

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPTEMBER**

**2010 Theme: *All in One Boat: the Cultural Mosaic of New England's Working Ports***

**New Bedford, MA, August 2, 2010**—Welcome aboard as New Bedford, America's largest commercial fishing port, hosts the 7<sup>th</sup> *Working Waterfront Festival*. The FREE event takes place September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> on the working piers and waterfront parks of the historic Port of New Bedford.

### **FESTIVAL OVERVIEW**

More than simply a celebration, the Working Waterfront Festival is a unique opportunity for the public to get a firsthand look at the culture of fishing and for the commercial fishing community to tell its own story. The event presents all that goes into bringing seafood from the ocean to the table in a way that is hands-on, educational and fun. Visitors are encouraged to listen and watch, but also to taste, touch and converse.

### **2010 THEME**

While continuing to focus on commercial fishing and other port industries, the 2010 *Working Waterfront Festival* will present an expanded look at the ethnic diversity of the region's working waterfront communities with a program entitled *All in One Boat: the Cultural Mosaic of New England's Working Ports*. Immigrants from around the globe have settled in New England's port cities and helped shape these working waterfront communities which today include a rich mosaic of cultures. Festival programming will include performances of traditional music, dance and storytelling and demonstrations of traditional crafts reflecting this varied ethnic heritage. Foodways programs will highlight family recipes and traditional approaches to preparing and preserving seafood. On the Festival's Narrative Stage, working waterfront community members from a multitude of ethnic backgrounds will share immigration stories and explore how ethnic identity has shaped religious and community celebrations and traditional beliefs and practices at sea and on shore. Author readings and documentary film screenings will further illuminate these topics. In addition to this focus on cultural diversity, the phrase *All in One Boat* also speaks to the common challenges facing fishing communities around the globe, especially in light of recent shifts in fisheries management.

## PERFORMERS

The Festival brings together a unique array of music, dance, poetry and theater presented on three stages. Performances include traditional sea chanteys, music and dance reflecting the industry's ethnic diversity and poetry and music about commercial fishing and the sea often performed by musicians who work in the industry. In keeping with this year's theme, many of the 2010 acts reflect the cultural mosaic of the commercial fishing industry. The **Black Brook Singers** open the festival with a Native American drum circle. **Michela Musolino** presents traditional Sicilian music; she will be accompanied by renowned guitarist **Marco Cappelli**. Returning to the 2010 Festival is **Joao Cerilo & Pilon Batuku** the high energy, Cape Verdean dance band. **Jim Payne & Fergus O'Byrne** two of Newfoundland's most respected performers combine their passion for traditional music and song, as well as their instrumental prowess and humorous repartee, to cover a broad spectrum of Newfoundland folk culture, including songs, stories and dance tunes. **SAMspill** a Boston-Based trio presents traditional Norwegian folk music. **Aleksander Hauge** of Karmoy, Norway chronicles the Norwegian emigrant experience in story, song and poetry. **GeraSons** present Azorean folk music on Saturday while local legend **Ana Vinagre** performs Portuguese fado with her ensemble on Sunday. **Cindy Kallet, Ellen Epstein and Michael Cicone** draw their material from contemporary and traditional music of the British Isles and North America, with a liberal sprinkling of sea music and occasional forays into other cultures as well. Folk singer and song collector **Jeff Warner** who plays concertina, banjo, guitar and several "pocket" instruments, including bones and spoons will share songs from the fishing villages of New England and the outer banks of North Carolina. Several performers who write from personal experience working in the industry are also on tap for the weekend including festival regular **Jon Campbell** who will lead **Something Fishy**, a song/poetry swap of material created and performed by fishermen. Also included in this group are fisherpoets **Dave Densmore** and **Moe Bowstern** who both fish out of Kodiak, Alaska. **Colin Williams, Charlotte Enoksen** and **Karen Spitfire** will also present original poetry about the industry. Actress **Sylvia Ann Soares** will present *By the Sweat of Our Brow*, a series of first person narratives created from oral histories of Cape Verdean longshoremen. Actors from the forthcoming feature length film **Whaling City** which is being shot in New Bedford will present a staged reading of several scenes and a "talk back" with the audience. Festival favorites, **Souls of the Sea**, a Gloucester-based folk-rock trio will perform on Saturday, **The Beans** and **The Rum Soaked Crooks** will regale audiences with a Chantey Sing Off and join **Candida Rose** and **Peter Arteaga** (traditional Cape Verdean music) for a workshop entitled *The Many Lives of Ernestina*. The **New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus** will close out the day on Sunday.

## **FOOD**

The **Oxford Creamery** will continue to serve up a full menu of the finest local seafood including fish and chips, fried scallops, lobster rolls, clam cakes, and quahog chowder. New this year, the **Atlantic Red Crab Co.** will offer a variety of crab items including crab rolls, crab soup and crab empanadas. **Fresca Grill** presents grilled tuna wraps, grilled swordfish kabobs and cacoila sandwiches. And the **Waterfront Grille** will offer several varieties of sushi. Other food vendors include: **Café Arpeggio** serving its own Home Made Ice Cream, **Celtic Coffee House** with coffee, tea, pastries, hotdogs and wraps; **The Veteran's Transition House** providing hotdogs and hamburgers; **Del's Lemonade** and **Ray's Kettle Corn**.

## **COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS**

**The Foodways Area** (Pier 3) features cooking demonstrations by galley cooks, ethnic cooks and celebrity chefs. Here visitors are invited to learn the basics of preparing fresh seafood at home as well as ethnic approaches to seafood cooking and galley fare. This year's demonstrations feature locally grown produce with several demonstrations on putting foods by. Recipe cards will be available and the raw ingredients for most recipes will be available for sale at the festival farmer's market. This year's Festival features a **Seafood Throwdown** in which two chefs compete to create a seafood dish using a surprise local seafood ingredient (not revealed to them until they arrive) and fresh, local produce. Chefs can bring three of their favorite ingredients and once they discover the secret seafood they will be using, they get \$25 and 15 minutes to shop the Festival Farmers' Market for ingredients. After their shopping spree, they have one hour to cook and present their entry for the judge's consideration. The contest will conclude with an opportunity for the audience to sample the dishes. The Seafood Throwdown is a collaboration between the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance and the Working Waterfront Festival.

## **FARMERS' MARKET**

With the resounding success of our 2009 farmers' market we continue the tradition in 2010. Located on State Pier and sponsored by **Edible Southshore**, the market features produce and specialty items from a number of local farms as well as informational booths. In addition, **Fleet Fisherman's Market** will be selling fresh, local fish, scallops and lobsters. **Lees' Market** in Westport has generously donated reusable cloth bags which will be given to the first 250 people who make a purchase at the farmer's market.

## FILMS

*The Dock-U-Mentary Film Area* (Pier 3) screens historic and contemporary footage taken at sea and on shore, chronicling the history and experiences of the working waterfront and the commercial fishing industry. Many presentations feature live narration by fishermen, filmmakers and others. Several short documentary films will also be shown including several programs on farming.

## PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Our **Narrative Stage** (Pier 3) brings the stories of the fishing industry to life with interactive panel discussions. Many of this year's topics reflect the festival theme including: *All in One Boat: the socio-economic impact of regulations on fishing communities; First Families; and Ethnic Festivals & Celebrations*. These discussions are recorded and archived as part of our ongoing **Working Waterfront Documentation Project**.

## AUTHORS

A number of well-known authors read from and sign their books on commercial fishing, the marine environment and seafood. Independent bookseller, Baker Books operates an on-site Festival Bookstore (located adjacent to the Narrative Stage on Pier 3) hosting author signings and selling titles of participating authors. This year's authors are **Theresa Maggio** (*Matanza: Love and Death in the Sea of Sicily*), **Tom Juravich** (*At the Altar of the Bottom Line*), **Astrid Tollefsen** (*Following the Waters: Voices from the Final Norwegian Emigration*) and **Kirsten Bendiksen, Laura Orleans and Mark Starr** (co-authors of *Voices from the Waterfront: Portrait of the New Bedford Fishing Industry*).

## ETHNIC ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS

A new feature at this year's festival is our Ethnic Arts Demonstration Area. In keeping with this year's theme, a number of traditional artists representing the ethnic mix of New England's working ports will demonstrate a variety of traditional arts. Among the participants is Eldrid Arntzen, who will be demonstrating the Norwegian art of rosemaling. In 2005 Eldrid was honored by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) with its National Heritage Fellowship Award. The Fellowship recognizes artists who work in folk and traditional art forms. NEA bestows this award to only twelve artists nationwide each year who are chosen for their artistic excellence, cultural authenticity, and contributions to their communities.

## **CONTESTS & DEMONSTRATIONS OF INDUSTRY SKILLS**

Contests offer a unique opportunity to watch those who work in the commercial fishing industry show off the skills of their trade. All contests will take place on the **Contest Stage** (located at Steamship Pier). This stage will also be the site for presentations featuring the latest in safety related gear and demonstrating the “tools of the trade” associated with various types of inshore fishing and both inshore and off-shore lobstering. This year’s contests include: **Scallop Shucking, Fish Filleting, Net Mending, Link Squeezing, Splicing and Survival Suit Races**. In addition, visitors can watch **whaleboat races** and a **tugboat muster** from the On Water Activities Viewing Area at the head of State Pier. Learn first hand about historic and contemporary skills of the industry by visiting the industry skills demonstration booths (Steamship Pier) including: net making, knot tying, rigging, scallop dredge making, inshore fishing and more.

## **TOURS**

### **Vessel Tours**

Don’t miss the opportunity to learn about the different types of fishing vessels first-hand by getting on board one or more of the vessels offering dockside tours and talking with the crew. Vessels offering dockside tours include: a trawler, a deep sea clammer, a scalloper, an off-shore lobster boat and a tug boat. In addition, a Coast Guard lifeboat and a Coast Guard Patrol Boat will be available for tours as well as Schooner Ernestina, a 108’ traditional schooner, the official vessel of the Commonwealth.

### **Harbor Tours**

Whaling City Expeditions offers 55-minute harbor tours departing hourly on both Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

### **Walking Tours**

Trail maps for a Self-Guided Dock Walk are available at the Waterfront Visitor Center.

## **UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

The U.S. Coast Guard presents a number of activities from their location at State Pier. A Coast Guard lifeboat (south side of Pier 3) and patrol boat (east side of State Pier) are available for dockside tours both Saturday and Sunday. Please visit the Coast Guard booth located at Coast Guard Park.

## **ON THE WATER ACTIVITIES**

**Whaleboat Races** – The Buzzards Bay Rowing Club presents whaleboat races from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Come cheer on your favorite team. Best viewing: head of State Pier.

**Whaleboat Rides** – Try your hand at rowing a replica whaleboat. Buzzards Bay rowers will be on hand to provide instruction at Coast Guard Park on Saturday from 2-5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

**Tugboat Muster** – Watch tugboats at work as they compete for bragging rights in hawser tossing and pushing contests, Saturday from 3-5 p.m. Best viewing: head of State Pier.

## **BLESSING OF THE FLEET**

On Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Blessing of the Fleet takes place on State Pier beginning at 1:00 p.m. A time-honored tradition, the Blessing gives the fishing community an opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the successes of the past year and to ask that the Lord's good blessing continue in the following year to keep each vessel and its crew safe during each voyage.

## **KID'S ACTIVITIES**

Be sure to visit the Kid's Activity Tent located on Steamship Pier for a boatload of make and take art activities Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 5 including fish prints, shell decorating, paper boat making and more. Hands-on marine and fisheries science activities are presented by SMAST, the School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth (Steamship Pier).

## **EXHIBITS**

A number of industry related non profit organizations and businesses have booths at this year's festival. And don't miss the *Maritime Artisans Marketplace* featuring unique handcrafted work by regional artists. Be sure to visit *A Working Waterfront*, a permanent exhibit on display in the Waterfront Visitor Center on Pier 3. For forty years, the Wharfinger building was the site of the city's seafood auction. Today, in addition to welcoming visitors, the building houses a mini-museum commemorating the seafood auction and the City's role in the history of the commercial fishing industry. The exhibit was created through a joint effort of the City of New Bedford, the National Park Service and the fishing industry.

## **SPONSORS**

The Working Waterfront Festival is supported by a diverse coalition of individuals, businesses and educational and cultural organizations. Producing Partners of the 2010 Festival are National Endowment for the Arts, Island Foundation and Whaling City Seafood Display Auction. Major support is also provided by The City of New Bedford, Harbor Development Commission, Mass Humanities, Southcoast Media Group, United States Coast Guard, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, National Council for the Traditional Arts and Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Festival is a project of the Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts.

The **Working Waterfront Festival** is a project of the **Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern MA**, a non-profit organization. The FREE festival, a family friendly, educational celebration of New England's commercial fishing industry, features live maritime and ethnic music, fishermen's contests, fresh seafood, vessel tours, author readings, cooking demonstrations, kid's activities and more. It all takes place in New Bedford, MA, America's #1 fishing port, on the fourth full weekend of September. Navigate to us at [www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org](http://www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org).

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