



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MASS. COMMERCIAL FISHING AND SEAFOOD RECEIVE DC SUPPORT FOR FUEL  
EFFICIENCY TECHNOLOGY AND PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Fishing org receives \$1.991 million from Congress to support statewide planning efforts for emissions reductions, paving the way for industry leadership

**Gloucester, MA - December/January TK, 2022/3** - Members of the Massachusetts commercial fishing and seafood industries announce and applaud the inclusion of just under \$2 million in the recently passed Omnibus Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2023 to support a planning program for low- and zero-emissions technology in this culturally and economically vital industry. Securing these important funds was prioritized by Senators Markey and Warren, who championed their inclusion in the Omnibus via the Congressionally Directed Spending process. The effort was spearheaded by the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Development Program.

The program, called **Energy Efficient Fisheries (EEF)**, will ensure that fishing vessels and fish plants of all sizes in every port in Massachusetts are able to become a part of the energy revolution, using tools and approaches scaled for their businesses. Massachusetts seafood and fisheries leaders have weighed in in support of EEF programs and the opportunity they represent:

"Thanks to the leadership of Senator Markey and Senator Warren, the Massachusetts fishing industry will be part of the energy revolution," said **Angela Sanfilippo**, president of the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Development Program. "Our fishermen have known for decades that climate change is a threat, and we're stepping up to do our part. Together, we will find opportunities to save on the fuel bill, reduce emissions, and deliver on the promises of efficiency and a lower carbon footprint that have benefited many other business sectors here already. We're a diverse industry, and we're going to find diverse energy efficiency solutions together with everyone in this amazing seafood state."

"High energy costs multiply the price of seafood paid by consumers," said fourth generation seafood businessman **Robert Nagle** of Boston's John Nagle Co. "Many stages of the process require power, from processing machinery to refrigeration for storage, transportation, and retail showcases. Reducing operating costs through energy efficiency will reduce prices paid by the seafood consumer and allow buyers to pay a higher price to fishermen, adding value that drives their success while ensuring a prosperous future for locally harvested seafood and food security for the Commonwealth."

"Fishermen from all ports in Massachusetts operating vessels of all sizes in all our fisheries are going to benefit from this enhanced efficiency," said **Jim Kendall**, executive director of New Bedford Seafood Consulting. "Under this approach, we're going to use our ingenuity to build a program that works for our unique industry. Bottom-up planning, bringing in the expertise of the women and men who will ultimately use and depend on these new technologies, is the right way to go."

“High fuel prices, old technology, and regulations that disincentivize moving to new and efficient approaches - these are some of today’s challenges for Mass fishermen,” said Ed Barrett, president of the Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership. “This project is going to pave the way for a great deal of solutions for our fisheries, and I’m glad to see a statewide effort like this taking shape.”

“We’ve unfortunately fallen behind our European counterparts in energy efficiency across the board, and that’s certainly true for seafood and fishing,” said Al Cottone, executive director of the City of Gloucester Fisheries Commission. “If our domestic industry is going to catch up, it’s going to take a coordinated planning effort like Energy Efficient Fisheries that includes local government, business buy-in, and cutting-edge technology. This project sets us up for success.”

“All of us, in every industry, can find ways to decarbonize”, said Larry Chretien, executive director of EEF project partner Green Energy Consumers Alliance. “We are very happy that Massachusetts commercial fishermen are being so proactive and we’re looking forward to working with fishermen and business owners large and small across the Commonwealth to find the decarbonization options that are right for them.”

EEF projects will include a fishing and seafood industry baseline and energy needs assessment, fishing vessel energy audits, professional development for advanced technology installation and service for specialized marine applications, and consultancy services for business owners seeking to access low-cost capital and grant funding for fuel efficiency investments. All told, these funds are an investment in our collective future, creating good-paying jobs in the Commonwealth and securing the Massachusetts fishing industry’s role as a climate leader among the nation’s food producers.

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