



Building a better, stronger New Bedford

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STANDING UP FOR OUR FISHERMEN AND PROTECTING A BILLION DOLLAR INDUSTRY

A strategy for New Bedford's fisheries industry

Our docks and our boats are not just a part of our past, but also the greatest economic driver of our future. For twenty years in the legislature, I have supported our fishing industry, helped keep NOAA on the run, pushed to make the Division of Marine Fisheries more prominent, and succeeded in securing incentives for state and local government to purchase locally caught fish.

As Mayor, I will continue Mayor Lang's fight to protect and enhance the fishing industry and hold NOAA accountable. I will leverage the enormous potential of our billion dollar fishing industry that already exists here in New Bedford to attract new business and research. I will focus on the needs of our seafood processors and other businesses connected to fishing. And I will work to make New Bedford the world center of research and innovation in marine sciences.

Specifically, I will:

Continue Mayor Lang's fishery litigation

As Mayor, I will task my city solicitor to continue Mayor Lang's fisheries litigation. It is critical that we take every step to protect our industry. I have supported Mayor Lang and the other parties in this lawsuit since the legislation was originally filed in May 2010, and I will continue to pursue victory as Mayor. I will also continue Mayor Lang's Ocean & Fisheries Council.

Work with Department of Commerce to reexamine fisheries management

As Mayor, I will continue Mayor Lang's efforts to work with the Inspector General in the Department of Commerce to look at fisheries management and review structure and protocol. I will work with

the fishing industry, Commerce, and our Congressional delegation to develop a more streamlined, efficient system that depends less on observers and more on landing assessments. I will push Commerce to revise the way it monitors fish abundance and implements management actions, and demand that the management breakdowns identified in the Pate Report are addressed clearly.

“As Mayor, I will fight to ensure that New Bedford’s fishermen are treated fairly and not unjustly punished for pursuing their livelihood.”

Additionally, investigations by the Inspector General have revealed troubling enforcement procedures in fishing ports throughout New England. As Mayor, I will fight to ensure that New Bedford’s fishermen are treated fairly and not unjustly punished for pursuing their livelihood.

Fight to reshape Department of Marine Fisheries

I am working with the Executive Office of Energy and the Environment on my bill to promote the Division of Marine Fisheries to a new, Department level office whose mission would be to promote the commercial fishing industry. This proposal would reorient the Marine Fisheries office from one focused on regulation, to one focused on business development for commercial fishing and related businesses.

As Mayor, I will continue working with Secretary Sullivan to establish greater prominence for the Department of Marine Fisheries and secure their help for fisheries management and regulatory issues.

Continue to involve Harbor Development Commission

The Harbor Development Commission plays a critical role in the advancement of our fisheries industry. I view the HDC as a vital component of our maritime success.

As Mayor, I will continue to involve the Harbor Development Commission on fishery regulation issues and work with them whenever necessary to move our harbor forward.

Support funding efforts at SMAST for fishery projects

I want to see New Bedford develop into a world center of fisheries research. Working with UMass Dartmouth and other research institutions and the state and federal government, New Bedford can become a center of fishing and fisheries management expertise. We are well positioned to benefit from the maritime research bring conducted in our region, much as Cambridge has benefited from the biotech research conducted at MIT.

“I want to see New Bedford develop into a world center of fisheries research.”

I strongly support the expansion of SMAST in our city’s South End, and as Mayor, I will support funding efforts at SMAST for fishery projects. I strongly believe that this research will lead to job growth for workers throughout our region, and I will make certain that New Bedford has the trained workforce

and business climate that will allow us to capitalize on these opportunities.

Push to increase catch limits

Despite the importance and success of our fishing industry, federal catch restrictions cost our port millions in annual revenue, and our City loses millions more in lost opportunities for supporting businesses. The significance of this restriction cannot be understated in terms of economic value. I understand and recognize that conservation

requirements are important, but there is more opportunity to grow our fishing industry without depleting stock.

“As Mayor, I will lobby NOAA to increase allowable catch limits by 50%.”

As Mayor, I will lobby NOAA to increase allowable catch limits by 50% (per the recommendation of the Governor’s report), and achieve mesh size parity with Canada. I will work to facilitate the scallop industry’s efforts on reducing yellowtail bycatch, and help our fishermen find a way to address the mixed species nature of the fishery. If we can reduce underfishing, we can maximize the potential of our city’s most important industry.

Our fishing industry is critically important to the future of our city. I have been fighting on behalf of our fishermen for 20 years, and will continue this fight as Mayor. No other candidate in this race understands the fishing industry like I do, and no other candidate can effectively carry on the progress we have made.