

# **WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL PRESS RELEASE**



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Workboats of all sizes at 2011 Working Waterfront Festival**

**New Bedford, MA, August 31, 2011** – Workboats are integral to any working waterfront. This year's Working Waterfront Festival will have vessels of all types on display. In keeping with the 2011 theme ***Then and Now: Tradition and Innovation***, dockside vessel tours will include both modern and older style commercial fishing vessels: a replica of a chebacco boat (typical in New England waters some 350 years ago), a Grand Banks schooner, a Stonington dragger, a wooden eastern rig scalloper and a modern steel scalloper and dragger.

On Saturday tug boats will take center stage. Several mini tugs ranging in size from 12 to 30 feet will show their stuff at 3:00 and full-sized working tugs will engage in a Tug Muster, or friendly competition at 3:30. On Sunday all vessels are invited to take part in the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual Blessing of the Fleet, 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.

In a new area called "Big Boats, Little Boats" festival visitors can watch boats under construction. Several model boat makers will showcase their craft including retired fisherman Manny Silva who has created models of nearly every dragger in New Bedford's Portuguese fleet. Students and staff from Greenfleet, a non profit organization which teaches traditional wooden boat building to urban at-risk youth, will be at work on a full-sized wooden boat. The students use traditional tools and methods to build replicas of the types of boats used in and around New Bedford in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the city was the whaling capital of the world.

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 on working piers and waterfront parks in New Bedford, MA, America's #1 fishing port, on the last full weekend in September. Navigate to us at [www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org](http://www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org).

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