



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
State House, Room 224
Providence, Rhode Island 02903
401-222-2080

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

March 13, 2012

Eric C. Schwaab
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Re: Nomination for New England Fishery Management Council

Dear Mr. Schwaab:

I write in response to your letter of January 6, 2012, seeking nominees for two New England Fishery Management Council seats, which will become vacant on August 10, 2012.

I am herewith forwarding for your consideration the nomination packages for five excellent candidates from Rhode Island: David Preble, Theodore Platz, Richard Bellavance, Richard Allen, and Jason Jarvis. I ask that these five candidates be considered for Rhode Island's obligatory seat, currently held by David Preble.

Having carefully considered the qualifications of each of the five candidates, I respectfully recommend the re-appointment of David Preble to Rhode Island's obligatory seat.

Mr. Preble was first appointed to the Council in 2006, and was re-appointed to a second term in 2009. Over the past five years, he has distinguished himself as a strong, active, and influential member of the Council. He has immersed himself in a range of issues, most notably the challenging but vital quest to shift from single-species management to ecosystem-based management. As Chair of the Council's Habitat Committee, Mr. Preble has been helping to build the foundation for this reform.

In addition to his leadership on habitat issues, Mr. Preble has served, and continues to serve, on several of the Council's most important committees, including the Executive Committee; Research Steering Committee (vice-chair); Groundfish Committee; Scallop Committee; Monkfish Committee; and Whiting Committee. He also continues to serve as the Council's advisor to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas; and as the U.S. Commissioner to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization.

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Mr. Preble has a strong conservation ethic, which he views, quite appropriately, as fundamental to the interests of the fishing industry. He has had a long and diverse career, including stints as a commercial fisherman and fisheries biologist, and 22 years as the owner and operator of a charter fishing boat. He served for seven years on the Rhode Island Marine Fisheries Council, and was recently appointed to the newly established Rhode Island Seafood Marketing Council. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in biology and environmental physiology from URI, and has authored several books and articles on saltwater fishing and marine fisheries.

Above and beyond his impressive resume, Dave is thoughtful, conscientious, and well respected. He has worked tirelessly to help steer New England's troubled and challenging fisheries into a new era of sustainability, and he has done so in a way that has garnered admiration and respect from his peers. I was struck by the range of interests who wrote glowing letters of support for Dave's candidacy. They include the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island; the RI Saltwater Angler's Association; the RI Commercial Fishermen's Association; the RI Party and Charter Boat Association; the Eastern New England Scallop Association; and Oceana.

The other four nominees are also strong candidates, and I fully expect each of them to continue to engage in fisheries management and with the Council, and to emerge as future leaders.

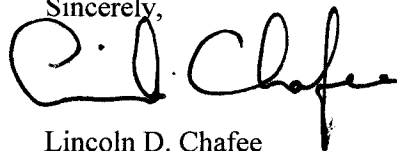
In considering the candidacies of Mr. Preble and the other nominees, I, through the RI Department of Environmental Management, consulted with a range of individuals from Rhode Island's marine fishing community, including: Theodore Platz, President, Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island; Stephen Medeiros, President, Rhode Island Saltwater Angler's Association; Christopher Brown, President, Rhode Island Commercial Fishermen's Association; Rick Bellavance, President, Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association; Michael Marchetti, President, Eastern New England Scallop Association; Gregory Mataronas, President, Sakonnet Point Fishermen's Association; and Fred Mattera, President, North East Safety Training Co.

Although the RI Department of Environmental Management reached out to Rhode Island's entire marine fisheries community, broadly soliciting candidates for the two vacancies, we received no requests for consideration by any women. The Council application forms provide no opportunity for applicants to identify themselves with regard to their minority status; however, during a prior interview with Department staff, one of the five current nominees characterized himself as being of mixed race. All of the candidates for the current vacancy, including that individual, were given full and equal consideration.

Finally, I am not submitting nominees for the one at-large vacancy on the New England Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. D. Chafee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor