



DOC/FHC Biographies

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Commercial Fisheries Design Oversight Committee

Fisheries Sector

Bonnie Brady (greenfluke@optonline.net)

Executive Director, Long Island Commercial Fishing Association

Ms. Brady has been the executive director of the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association in Montauk, New York for over 12 years. Prior to becoming the executive director, Ms. Brady was a journalist and worked in the Peace Corps. She became involved with fisheries management issues after attending a meeting with her husband, a fisherman, and seeing that the fishermen could organize and create a voice for the industry. Since becoming involved in fisheries management issues, Ms. Brady has been interviewed and quoted in several publications, including the New York Times, New York Post, USA Today, and The East Hampton Star. Ms. Brady was also a key organizer of several rallies in Washington D.C. to protest the treatment of the commercial fishermen.

Vince Balzano (vbaltano@maine.rr.com)

Vincent Balzano is a third-generation commercial fisherman and owner/operator of the F/V North Star and Northern Lights, working out of Portland, Maine, and Gloucester, Massachusetts. With nearly four decades of experience spanning the Scallop, Groundfish, Northern Shrimp, Whiting, Herring, Menhaden, and Lobster fisheries. Vincent served on the New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) from 2012 to 2021, including roles as Chair of the Scallop, Monkfish, and Whiting Committees. He also contributed over a decade of service as an advisor to NEFMC's Groundfish, Habitat, and Whiting Committees. In Maine, Vincent has long been an active advisor to the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), including as a member of the DMR Advisory Council and Groundfish Task Force. He also served as an advisor and AP Chair for the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Northern Shrimp Section.

An advocate for cooperative research, Vincent has collaborated on over two dozen applied research projects with institutions such as the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI), University of New Hampshire (UNH), University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (SMASST) and Maine DMR. These projects have advanced gear innovation, reduced bycatch, improved habitat conservation, and enhanced survey methodologies in the Gulf of Maine. He is co-author of multiple peer-reviewed publications focused on shrimp trawl selectivity and bycatch mitigation technologies.



Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Beth Casoni (beth.casoni@lobstermen.com)

Executive Director, Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association

Beth is a leader in many areas involving the commercial fishing industry, with her primary focus on the commercial lobster industry. As the Executive Director for the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association Beth is the boots on the ground representative for the commercial fishermen and will always give them the shore side support needed to ensure their continued success on the water. In addition to being the Executive Director for the Lobstermen's Association, Beth also serves on the Massachusetts Commercial Fisheries Commission and Ocean Advisory Commission. Beth is based in Massachusetts.

Roy Diehl (Crab554@aol.com)

Roy Diehl brings over four decades of experience as a commercial trawl fisherman. He is the former President and a current Board Member of the Belford Cooperative. Roy also serves as a fisheries advisor for New Jersey, specializing in species like summer flounder, black sea bass, blue crab, and conch. Roy is based in New Jersey.

Joe Gilbert (hiddenemp@aol.com)

Owner, Briarpatch Enterprises, Inc.

Joe Gilbert is a lifelong commercial fisherman and founder of the Empire Fisheries family of companies, a Stonington-based operation established in 1980. He currently manages a fleet of four vessels targeting scallops and other species along the East Coast and is a licensed seafood dealer. Over the years, he has owned and operated many vessels, with experience in both mobile and fixed-gear fisheries. He is the co-founder of Briarpatch Enterprises, a leader in the Connecticut mariculture industry, as well as the Seafood Export Group, which expanded international markets for underutilized species. He has also participated in international sustainable fisheries development and technology exchange initiatives. Joe has served on several boards and associations, including the Connecticut Commission on Environmental Standards and the Fisheries Survival Fund. He collaborates with research institutions such as the Coonamessett Farm Foundation and the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation. Joe attended the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resource Education Program and regularly hosts training and outreach efforts with youth programs and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.



Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Lane Johnston (lane@rodafisheries.org)

Acting Executive Director, RODA

Lane Johnston works to bridge the emerging offshore development sector with U.S. commercial fishing operations, in the context of scientific efforts and existing marine policy. She continues to work with fishing industry members to collect input to inform RODA's focal areas, help improve communication of the ongoing status of offshore development projects and develop solutions to priority issues identified by the U.S. commercial fishing sector. Lane graduated from the University of Delaware's School of Marine Science and Policy with a M.S. in Marine Biology. Originally from the West Coast, Lane received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Southern California. She is based in Washington, D.C.

Jeff Kaelin (jKaelin@lundsfish.com)

Director of Sustainability and Government Affairs, Lund's Fisheries

Jeff Kaelin is the Director of Sustainability and Government Relations at Lund's Fisheries, based in Cape May, New Jersey. Jeff started his career with the US Coast Guard, in 1968, and moved onto commercial fishing for northern shrimp, scallops, groundfish, lobster and swordfish. From 1981-1986 he worked as fisheries and veterans' affairs staff in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. Jeff later spent fourteen years as Executive Director of the Maine Sardine Council, and Maine State Representative from 2002-2006. He was a member of the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and MAFMC liaison to the New England Council during that time. In 2012, Jeff relocated to Cape May, NJ, to work full time for Lund's Fisheries where he has responsibilities in fisheries sustainability and government relations for the Cape May facility and the East Coast fisheries pursued by the family-owned company. Since 2023, he has served as the New Jersey Governor's appointee to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

Jerry Leeman (jerryleeman@fishermenstewardship.org)

Founder and CEO, NEFSA

Jerry Leeman is the Founder and CEO of the New England Fishermen's Stewardship Association. He brings 28 years of experience at sea, working in fixed gear lobster, mobile multispecies trawl, and urchin fisheries. He has served as Captain of the F/V *Teresa Marie IV* for the past 14 years. Jerry is based in Maine.

Sam Martin (smartin@atlanticcapes.com)

Chief Operating Officer, Atlantic Cape Fisheries, Inc.

Fourth generation fishermen. Currently, Chief Operating Officer for the vertically integrated Atlantic Cape Fisheries seafood company operating 25+ vessels, 4 shore-side locations and 3 processing facilities with over 400 employees. Sam is based in New Jersey.



Hank Soule (hank.soule@proton.me)

Manager

Hank Soule has worked in various aspects of New England's commercial fishing and seafood industries for many years. He is the manager of the Sustainable Harvest Sector, one of the regional groundfishing sectors operating in the federal multispecies fishery management plan and represents the Atlantic Offshore Lobstermen's Association. He serves on boards and advisory panels for the New England Fishery Management Council, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the Marine Resources Education Project, and the Maine Fishermen's Forum. Hank is based in Maine.



OSW Development Sector

Doug Copeland (doug.copeland@atlanticshoreswind.com)

Business Development and Strategic Partnerships Manager, Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind

Doug has worked in the renewable energy industry for over 18 years, leading development efforts in onshore wind, solar, energy storage, and offshore wind. He has been part of Atlantic Shores since the joint venture's creation, focused on the pre-financial decision phase. His current focus is on strategic partnerships and business development. He has previously managed land acquisition, interconnection strategy, fishing outreach, port strategy, external affairs, and government affairs. Prior to his career in the renewable energy industry, Doug ran a nationally recognized economic development program. He earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University and a master's degree from Boston College. Doug is based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Brian Krevor (Bkrevor@cleanpower.org)

Senior Director for Offshore Environmental and Permitting, American Clean Power

Brian Krevor, Senior Director for Offshore Environmental and Permitting at American Clean Power since May 2023, leads federal permitting and environmental compliance efforts for the offshore wind industry. Brian manages ACP's Offshore Permitting and Environmental Subcommittee to consolidate offshore wind company views on permitting and environmental issues into industry positions and then socializes those positions with regulatory agencies and Capitol Hill. He also manages ACP's Fisheries subcommittee where he works with member companies' fisheries liaisons and representatives to improve coordination on issues involving fisheries and offshore wind. He has over 18 years of experience, including 12 at BOEM as the NEPA Team Lead. He holds a degree in environmental policy and U.S. history from Tulane University. Brian is based in Washington, D.C.

Ross Pearsall (rospe@orsted.com)

Fisheries Relationship Manager

Ross is responsible for the management of all fisheries relations activities in North America including outreach, mitigation, and compensation for Orsted. Prior to his current job, Ross worked at Performance Research and Ocean State Fresh. Ross has a B.A. From Franklin and Marshall College, a J.D. from Widener University School of Law, and a Master of Marine Affairs from University of Rhode Island. Ross is based in Rhode Island.



Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Ruth Perry (ruth.perry@shell.com)

Head of Permitting and Development, Power Generation, Shell

Perry is an internationally recognized ocean scientist and policy advisor with over 20 years of experience managing energy capital project delivery. She has led permitting efforts for major \$1–8B capital projects, securing federal and state approvals in Louisiana, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Perry has strong relationships across key federal agencies and has shaped U.S. Ocean regulatory policy for oil, gas, and renewable energy. She has led research to inform regulations and represented industry at national forums, including the White House Summit on Ocean Technology. She holds a PhD in Oceanography. She is based in Houston, Texas.

Rick Robins (rick.robins@rwe.com)

Marine Affairs Manager for Community Offshore Wind, RWE

Rick serves as Marine Affairs Manager for Community Offshore Wind at RWE. Rick leads the company's engagement and communications with maritime stakeholders, including marine fisheries. Rick has decades of experience in commercial fisheries development, seafood processing, and fisheries management, previously serving as a member of Virginia Marine Resources Commission and chairing the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He holds a B.A. in economics and history from Washington and Lee University and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He received the Champion of Change award from the White House for his work in sustainable fisheries and ocean conservation. Rick is based in North Carolina.

Emily Rochon (erochon@vineyardwind.com)

Senior Manager, Strategic Implementation, Vineyard Offshore

Emily Rochon is the Senior Manager, Strategic Implementation. She supports Tribal Nation, fisheries, and community benefits engagement as well as permitting and program development across Vineyard Offshore's lease areas. She was instrumental in the development of Vineyard Wind 1's fisheries compensatory mitigation program. Emily is a lawyer with 15 years of renewable energy project development, energy policy advocacy, and environmental campaigning in the US and internationally. She has worked in the US offshore wind sector since 2017. Emily holds a Juris Doctorate from Northeastern University School of Law, a master's degree in environmental toxicology from Cornell University, and bachelor's degrees in biology and environmental studies from Rhode Island College and Providence College, respectively. She grew up in Rhode Island and currently splits her time between Belgium and the US.



State Government Sector

Joe Cimino (joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov)

Director, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Marine Resources Administration

Joe Cimino directs the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Marine Resources Administration, overseeing the bureaus of marine fisheries, marine habitat, and shellfisheries. He represents NJ DEP in regional fisheries councils and commissions and leads research to support sound management of marine and shellfish resources. With over two decades of experience, he previously held roles for the New York State DEC's Hudson River Fisheries Unit, North Carolina's Division of Marine Fisheries, and VA Marine Resources Commission, where he ultimately served as Deputy Chief of Fisheries. He holds degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology and Environmental Science from SUNY Cobleskill and Plattsburgh. Joe is based in New Jersey.

Carrie Kennedy (carrie.kennedy@maryland.gov)

Division Director for Monitoring and Assessment, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services

Carrie Kennedy works at the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Fishing and Boating Services as the Division Director for Monitoring and Assessment. Prior to this role, she led the Fisheries-Dependent Data and Quota Monitoring Program, where she played a key role in distributing CARES Act funds to commercial license holders. Her work included developing eligibility requirements and overseeing the application, review, and appeals process. Before that, she managed Maryland's Coastal Fisheries Program and administered permitted fisheries. She looks forward to using her experience and relationships with the Atlantic coastal fishermen to find a process that works best. Carrie is based in Maryland.



Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Todd Janeski (tvjaneski@vcu.edu)

Natural Resources Program Manager, Rice Rivers Center

Mr. Janeski brings nearly 30 years of experience to achieve science-based, practical and pragmatic policies to help inform marine fisheries management as Senior Program Director/Senior Marine Policy Analyst for the VCU Rice Rivers Center. He has served in an advisory role to the Governor of Virginia's Cabinet, Office of the Commissioner of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and the Virginia Coastal Zone Management as it relates to ocean fisheries and marine resources management. Mr. Janeski introduced and briefed the VA Gov Youngkin Administration on the presence, economic value and significance of the newly re-emergent surf clam industry, Atlantic sea scallop and pot fisheries. For the past 15 years, he has worked directly with the VA commercial seafood and for-hire industries to ensure they are fully aware, engaged and involved in addressing the changes in ocean use that will affect their historic and future activities. Much of his effort has been focused on the interaction between commercial fishing and the development of offshore renewable energy in the Atlantic from NC to ME and on those VA and out of state fisheries that land seafood to the benefit of the economy of Virginia. He has been an advocate for the inclusion of the VA commercial fishing industry in cooperative research to quantify changes in ocean use and most recently, assisted the VA spiny dog fishery in re-establishing a new buyer and shipper of VA landed dogfish ensuring no gap in fishing activity or landings.

Brad Schondelmeier (brad.schondelmeier@mass.gov)

Offshore Wind and Fishery Specialist, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Brad has over 20 years of experience collecting, analyzing and summarizing commercial fisheries data in support of research, management and policy initiatives. Since joining the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries in 2008, Brad has led at-sea and portside sampling programs, as well as bycatch reduction initiatives, with commercial fishing fleets targeting Atlantic herring, mackerel, whiting, longfin squid, cod, haddock and flounder. He has partnered with state and federal agencies, academic institutions and ENGOs to achieve monitoring and conservation goals, inform and implement new programs, and distribute mitigation funds. In early 2025, building on his experience working with fisheries data and marine stakeholders, he began serving MA DMF in the role of Offshore Wind and Fisheries Specialist, where he supports the responsible development of offshore renewable energies while helping to ensure resilient and sustainable fisheries. Brad is based in Gloucester, MA.

Julia Socrates (julia.socrates@dec.ny.gov)

Assistant Director, Division of Marine Resources at NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Fisheries Compensation Program for Atlantic Coast Offshore Wind

Erin Wilkinson (erin.wilkinson@maine.gov)

Policy Coordinator, Maine Department of Marine Resources

Erin Wilkinson is a Policy Coordinator for the Maine Department of Marine Resources. She has been with DMR since 2019 and currently serves in a policy leadership role focusing primarily on protected resources and offshore wind development and fisheries. Her work on offshore wind has focused primarily on siting and the impact this may have on Maine's fisheries, and on fisheries compensatory mitigation. She provides policy and technical support to the department's commissioner, and deputy commissioner on initiatives that intersect with the department's jurisdiction on these issues and on fisheries management generally. Prior to joining DMR, Erin worked at the National Marine Fisheries Service where her work focused on national fisheries policy, primarily relating to bycatch. Erin is based in Maine.



Federal Liaisons

Doug Christel (douglas.christel@noaa.gov)

Marine Resources Management Specialist, NOAA

Doug Christel has worked for the NOAA Fisheries Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office since 2002. He has managed many of the Atlantic fisheries, including the surfclam/ocean quahog, tilefish, groundfish, monkfish, and squid/mackerel/butterfish fisheries. Doug served as a U.S. delegate to the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization helping to manage international fisheries and reinstate U.S. fishing operations on the Grand Banks. Starting in 2016, Doug began to focus on evaluating impacts to fishery resources and fishing operations from offshore energy projects and providing data and analysis to inform area-based management decisions. Doug has a Bachelor of Science degree in marine science/biology from Southampton College and a Master of Science degree in marine policy from the University of Delaware. Doug is based in Massachusetts.

Brian Hooker (brian.hooker@boem.gov)

Marine Biologist, BOEM

Brian Hooker is a Marine Biologist with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), where he has worked since 2010 assessing environmental impacts of offshore renewable energy in the Atlantic. He previously spent seven years with NOAA's Marine Fisheries Service, in various fishery management capacities including coordinating fishery management plans for golden tilefish, surfclams and other ocean quahogs, horseshoe crabs, weakfish, Atlantic sturgeon and American eel. He has extensive experience with the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. He holds degrees in Environmental Sciences from Lynchburg College and Environmental Management from Duke University. Brian is based in Virginia.

Ursula Howson (ursula.howson@boem.gov)

Management and Program Analyst, BOEM

Ursula Howson is a fisheries scientist and policy analyst with BOEM's offshore renewable energy program's national policy office, with extensive experience in environmental impact analyses and regulatory policies of offshore wind. She is a member of multiple regional and national working groups and committees at the nexus of science and offshore wind energy. She has prior experience with National Marine Fisheries Service in both regulatory and research positions and has worked in academia conducting marine science and fisheries research. She holds a PhD in Marine Biosciences from University of Delaware. Ursula is based in New Jersey.



For-Hire Committee for For-Hire Recreational Fishing

For-Hire Sector

Rick Bellavance

President, Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association

Rick Bellavance has been the owner/operator of Priority Charters, based in Point Judith RI, since 1995. Rick also serves as the President of the Rhode Island Party and Charter Boat Association and has represented Rhode Island on the New England Fishery Management Council since 2016. A PADI-certified Dive Instructor and U.S.C.G. 100-ton master's license holder since 1994, he began fishing Narragansett Bay at age 10 and has built a strong reputation as a skilled skipper among Point Judith charter boats. Rick is a lifelong resident of Rhode Island.

Bob Rush (starfishboats@gmail.com)

VP United Boatmen of NJ

Bob Rush has been Owner/Operator of Starfish Fishing & Cruising LLC for over 35 years. Bob grew up in the for hire industry, starting as a kid on deck of party and charter boats. Bob has a Masters in Special Education and BSBA Specialization in Accounting. He has served on various fishery management boards and currently serves on the NJ Marine Fisheries Council since 2014 as councilman. He is a current board member of United Boatmen of NJ and former board member of NACO and Recreational Fishing Alliance. He also has worked as a Careers/Business teacher at a local public school in South Jersey for the past 20 years. His passion for the fishing industry is 2nd to none and enjoys working with people. Bob is based out of Sea Isle City, NJ.

Rom Whitaker

Captain

Rom is a lifelong fisherman who began fishing at age three with his family. Inspired by early experiences on Atlantic Beach piers and the Neuse River, he made his first trip to Hatteras in 1970 and later moved there in 1986 to fish professionally. With nearly three decades of charter fishing experience, Captain Rom is known for his passion, dedication, and loyal clientele from across the U.S. He lives in Hatteras with his wife Elaine and their two sons, Rom IV and Cameron. Rom is based in Kinston, North Carolina.

Mike Cerchio (mcerchio@comcast.net)

Mike Cerchio started working as a deckhand on head boats. He has worked as a charter and head boat captain for the last 45 years. Mike is a Member of the Delaware Governor's Advisory Council on Tidal Finfisheries, and currently owner/operator of a charter boat out of Lewes, Delaware.



OSW Development Sector

Brian Krevor (Bkrevor@cleanpower.org)

Senior Director for Offshore Environmental and Permitting, American Clean Power

Brian Krevor, Senior Director for Offshore Environmental and Permitting at American Clean Power since May 2023, leads federal permitting and environmental compliance efforts for the offshore wind industry. Brian manages ACP's Offshore Permitting and Environmental Subcommittee to consolidate offshore wind company views on permitting and environmental issues into industry positions and then socializes those positions with regulatory agencies and Capitol Hill. He also manages ACP's Fisheries subcommittee where he works with member companies' fisheries liaisons and representatives to improve coordination on issues involving fisheries and offshore wind. He has over 18 years of experience, including 12 at BOEM as the NEPA Team Lead. He holds a degree in environmental policy and U.S. history from Tulane University. Brian is based in Washington, D.C.

Ron Larsen

Managing Partner, SeaRisk Solutions

Ron joined the Sea Risk Solutions leadership team in June 2019. He started his career as a NOAA Fisheries Reporting Specialist in Point Judith, RI. As a Fisheries Observer, he covered over 150 days offshore on fishing boats from Maine to North Carolina. He rose quickly in that program to Chief of Operations, supervising area coordinators and up to 35 observers. A key part of that position was developing and maintaining relations with fishermen and industry leaders. More recently, Ron served a major global submarine cable supplier as Senior Project Manager and Cable Route Survey Engineer. He holds a B.Sc. degree in Marine Biology from the University of Rhode Island.



State Government Sector

Joe Cimino (joseph.cimino@dep.nj.gov)

Director, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Marine Resources Administration

Joe Cimino directs the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Marine Resources Administration, overseeing the bureaus of marine fisheries, marine habitat, and shellfisheries. He represents NJ DEP in regional fisheries councils and commissions and leads research to support sound management of marine and shellfish resources. With over two decades of experience, he previously held roles for the New York State DEC's Hudson River Fisheries Unit, North Carolina's Division of Marine Fisheries, and VA Marine Resources Commission, where he ultimately served as Deputy Chief of Fisheries. He holds degrees in Fisheries and Wildlife Technology and Environmental Science from SUNY Cobleskill and Plattsburgh. Joe is based in New Jersey.

Renee Zobel

Marine Program Supervisor at NH Fish and Game Department

Responsible for overseeing the Marine Fisheries Division programs including fisheries statistics, anadromous and recreational species, and lobster. Represents the Department and state of NH on fisheries management and technical bodies. Supervise most staff involved in marine fisheries projects. Renee resides in New Hampshire.