



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR

February 10, 2022

Governor Charles D. Baker  
Office of the Governor  
State House, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

I am writing in strong support of Eric Hansen's candidacy for appointment to the New England Fisheries Management Council (NEFMC).

Mr. Hansen has an extensive history as a leader in New Bedford's fishing community and has dedicated himself to the work of ensuring successful, sustainable fisheries. He remains active on industry-related boards and councils, including the NEFMC Scallop and Monkfish Advisory Panels, and the SMAST Fishing Industry Advisory Panel. He is also the current President of the Fisheries Survival Fund, America's leading association of the scallop industry.

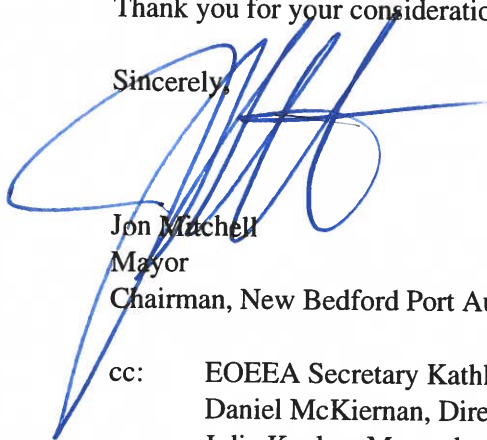
Mr. Hansen's work history and background in the industry captures only a part of the strength of his candidacy. A person of great character and integrity, he is a well-respected and hardworking individual who has contributed greatly to the fishing community here in New Bedford and beyond. I have known Mr. Hansen for many years and can say with great confidence that his deep knowledge of the industry will prove invaluable to the Council. Likewise, his policymaking will be guided by the best available research and science.

As important, right now there is no New Bedford representative on the NEFMC. The undisputed center of commercial fishing on the U.S. East Coast and by far the largest Massachusetts fishing port, the Port of New Bedford must have a strong voice on the Council. Following the departure of former Council Chairman John Quinn in 2021, no New Bedford candidate was advanced to replace him. In doing so, the Council lost the opportunity to draw on a board member with deep local knowledge and a direct appreciation for the singular role that New Bedford plays within the industry.

Mr. Hansen's appointment will redress this situation, as he is uniquely positioned to provide insight from the point of view of the Port of New Bedford's many stakeholders. I cannot think of a better candidate to provide leadership informed by the interests of the most important commercial fishing center in the nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jon Mitchell  
Mayor  
Chairman, New Bedford Port Authority

cc: EOOEA Secretary Kathleen Theoharides  
Daniel McKiernan, Director, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries  
Julia Kaplan, Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries