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## SENATE TASK FORCE ON FISHERIES

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### April 3, 2019 presenters:

#### **Meghan Lapp is the Fisheries Liaison for Seafreeze Ltd., North Kingstown, RI.**

Seafreeze Ltd. is based in North Kingstown and operates a sister facility, Seafreeze Shoreside, in Point Judith. Seafreeze is the largest commercial fishing producer and trader of sea frozen fish on the U.S. East Coast.

Ms. Lapp works with federal and state management of fisheries resources via federal Fishery Management Councils, state agencies, elected representatives and other federal agencies that oversee ocean activities that impact commercial fisheries, such as the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

Ms. Lapp works to ensure that commercial fishing interests are considered and properly accounted for in management and regulatory decisions.

She is a Board member of:

-Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA) and a R.I. representative on the NY Fisheries Technical Working Group. As such, Ms. Lapp works to protect commercial fishing needs in the face of offshore development.

She is a member of:

-New England Fishery Management Council's Herring Advisory Panel and Habitat Advisory Panel;

-Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Advisory Panel and Ecosystems and Ocean Planning Advisory Panel;

-Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Menhaden Advisory Panel.

Ms. Lapp is the Seafreeze representative on:

-Industry Advisory Board of the Science Center for Marine Fisheries, a partner organization with the National Science Foundation that conducts collaborative fisheries science for use in fisheries stock assessments and management decisions.

#### **Christopher Lee, Director, Sea Fresh USA, Inc., North Kingstown, RI.**

Sea Fresh USA, Inc., a Rhode Island based seafood processor, is a vertically-integrated processor and supplier of premium seafood throughout the United States and internationally.

Mr. Lee was introduced to the seafood industry in 1992 as a Peace Corps volunteer in Central America where he worked on small-scale aquaculture development projects farming tilapia.

## **Senate Task Force on Fisheries, April 3, 2019 presenters, continued:**

Chris has worked at Sea Fresh since 1994. He has traveled the globe selling Rhode Island seafood for Sea Fresh. He sells Rhode Island calamari to the restaurant across the street and to restaurants across the nation. Sea Fresh sells Rhode Island monkfish in Korea, Rhode Island tuna in Japan and Rhode Island skate in Europe. Over 100 year round employees work in their state-of-the-art food production facility.

### **Katie Almeida – Fishery Policy Analyst at The Town Dock, Point Judith, RI.**

**The Town Dock** is the largest supplier of calamari in the United States. They own seven otter trawl vessels that fish for longfin squid, illex squid, whiting, butterfish, fluke, scup, black sea bass, herring, and a mix of groundfish.

Ms. Almeida is responsible for following all state and federal regulations that pertain to the species on which the Town Dock relies.

She is a Board member of:

- Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA);
- New Bedford working group for Wind Industry Issues

She is a member of:

- Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Mackerel, Squid, Butterfish Advisory Panel;
- Fluke/Scup/Black Sea Bass Advisory Panel;
- River Herring/Shad Advisory Panel;
- Small Mesh Multispecies Advisory Panel;
- Rhode Island Industry Advisory Committee.

### **Richard Fuka, Commercial Fisherman, President of the Rhode Island Fisherman's Alliance.**

The Rhode Island Fisherman's Alliance is the state's largest non-profit commercial fishing advocacy group. Its members include fish houses, vessel owners and their captains and crew members as well as many other lateral businesses associated with the seafood industry.

The Alliance has organized seafood industry members and businesses to actively participate in industry associated issues, including: state and federal regulatory matters, enforcement issues and other issues that affect or may affect Rhode Island's seafood industry and the people employed in that industry, which includes the establishment of calamari as the official Rhode Island state appetizer in addition to the annual Rhode Island Calamari Festival.

The Rhode Island Fisherman's Alliance was instrumental in ensuring that fishermen, with their exclusive knowledge and experience, were included as stakeholders during the formation of Rhode Island's Ocean Special Area Management Plan (SAMP), which defined use zones for Rhode Island's ocean waters. The fishermen, through the Alliance, helped identify and locate the most productive fishing grounds relative to the Rhode Island commercial fishing industry.