



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 13, 2002

Patricia M. Fiorelli
978.465.0492

New England Fishery Council Elects 2002-2003 Officers

Newburyport, MA --- The New England Fishery Management Council, meeting in Providence, RI on September 10-12, elected veteran Council member and Gloucester, MA marine surveyor Tom Hill as Chairman for a fourth consecutive year. Mr. Hill has served on the Council for a period totaling nearly ten years and has held the position of Chairman since 1999. He was re-appointed to the Council for a second three-year term this August.

A lifelong resident of Gloucester, Chairman Hill got his start in fisheries in the charter boat industry. He was formerly President of the Interstate Passenger Boat Association and also served as Executive Director of the organization from 1988 through 1995. In the national arena, Mr. Hill has participated on a Federal Fisheries Investment Task Force convened by Congress, the National Academy of Sciences IFQ Advisory Panel and on the National Marine Fisheries Service's Billfish Advisory Panel.

The twenty-two member Council also elected Mr. Eric Smith of Connecticut Vice Chair. Mr. Smith has served in this position since 1993, and is Assistant Director of the Fisheries Division of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection.

The Council supported last year's slate of Executive Committee members, a group that, in concert with the Chair and Vice Chair, approves appointments to advisory panels and oversees budget management and other administrative matters. Elected were Ms. Barbara Stevenson, a fishing vessel owner and seller's representative at the Portland Maine Fish Exchange, Mr. Frank Blount, president of a Narragansett, RI, deep-sea fishing and whale-watch expedition business and Mr. Anthony Fernandes of Kittery, ME, a commercial fisherman.

The Providence meeting was the first for new Council member John W. Pappalardo of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association who was appointed by Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans in late June. In addition to Mr. Hill, two other members were sworn in for new three-year terms, Mr. Fernandes of Kittery and Mr. John C. Williamson of Kennebunk, ME, a former commercial fisherman and fisheries activist. This is the second term for Mr. Fernandes and the third term for Mr. Williamson.

Mr. Dana Rice of Birch Harbor, ME was named by the Secretary to serve out the remaining term of Council member and former Maine Department of Marine Resources Commissioner, William Brennan of Topsham, ME. Mr. Rice is a seafood dealer and has fished throughout the Gulf of Maine in a number of commercial fisheries. Mr. Brennan resigned from the Council several months ago after being named Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Affairs.

Twelve members of the Council are nominated by the governors of the five New England coastal states and are appointed because of their knowledge and experience regarding the conservation and management, or the commercial or recreational harvest of fishery resources in New England. Other members serve on behalf of their respective state or federal agencies.