



New England Fishery Management Council

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 27, 2005

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New England Fishery Council Elects 2005-2006 Officers

Newburyport, MA The New England Fishery Management Council elected a slate of new officers at its most recent meeting held in Providence, RI on September 13-15. Once again, Frank Blount, owner and president of the Frances Fleet, a Narragansett, RI-based deep-sea charter fishing and whale watching operation, was chosen by acclamation to lead the Council through August '06.

In addition to serving as Chairman in 2004-2005, Mr. Blount provided leadership to the Council's Groundfish Committee from 2001-2004 --- a period when significant management measures were developed and implemented to protect and rebuild the region's valuable cod, haddock and flounder stocks. As Chairman, he will preside over the five regularly scheduled meetings of the Council and will lead its Executive Committee, a group that oversees the Council budget, appoints advisory panel members and addresses other administrative matters relating to Council operations.

Mr. Blount is a Rhode Island resident and has served on the Council for almost nine years. He holds a degree in Fisheries and Marine Technology from the University of Rhode Island and resides in South Kingstown with his wife, Christine, and their three sons.

The Council's eighteen voting members named by acclamation Vice Chairman Tom Hill of Gloucester, MA to again serve in that position. Mr. Hill is a marine surveyor. He has been a Council member for 11 years and previously served as Chairman for four years.

The Council elected three Executive Committee members, in addition to the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Veteran Council member John Nelson, Chief of the Marine Division of the NH Fish and Game Department was chosen, along with Mr. David Goethel, a Rye, NH fisherman. Mr. John Pappalardo, fishermen and policy analyst for Chatham, MA-based Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association also will serve on the Executive Committee.

The Providence meeting was the first in 2005 for newly appointed Council members. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez named New Hampshire fisherman Michael Leary of Hampton Falls to his first three-year term. Mr. James Salisbury of Portland, ME, a former manager of the Portland Fish Exchange served on the Council during the 1980's and was also appointed to a three-year term on the 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.

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