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New England Fishery Management Council

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John Pappalardo, *Chairman* | Paul J. Howard, *Executive Director*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 16, 2011
TO: Council Members
FROM: Paul J. Howard, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Election of Officers

At the first day of our September Council meeting (September 26), the Election of Officers will be held as well as the swearing in of our Council reappointments. To refresh your memories on how elections are conducted, I have attached a copy of our Election of Officers on how the election should be conducted.

Should you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

Election of Officers

Elections for Council officers are held at the first regularly scheduled Council meeting after new Council appointments become effective each year. The Council elects officers from among the voting members of the Council. Officers are elected for one year and may be reelected.

Executive Committee The five members of the Executive Committee will consist of: the Chairman, Vice Chairman, past Chairman (for 1 year after service as Chairman), and two or three at-large elected members (depending on whether a past chairman is on the committee).

Voting Procedures Voting will be conducted by secret ballot. Non-voting members will conduct the elections with assistance from other non-voting members. Specifically, they will distribute, collect and count ballots. Ballots will be retained by the staff for 30 days before destruction and will be available for examination by voting council members during that period. Nominations will not be closed until all who wish to nominate have done so. A nominee may decline a nomination. Write-in votes and absentee ballots are not permitted.

Chairman and Vice Chairman Offices will be filled in the order of Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, via separate elections and will be filled by a majority of votes for nominated candidates. Write-in votes and abstentions will not be counted in determining a majority.

If three candidates are nominated and none has a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes will be dropped from the ballot. If three candidates are nominated and the low two are tied, all three will be kept on the ballot. If four or more candidates are nominated and no one has a majority, the person receiving the fewest votes will be dropped; and if the low two are tied, both will be dropped from the ballot. If the low three are tied, all four will stay on the ballot.

Other Executive Committee Members The additional (two or three) Executive Committee members will be nominated as a single slate of candidates. In the case of only two or three nominees, individuals will serve by acclamation. If four or more candidates are nominated, (again for two or three seats) individuals receiving the largest number of votes (a simple majority) will serve on the Executive Committee. Ties for Executive Committee seats will be resolved by successive run-off elections if necessary, each determined by a simple majority vote.

If there are two positions open for Executive Committee membership, each voting member will be allowed to cast two votes for those positions, but no more than one per candidate. If there are three positions open, three votes may be cast for three individuals but again, no more than one vote per candidate.

Past Chairman The past Chairman of the Council will serve as an “automatic” member of the Executive Committee for one year following his/her last term as Council Chairman. Thereafter, s/he may be nominated and elected, as are other members of the Committee.

Repeated Tie Vote In the event of a repeated tie vote between several candidates, motions from the floor will be accepted to resolve the issue.