

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORKINGWATERFRONT FESTIVAL SET FOR SEPTEMBER

2009 Theme: Surf and Turf: Fishermen and Farmers Finding Common Ground

Welcome aboard as New Bedford, America's largest commercial fishing port, hosts the 6th Working Waterfront Festival, a celebration of commercial fishing culture.

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. The FREE festival takes place Saturday and Sunday, September 26th and 27th on the working piers and waterfront parks of the Port of New Bedford. Free parking is available at the City's Elm Street Garage. Complete information including directions, a festival map and a schedule of events is posted on the festival web site: www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org

2009 FESTIVAL THEME

SURF & TURF: FISHERMEN AND FARMERS FINDING COMMON GROUND

The 2009 *Working Waterfront Festival* considers connections between fishing and farming communities in a special program, "***Surf and Turf: Fishermen and Farmers Finding Common Ground.***" Farming, like fishing, is a way of life. Fishermen and farmers share a deep knowledge of, reverence for and dependence upon the natural world. Both groups pass traditional skills and knowledge from one generation to the next, often incorporating new technologies alongside traditional practices. Both communities also face many of the same economic, environmental and political challenges. Plans for this special program include an open air market featuring local produce and fresh seafood; cooking demonstrations highlighting traditional community recipes; panel discussions; author readings and film screenings which explore common issues; and occupational demonstrations of fishing and farming skills.

PERFORMERS

The Festival brings together a unique array of music presented on three stages. Performances include traditional sea chanteys, music reflecting the industry's ethnic diversity, music about commercial fishing often performed by musicians who work in the industry and music tied to this year's farming theme.

Back by popular demand

The Johnson Girls: An all female **a cappella** quartet, present sea chanteys from around the globe

New Bedford Harbor Sea Chantey Chorus: Hosted and organized by the Schooner Ernestina, this 43-member chorus was created in 2001. The repertoire includes a variety of chanteys and songs that reflect the rich maritime heritage of New Bedford and the region

Sharks Come Cruisin': a Providence-based band electrifies traditional chanteys in a sound that has been compared to the *Drop Kick Murphys* and *Great Big Sea*

Souls of the Sea: a Gloucester based folk-rock trio perform original music about commercial fishing

Ana Vinagre: a local legend performs Portuguese *fado* with her ensemble

New this year

Barnacle: a high energy Celtic/nautical/folk group nominated as one of Motif Magazine's top new acts of 2009

Grupo Fuerza Quichelence: a Guatemalan Mayan band plays Latin dance music reflecting the large community of Mayans living in New Bedford, many of whom were farmers in their homeland, but now work in the City's fishing industry

Iron River Singers: will open the festival with a traditional Native American drum circle

Something Fishy

Several performers who write from personal experience working in the industry are also on tap for the weekend as part of ***Something Fishy***, a song/poetry swap of material created and performed by fishermen.

Jim McGrath: Jim McGrath has been performing for over 30 years. His repertoire includes original songs as well as sea chanteys, Irish and British Isles Ballads, and American traditional and contemporary songs he has performed on ships and in concert halls and saloons in Ireland, Germany and across the Eastern seaboard.

Jon Campbell: For the past 25 years, Jon has been writing and performing music based on the wide range of experience available to those people living in coastal regions, the tourists, the cuisine, the fisheries, cranky Yankees and an assortment of humorous and poignant characters.

Dave Densmore of Kodiak, AK is a lifelong fisherman, earning a full share on a Kodiak seiner by the time he was twelve and purchasing his first boat soon after. Dave started writing poetry in the late 70's. He was featured in the documentary *Fisherpoets* and on Good Morning America.

Bob Quinn: of Eagle Island, ME lobsterman and mail boat driver carries on his Uncle's recitation tradition.

Farm related performers

This year we also have several performers who present music related to the culture of farming.

Joel Nelson: A cowboy poet and Texas rancher is the recipient of a **2009 National Heritage Award**, the highest honor bestowed on traditional artists.

Three Cats and a Dog: play contra dance & swing music with caller/cranberry farmer **John Alden**.

The Good Old Plough: sharing songs from New Hampshire's farming legacy dating back to the 18th century.

FESTIVAL FOOD

We are pleased to announce the expansion of food offerings at this year's event. The **Oxford Creamery** will continue to serve up a full menu of the finest local seafood including fish and chips, fried scallops, lobster rolls and quahog chowder. **M&C Café** will offer grilled scallops, chourico, beef and veggies. **Cuttyhunk Shellfish Farms** will provide a raw bar and the **Waterfront Grille** will have several varieties of sushi. Other food vendors this year include: **Café Arpeggio** serving its own Home Made Ice Cream, **Del's Lemonade** and **The Veteran's Transition House** providing hotdogs and hamburgers.

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.

FARMERS' MARKET

A festival about fishing and farming would not be complete without a farmers' market. Ours is located on State Pier and features produce and specialty items from a number of local farms as well as informational booths from producers of grass fed beef, raw milk and several area farm organizations. In addition, **The Big Fish Company** will be selling fresh, local fish and lobsters. **Lees' Market** in Westport has generously donated re-usable cloth bags to be given to the first 250 people who make a purchase at the farmers' 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: *Fishing Families and Family Farm*, *Watching the Weather* and *Saving the Farm, Preserving the Port*. 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, food and farming. Baker Books, an independent bookseller, operates an on-site Festival Bookstore (located adjacent to the Narrative Stage on Pier 3) hosting author signings and selling titles of participating authors including Dedee Shattuck (*Farmers*), Randy Peffer (*Bangkok Dragons, Cape Cod Tears*), Kathy Neustadt (*Clambake*), and Casey Sherman (*The Finest Hours*).

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.

NATIVE FISHERMEN AND FARMERS

This year, the Working Waterfront Festival welcomes several new participants, brought to the festival through the New Bedford Whaling Museum's participation in a program called ECHO. ECHO (Education through Cultural and Historical Organizations) is a federally funded project, directed by the Department of Education that connects cultures in Massachusetts, Alaska, Hawaii and Mississippi. Many of these connections were created by the whaling industry in the 1800s. *Sharing the Harvest* brings to New Bedford two traditional subsistence whalers and hunters from Barrow, Alaska, and two subsistence farmer/fisherfolk from Choctaw, Mississippi to share their stories of harvest, their traditions of bead and clothing making and their tales of survival. Jonathan Perry, Senior Tribal Cultural Resource Monitor for the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, will demonstrate traditional maritime skills

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.

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 26th. 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 Tonnessen 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 on Saturday from 3-5 p.m. Best viewing: head of State Pier.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET

On Sunday, September 27th the 40th 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.

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Be sure to visit the Kid's Activity Tent located on Steamship Pier on Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 5 for a boatload of make and take art activities including fish prints, shell decorating, paper boat making and more. Hands-on marine and fisheries science activities are presented by the Ocean Explorium's WOW Mobile and SMAST (School for Marine Science and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) (Steamship Pier). The Kid's Area also features family friendly performances by **Sue and April Grant** and **Good Old Plough**. Cartoonist **Steve Brosnihan** (author of *Cartoonagrams*) will teach kids to create cartoons of sea creatures using the letters of the alphabet. Children's author **Martha Zschock** will read and sign her book *Journey to Cape Cod*. Additional Kids Activities organized by the **Sharing the Harvest Farm** at the Dartmouth YMCA will be presented at the State Pier Farmers Market from 11am to 5pm.

SPONSORS

The Working Waterfront Festival is supported by a diverse coalition of individuals, businesses and educational and cultural organizations. Producing Partners of the 2009 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, Community Foundation of Southeastern Massachusetts SEEAL Fund, 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.

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