

March 12, 2012

Assistant Administrator for Fisheries  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1315 East-West Highway Room 14636  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Attention: William Chappell

Subject: New England Fishery Management Council Nominations

Dear Mr. Chappell:

I am pleased to forward the names of three highly qualified individuals as nominees for Connecticut's obligatory seat on the New England Fishery Management Council. Connecticut's seat is currently held by Sally McGee, and will become vacant on August 10, 2012. Because Ms. McGee is completing her third term, she is no longer eligible to serve on the council. Enclosed you will find a complete nomination package for each candidate. There is also a vacancy for one at-large seat for which I decline to submit nominations at this time.

The following nominees for Connecticut's obligatory seat meet the pressing needs of Connecticut's and the region's fisheries. The state is best served by members who are knowledgeable and experienced in marine fisheries conservation, fishing communities, and commercial and recreational fishery interests. I ask that you give your fullest consideration to Connecticut's nominees in the priority order presented below:

Mr. Joseph J. Gilbert  
Dr. Matthew G. McKenzie  
Mr. Michael C. Plaia

Mr. Gilbert is a long-time commercial fisherman, with experience in a wide range of fisheries over his career. He currently manages four vessels in mariculture farming of approximately 3,000 acres in state waters. He also owns and operates two limited access Atlantic sea scallop vessels. As you know, the Atlantic sea scallop fishery is managed by the New England Fishery Management Council and is among the most valuable in the nation. Mr. Gilbert also engages in commercial rod and reel fishing. Mr. Gilbert is a member of the Fisheries Survival Fund, CT Maritime Coalition, CT Commercial Lobsterman's Association, SNE Fisherman and Lobsterman's Association, the New London County Farm Bureau and serves as on the CT Sea Grant Advisory Panel. In addition to commercial fishing, he is a long-time recreational fisherman. With Mr. Gilbert's long and diverse career in commercial fishing, his knowledge and experience more than qualify him under the Magnuson-Stevens Act guidelines §600.215(b).

Mr. William Chappell.

Page 2.

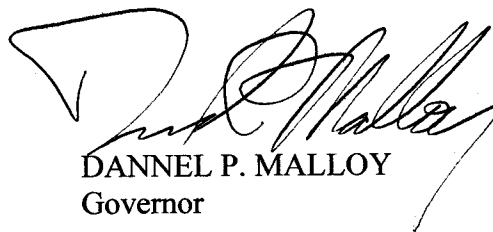
March 12, 2012

Dr. McKenzie is an Assistant Professor of History at the University of Connecticut, who teaches and has published on subjects of Historical Marine Ecology and Marine Environmental History, and has lectured on historical New England fisheries management issues. He has extensive experience in environmental and fisheries policy. As stated in his application, Dr. McKenzie's research focuses "the changing relationship between New England communities and regional marine ecosystems..." and includes "how changes in scientific understandings, commercial uses, fishing practices, cultural representations, coastal fishing and fishing community structures, and regulatory approaches affected marine ecosystem function and composition over time." As such Dr. McKenzie's knowledge and experience reflects especially valuable and rare connections between social/economic and science/ecosystem functions.

Mr. Plaia has been engaged in recreational, party/charter and commercial fishing most of his life in New York, Rhode Island and Connecticut. He currently operates a charter boat business in Connecticut. Mr. Plaia has served on advisory panels including with the New England Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He has also written articles for a number of saltwater sportfishing magazines. His knowledge and experience are most consistent with types (ii) and (vi) identified in §600.215 Council nomination and appointment procedures.

Thank you for considering my nominations.

Sincerely,



DANNEL P. MALLOY  
Governor

DPM/dgs

cc: Daniel Esty, Commissioner

Susan Frechette, Deputy Commissioner

William Hyatt, Natural Resources Bureau Chief

David Simpson, Marine Fisheries Division Director