



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

HARBORMASTER • TOWN HALL

10 CENTRAL ST. MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA, MASSACHUSETTS 01944-1399

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Manchester was founded in no small measure by fisheries. This industry faces constant challenges and has changed dramatically over the decades and centuries. The fishermen of Manchester have overcome these challenges and continue to be relevant contributors in a field most of us would not dream of pursuing. Manchester is consistently right smack in the middle of producing ports in Massachusetts.

As our fishermen deal with new challenges, including aging, we should be supporting their efforts with appropriate infrastructure for a changing business model. The new facility will help extend careers by improving vessel access. In addition, the facility will be an enticement for younger people considering this time-honored work. This business group directly contributes to the economy and infrastructure not just in their work but through grants awarded by their very presence, approaching a million dollars over the last decade.

The goal for the Harbor Department is to ensure transparency and provide ample opportunity for input and feedback. In that spirit the Fishermen's Facility project has been part of the Waterline on six different occasions, including the announcement of the Sea Port Economic Council (SEC) grant award, and the Cricket twice. I will continue to share updates and milestones.

At the Town Meeting held on June 21st residents voted to fund 20% of the engineering and permitting cost through CPC. This follows the award of \$132,00 from SEC covering 80% of the cost. The SEC has stated that the town will be awarded 80% of funding costs for construction of the facility pending a 20% match and successful permitting of the project. FOTH Engineering has completed the design and is moving ahead with permitting.

If history is any indication the fishing fleet at the head of the harbor will only enhance a positive waterfront image, true throughout New England. While obviously a change, the fishing fleet has always been front and center on Beach St. The opportunity to see the routine up close and firsthand of fisherman plying their time-honored craft is priceless. It is our part or our proud New England culture and heritage. Piling, floats and lobster boats are a quintessential part of the New England coast.

Respectfully submitted,

Bion Pike