



New England Fishery Management Council News Release

Newburyport, MA: 1/30/2013
For Immediate Release

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Tom Nies Named New England Fishery Management Council Executive Director

Mr. Thomas A. Nies, a highly regarded fishery analyst and chairman of a key group of fisheries experts that provides technical advice to managers about the groundfish fisheries in the Northeast, has been named Executive Director of the New England Fishery Management Council. He replaces Captain Paul J. Howard who is retiring on March 1 after 16 years in the position.

Mr. Nies was selected by the Council's 18 voting members on Monday. The New England Council develops rules for both large and small-scale commercial and recreational fisheries that operate between three and 200 miles off the coastlines of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

In announcing the news at the start of the public session of its Portsmouth, NH meeting yesterday, Council Chairman Rip Cunningham said, "I think the Council was lucky to have a strong slate of candidates for this position. We know that Tom will do a great job supporting the Council's work and bring ideas to help improve the process."

Mr. Nies was born in Highland, Indiana. He graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1976, with a BS in Mathematics and holds an MBA in Leadership from Franklin Pierce University. During his 21-year Coast Guard career he focused on at-sea law enforcement. Mr. Nies logged over ten years of at-sea duty, an accomplishment which culminated when he was appointed Commanding Officer of the *U.S.C.G.C. Spencer* based in Boston, MA.

Mr. Nies's land-based assignments with the Coast Guard included a stint at the fisheries law enforcement branch at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C. He later served as the Admiral's representative for the First District Law Enforcement Division at New England Council meetings.

He retired from the Coast Guard and joined the Council staff in 1997. He initially worked on the Herring Fishery Management Plan, made major contributions to the development of a standard bycatch methodology for Northeast fisheries, and since 2000 has worked on the Groundfish Fishery Management Plan.

Mr. Nies and his wife Denise live in Portsmouth, NH and are the parents of two grown daughters, Kate and Becky.

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