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**COMMERCE SECRETARY EVANS ANNOUNCES 2003
OCEAN FISHERY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS**

Secretary of Commerce Don Evans today announced the appointment of 31 members to the eight regional fishery management councils.

The appointments include one seat on the Pacific Council held exclusively by a representative of an Indian Tribe with federally recognized fishing rights from the states of California, Oregon, Washington or Idaho, and out-of-cycle appointment of a member to Pennsylvania's obligatory seat on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) for a member that resigned in mid-term. The appointment of a member to an at-large seat on the Caribbean Council currently is pending.

The councils, established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Act), prepare fishery management plans for marine fish stocks in their respective geographical areas of responsibility. The management plans are submitted for review by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and approved by the secretary.

"I look forward to working with the members of the Fishery Management Councils to meet the many challenges involved in fisheries management, and to achieve the opportunities offered by the vast living marine resources around the nation," said Bill Hogarth, Director of NOAA Fisheries.

"I also want to congratulate the members whose terms are expiring," Hogarth added. "We have made great progress over the past several years and those gains are in no small part due to the dedication and hard work of the council members acting as stewards of those resources."

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The council members represent diverse interests including commercial and recreational fisheries as well as environmental, academic or other interests from each geographic area. Terms of the council members expire annually on Aug. 10 for approximately one-third of the 72 obligatory and at-large members appointed to the eight regional councils. On behalf of the secretary, the assistant administrator for fisheries solicits nominations from the governors of fishing states and oversees the annual appointments process. Governors must submit completed gubernatorial nominations by March 15, and the Secretary of Commerce announces the selections by approximately June 27. New members take their seats on Aug. 11.

Under the Act, the secretary selects from the list of gubernatorial nominees a council member for each appointed obligatory and at-large seat that has become open due to an expiring term, a resignation or other reason. Obligatory seats are state-specific, while at-large seats are regional in scope.

Last year's agency report on council membership is available on the Internet at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/reg_svcs/councils.htm.

The Council members identified in the attachment will begin service on Aug. 11, 2003; their terms will expire on Aug. 10, 2006, except for the appointment to Pennsylvania's obligatory seat to the MAFMC, which will expire on Aug. 10, 2005. The at-large seat on the Caribbean Council will remain vacant until a slate of gubernatorial nominations have been submitted by the Governors.

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) is dedicated to protecting and preserving our nation's living marine resources, and the habitat on which they depend, through scientific research, management and enforcement. NOAA Fisheries provides effective stewardship of these resources for the benefit of the nation, supporting coastal communities that depend upon them, while helping to provide safe and healthy seafood to consumers and recreational opportunities for the American public. To learn more about NOAA Fisheries, please visit: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

The Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. To learn more about NOAA, please visit: <http://www.noaa.gov>.

2003 OCEAN FISHERY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

*Note indicates the individual is being reappointed.

New England Council - The New England Council includes members from the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. The appointees for 2003 are for the Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island obligatory seats, and one at-large seat:

Obligatory seats

- *Francis W. Blount, Jr. - Gail Frances, Inc. (also known as the Francis Fleet) - South Kingstown, R.I.
- Sally E. McGee - Environmental Marine Advocate - Environmental Defense -Stonington, Conn.
- Rodney M. Avila - Owner and President of Trident Fishing Corporation, New Bedford, Mass.
- James A. Odlin - Atlantic Trawlers Fishing, Inc. - Newry, Maine

At-large seat

- *Dana B. Rice, Sr . - commercial fisherman and seafood dealer - Birch Harbor, Maine

Mid-Atlantic Council - The Mid-Atlantic Council includes members from the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The appointee for the 2005 expiring Pennsylvania obligatory seat and the appointees for 2003 are for the New Jersey and Virginia obligatory seats, and two at-large seats:

Obligatory seats

- Anthony P. Bogan - Captain, Bogan's Boat Basin - Brick, N.J.
- *Robert H. Pride, III - recreational fisherman - Newport News, Va.
- Eugene J. Kray - recreational fisherman - West Chester, Pa.

At-large seats

- *Laurie A. Nolan - organizer and manager of commercial tilefish vessels - Montauk, N.Y.
- *Dennis L. Spitsbergen - former Executive Assistant for Councils, Morehead City, N.C.

South Atlantic Council - The South Atlantic Council includes members from the states of Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina. The appointees for 2003 are for the Florida and Georgia obligatory seats and two at-large seats:

Obligatory seats

- Charles D. Harris - nature guide and consultant - St. Simons Island, Ga.
- *Anthony L. Iarocci - commercial fisherman - Marathon, Fla.

At-large seats

- Benjamin M. Currin - Proprietor, Sport Fishing Adventures - Raleigh, N.C.
- John A. Wallace - commercial fisherman - Meridian, Ga.

Caribbean Council - The Caribbean Council includes members from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The appointee for 2003 is for the U.S. Virgin Islands obligatory seat.

Obligatory seat

- *Viridin C. Brown - former Commissioner, U.S.V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources - St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

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Gulf Council - The Gulf Council includes members from the states of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The appointees for 2003 are for the Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana obligatory seats, and for two at-large seats:

Obligatory seats

- *Karen L.J. Bell - seafood restaurateur, Cortez, Fla.
- *Bobbi Walker - charter boat owner - Orange Beach, Ala.
- *Myron J. Fischer - recreational fisherman - Cut Off, La.

At-large seats

- Walter J. Thomassie - commercial fisherman - Houma, La.
- *Harolyn Kay Williams - fishery manager - Vancleave, Miss.

Pacific Council - The Pacific Council includes members from the states of California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The appointees for 2003 are for the California and Oregon obligatory seats, the Tribal seat and two at-large seats:

Obligatory seats

- Darrell J. Ticehurst - recreational fisherman - Hillsborough, Calif.
- Frank R. Warrens - recreational fisherman - Portland, Ore.
- *James E. Harp - Tribal Representative, Quinault Indian Nation, Amanda Park, Wash.

At-large seats

- *Robert D. Alverson - Manager and Exec. Secretary, Fishing Vessel Owners' Assoc. - Bothell, Wash.
- *Donald K. Hansen - recreational fisherman - San Clemente, Calif.

North Pacific Council - The North Pacific Council includes members from the states of Alaska and Washington. The appointees for 2003 are for the Alaska and Washington obligatory seats:

Obligatory seats

- Arne J. Fuglvog - commercial fisherman - Petersburg, Alaska
- Edward B. Rasmuson - recreational fisherman - Anchorage, Alaska
- David Benson - commercial fisherman - Kingston, Wash.

Western Pacific Council - The Western Pacific Council includes members from the American-flagged Pacific Islands of the American Samoa and Guam, the state of Hawaii, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marina Islands (CNMI). The appointees for 2003 are for the American Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii's obligatory seats:

Obligatory seats

- Manuel P. Duenas, II - commercial fisherman - Sinajana, Guam
- Sean C. Martin - commercial fisherman and manager, Kailua, Hawaii
- Stephen Haleck - recreational fisherman - Pago Pago, American Samoa

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