is a commercial fisherman from Harpswell, Maine and is applying to serve on the NEFMC. Terry has 47 years of commercial fisheries experience and has fished for numerous species including groundfish, monkfish, whiting, and squid. In addition to his vast experience on the water, Terry has been actively engaged in the fishery management process. He has served on Advisory Panels as a part of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, was appointed to the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee in 2009, co-chaired the Fisheries Working group as a part of the Gulf of Maine offshore wind process, and is a current member of the Northeast Trawl Advisory Panel. His most relevant experience is serving nine years on the NEFMC from 2012 to 2021. During this time, Terry served on Groundfish, Monkfish, Whiting, and Habitat Committees, and was elected to the NEFMC's Executive Committee. As a Council member, Terry was known for his ability to find meaningful solutions to difficult problems, and his ability to understand various perspectives and seek compromise.



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Vincent Balzano:

Vincent Balzano is a third-generation commercial fisherman from Saco, Maine and is applying to serve on NEFMC. Vincent has a breadth of experience in commercial fishing, working from deckhand, to captain, and now boat owner of F/V Northern Lights. He primarily participates in the scallop, groundfish, and monkfish fisheries. He is an active member of the Maine Coast Community Sector for groundfish, is on the Board of Directors for the Responsible Offshore Science Alliance, and previously served on Maine DMR's Advisory Council which provides advice and consent on regulatory changes. Like Terry, Vincent served nine years on the Council from 2012-2021 and during this time Vincent illustrated his dedication to chairing the Scallop Committee. There were several management challenges facing the Scallop Committee, including development of the Northern Gulf of Maine scallop fishery, and Vincent's leadership lead to the completion of Amendment 21.

Dana Hammond

Dana Hammond has over three decades of experience as a commercial fisherman and is the owner/operator of the F/V Nichole Leigh. He participates in the scallop, whiting, and squid fisheries and is an active groundfisherman in the Sustainable Harvest Sector. Dana participates in electronic monitoring in the groundfish fishery, bringing unique experience to current conversations of the Council. Dana is also actively involved in supporting and contributing to fisheries science. Most notably, he served five seasons as a deckhand on the Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey, ensuring Dana has in-depth knowledge on how surveys are conducted in the Gulf of Maine. Dana has participated in the Marine Resource Education Program (MREP) and currently sits on ME DMR's Advisory Council, which provides routine advice to the Department and votes on regulatory changes.

I appreciate your consideration of these individuals for these critical appointments. I am confident in their experience and qualifications to represent our state on behalf of Maine's fisheries and coastal communities. In considering these nominees, Maine has continued to seek a variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and skills amongst our Council seats. We have particularly focused on commercial fishermen to fill the vacant seat given Maine has an active dealer, but no active harvester on the Council. As a result, any of the above nominees would expand the diversity of backgrounds representing Maine on the Council. The State of Maine is proud that its current membership on NEFMC is 50% female.

I have asked DMR Commissioner Carl Wilson to follow up with you to reiterate my priorities, but please feel free to contact him directly with any questions or concerns that your agency may have.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor of Maine

Cc: Carl Wilson, Commissioner, Maine Department of Marine Resources



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