



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 5, 2008

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978.465.0492

New England Fishery Council Elects 2008-2009 Officers

NEWBURYPORT, MA At its September meeting in Providence, RI this week the New England Fishery Management Council called for both its Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve in those positions through September 2009. By acclamation the Council named current Chairman John Pappalardo to that leadership position again and re-elected Rip Cunningham as its Vice Chairman. Both will steer the Council as it continues to address the serious issues associated with groundfish stock rebuilding, while also maintaining healthy scallop and herring fisheries and providing protection to sensitive marine habitats.

Mr. Pappalardo is a fisherman and policy analyst for the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association. He was appointed to the Council in 2002 and is currently serving a third three-year term on the Council. Vice Chairman Rip Cunningham is a former editor and publisher of *Saltwater Sportsman* magazine and a long-time freelance conservation writer. He has served as Groundfish Committee Chairman for the last three years and is an active sport fisherman. He was appointed to the Council in 2004.

Relative to their positions on the Council, both Mr. Pappalardo and Mr. Cunningham have been involved in the development of "sectors" in the groundfish fishery. An innovative management program, sectors fish under strict annual catch limits in exchange for greater flexibility with respect to other rules --- a system designed to promote greater economic efficiency for fishermen weathering a period of limited fishing activity.

The Council's 18 voting members also elected three Executive Committee members, in addition to the Chair and Vice Chair positions. The Executive Committee oversees the Council budget, appoints advisory panel members and addresses other administrative matters relating to Council operations.

Mr. David Preble, a Narragansett, RI commercial fisherman, charter boat captain and author who was appointed to the Council in 2006, was re-elected to the Executive Committee for a second year. Mr. Preble has served on the Council's Groundfish, Research Steering and Transboundary Management Guidance Committees and currently chairs its Habitat Committee.

Also reelected to the Executive Committee was former Council member Frank Blount who was reappointed to the Council in 2007 following nine years of service from 1997-2006. Mr. Blount also lives in Narragansett, RI and is the owner and president of the Frances Fleet, a RI-based deep-sea charter fishing and whale watching operation.

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The newest member of the Executive Committee is Mr. Terry Stockwell, a former commercial fisherman from Southport, ME, who has been employed by the state's Department of Marine Resources for the last 12 years. Mr. Stockwell has served on the Council for almost three years, voting as Maine's official designee while serving on the Groundfish, Scallop and Monkfish Committees.

The Providence meeting was the first in 2008 for newly appointed Council members. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez appointed Ms. Mary Beth Tooley of Camden, ME and Mr. James Fair of East Sandwich, MA to their first three-year terms on the Council. Ms. Tooley is a spokesperson for the Small Pelagic Group, an organization representing the region's Atlantic herring and mackerel vessels, while Mr. Fair served as Deputy Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries from 1979-2002. Council members may be appointed for a maximum of three terms. After nine years, they are required to take a year off before being considered again for service.

The New England Fishery Management Council, one of eight regional councils established by federal legislation in 1976, is charged with conserving and managing fishery resources from three to 200 miles off the coasts of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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