March 15, 2022

Paul Doremus
Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Room 14636
Silver Springs, MD 20910
ATTN: Kelly Denit

RE: Commonwealth of Massachusetts Nominations to the New England Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Doremus:

I am submitting four (4) individuals as nominees for the at-large seat currently held by Dr. Michael Sissenwine of Massachusetts and the at-large seat currently held by Mr. Rick Bellevance of Rhode Island on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC). These seats will become vacant in August, 2022. Included are the completed application kits for the nominees.

My selections were made from a list of candidates who responded to the efforts of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) to solicit interest in the NEFMC positions. Outreach included announcements over the Division’s email distribution service, posting on the DMF website, and direct contact with 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 at-large seat currently held by Dr. Michael Sissenwine of Massachusetts; I nominate:

- Eric Hansen (commercial sector)
- Jackie Odell (commercial sector)
- Peter Seminara (other sector)

Candidate descriptions are listed below:
Eric Hansen (commercial sector). Mr. Hansen has over 30 years of experience in the commercial scallop fishery. He has been the co-owner/owner of a scallop vessel and business operating out of New Bedford since 1988, serving as vessel captain until 2004. In 2019, Mr. Hansen expanded his business by purchasing an additional scalloping vessel. Mr. Hansen’s family has been involved in the harvesting of fish and scallops from New England waters for most of the last century, and he is committed to continuing this heritage. He is deeply rooted in many important fishery constituency groups, and has emerged as a leader in his home community. He is actively engaged in the Council management process as a member of the Council’s Scallop and Monkfish Advisory Panels. Mr. Hansen also serves on multiple other constituent panels, including the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Institutes’ Advisory Council, Sustaining Seafood Industry Advisory Panel, and the Commonwealth’s Fisheries Working Group on Offshore Renewable Energy. He is also president of the Fishery Survival Fund, which represents the majority of scallop permits on the east coast. Additionally, Mr. Hansen serves as a founding member of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. In the past, he has been a member of U.S. Representative Bill Keating’s Federal Fishing Advisory Board, and New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell’s Ocean and Fisheries Council. Mr. Hansen will bring an intimate and first hand understanding of the complex implications fishing regulations bring to the industry. He seeks to promote a rational policy for New England’s fisheries that balances the economic and cultural importance of fishing with preservation of the environment and our marine resources.

Jackie Odell (commercial sector). Ms. Odell is the Executive Director of the Northeast Seafood Coalition. She holds a Master’s degree in Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island, and a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and Environmental Studies from Providence College. Ms. Odell currently maintains several memberships including: Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund, Member of Board of Directors; Northeast Sector Service Network, Member of Board of Directors; Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership, Member of Board of Directors; New England Fishery Management Council, Vice Chair of the Groundfish Advisory Panel; NOAA Fisheries Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team, Industry Member; and the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance, Member. Ms. Odell’s support of the Council process established by the MSA is rooted in a belief that utilizing data, sound science and comprehensive analyses are essential to the management decision-making process. Encouraging advancements in the science and evolving scientific methodologies is vital to ensure successful management measures.

Peter Seminara (other sector). Mr. Seminara of Rockport, MA is the shellfish constable for the City of Gloucester where he manages the shellfish fishery. Peter holds a Bachelor’s degree in environmental studies from Eckerd College, and has been involved in local recreational and commercial fisheries since 1994. Overall, he has twenty-one years of experience in commercial fisheries and over 30 years of experience recreational and charter fisheries. He is a member of the Massachusetts Lobster Association and the Massachusetts Shellfish Officer’s Association. He also served on the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative Taskforce as a proxy for the Mayor of Gloucester. He seeks to
maintain sustainable fisheries to protect the marine ecosystem as well as continuing to provide employment for thousands of commercial and charter fishermen in New England through fisheries management, utilizing science, education, outreach, and experience.

For the at-large seat currently held by Mr. Rick Bellavance of Rhode Island; I nominate:

- **Jackie Odell (commercial sector)**
- **Eric Hansen (commercial sector)**
- **Paul Vincent Hagan (commercial)**

Candidate descriptions are listed below:

- **Jackie Odell (commercial sector).** See above.
- **Eric Hansen (commercial sector).** See above.

- **Paul Vincent Hagan (commercial).** Mr. Hagan of Duxbury, MA is the owner and founder of Denarius Trading Co. which was founded in 2021. His business model focuses on shellfish and other sustainable items. He works with a large network of over 40 independent fishermen and farmers from all over Massachusetts. Mr. Hagan began his career in 2003 as a farm hand in Duxbury, Massachusetts. He then progressed to work in a number of smaller retail fish markets along the south shore of Massachusetts. Mr. Hagan is a founding member of the Massachusetts Seafood Collaborative and attends various vibrio management meetings annually.

Through DMF, I have consulted with representatives of the commercial and recreational fishing interests of the Commonwealth regarding the nominees, including members of the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission—a nine-member citizen advisory board, representing recreational and commercial fishing interest (including seafood dealers). Additionally, many unsolicited letters of support for some of the candidates were received.

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,

[Signature]

Governor Charles D. Baker

cc: Secretary Kathleen A. Theoharides, EEA
    Commissioner Ronald S. Amidon, DFG
    Director Daniel J. McKiernan, DMF