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**PRESS RELEASE**

# **Baker-Polito Administration Announces More Than \$3.8 Million to Eight Communities and Cape Cod Region to Support Coastal Resiliency and the Maritime Economy**

**Lt. Governor Polito also celebrated completion of new Maritime Center in Marshfield**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**MARSHFIELD** – Today the Baker-Polito Administration announced over \$3.8 million in Seaport Economic Council Grants to support projects in eight communities and the Cape Cod region. The grants will help coastal cities and towns strengthen their economy, support job growth and build resilience to climate change. The grants were approved at a Seaport Economic Council meeting, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito, following the ribbon cutting celebration for a new Maritime Center and Harbormaster facility at Marshfield’s Green Harbor Town Pier in Brant Rock.

“Massachusetts maritime economy supports the Commonwealth’s coastal communities through tourism, commercial fishing, marine research, and shipping,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “Our Administration remains committed to strengthening these cities and towns through the funding, expertise, and leadership of the Seaport Economic Council and will continue to do so through new authorization from the economic development package signed last week.”

“Governor Baker and I are proud to witness the phenomenal progress our coastal communities have made on vital projects, by leveraging state and local funding sources and forging local partnerships,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, co-chair of the Seaport Economic Council.** “It is an honor to chair the Seaport Economic Council to support the vision of these communities and advance regional and state economic initiatives. Today’s awards showcase the council’s range of focus, and Marshfield offers a tangible example, as they undertook an ambitious effort to create a modern, multi-use maritime center that will better support their thriving maritime economy and tourism-focused economy. ”

“The Seaport Economic Council awards announced by Lt. Governor Polito today will provide long-term economic benefits in coastal communities through environmental planning efforts on Cape Cod, construction and rehabilitation of harbor facilities in Salem, Hingham, Plymouth, Nantucket, and design and permitting efforts for planned projects,” **said Housing and Economic Development Deputy Secretary Carolyn Kirk, vice chair for the Seaport Economic Council.** “Marshfield’s new maritime center is an example of the importance of investing in our coastal communities because it boosts support for the commercial fishing industry, recreational use of the harbor, and public access to the waterfront.”

In 2015, Marshfield received a \$1 Million grant from the Seaport Economic Council to construct a modern Maritime Center and Harbormaster facility at the Town Pier in Green Harbor. The new 3,800 square foot building will improve services for local commercial fisherman and support the working waterfront. The building will also focus on increasing tourism, recreational boating, and fishing, and will link other waterfront infrastructure investments in the town, including the Harborwalk linking Harbor Park and the Esplanade of the Brant Rock business district.

Since 2015, the Seaport Economic Council has invested over \$33 million in 70 grants across 38 communities. Last week, the Governor signed economic development legislation that includes an additional \$50 million in authorization for the Seaport Economic Council and **\$50 million for saltwater dredging projects,**

[\(/news/baker-polito-administration-files-610-million-economic-development-legislation\)](/news/baker-polito-administration-files-610-million-economic-development-legislation) creating an individual program for focused funding that will build upon the **\$4 million 2018 Navigational Dredging Pilot Program**

[\(/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-2018-navigational-dredging-pilot-program\)](/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-2018-navigational-dredging-pilot-program) the Administration launched in July.

“The Maritime Center will be a huge asset to our Town for so many including local citizens, tourists, the fishing community, and students from our wonderful boat building program at MHS,” **said Marshfield Town Administrator Michael Maresco**. “We are grateful to the Baker Administration in particular to Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito for all of her assistance.”

“This building has been a long time coming for the town,” **said Harbormaster Mike Dimeo**. “With this facility, we now have a true focal point for the community, and we are grateful for the support from the Baker-Polito Administration and the Town of Marshfield.”

“The Seaport Economic Council grants have helped fund a number of projects on the South Shore and this round of funding for Hingham and Marshfield will promote increased growth for the maritime industry,” **said Senator Patrick O’Connor**. “To also be here and celebrate the completion of the new Maritime Center emphasizes the importance of marine economies and what they contribute to the Commonwealth. I appreciate all of the support that the Baker-Polito Administration have provided through these investments.”

### The **Seaport Economic Council**

[\(/governor/administration/groups/seaporteconomiccouncil/\)](/governor/administration/groups/seaporteconomiccouncil/) advances the Baker-Polito Administration’s support for communities and residents across the state by leveraging unique economic assets to drive sustainable regional growth. The council was re-launched in August 2015, with a mission to deepen the maritime economy, promote economic development, and support resilient infrastructure in all 78 of Massachusetts’ coastal communities while preparing them to engage with the challenges posed by sea level rise and increasingly powerful coastal storms. The council’s capital grant program supports working waterfronts, local tourism, coastal resiliency, and maritime innovation, from the North Shore to Cape Cod and the South Coast.

Investments in the coastal communities are crucial the Massachusetts’ economy, safety, and environment. The Baker-Polito Administration will continue to provide resources and programs, like the Seaport Economic Council Grants and dredging-focused programs – both the **2018 Navigational Dredging Pilot Program**

(</news/baker-polito-administration-announces-2018-navigational-dredging-pilot-program>) and the standalone dredging grant program to be funding through the economic development legislation signed by Governor Baker last week – to ensure that coastal communities can improve, strengthen, and protect the Commonwealth’s coastal assets.

**Awards:**

**Cape Cod Cooperative Extension - \$317,020**

The Cape Cod Cooperative Extension will enable the protection of coastal businesses, homes, property and infrastructure by precisely identifying and mapping “storm tide pathways,” the lowest elevation where water will begin to flow inland during a flood event. This project will provide field-verified data on where, when, and how storm surge and floodwaters approach and then inundate coastal communities.

**City of Gloucester - \$110,000**

Gloucester will use this award to support the Gloucester Fresh, a local seafood brand to: support all seafood industry small businesses along the supply chain through free marketing and promotional opportunities; increase sales and prices of Gloucester landed fish and lobster; and expand upon efforts to brand the Massachusetts Lobster and increase awareness of Gloucester as the #1 landing port for lobster.

**City of Salem - \$741,200**

Salem will fund the construction of two new public docking facilities and renovation of a severely deteriorated existing facility. This project will increase safety on the docks, create a space for short-term tie-ups and will improve expand public access to the water for both residents and visitors.

**Town of Chatham - \$150,000**

Chatham will fund the design and permitting phases for reconstruction of the Trap Dock Pier located on Stage Harbor. The project will design a replacement commercial fish offloading pier facility to improve and expand offloading capabilities in Stage Harbor.

**Town of Eastham - \$80,000**

Eastham will use this award for facilitating, planning and developing a Municipal Harbor and Waterways Management Plan to understand the greatest uses and needs of the town's mooring area, as well as understanding future coastal changes to these areas due to storm surge.

**Town of Hingham - \$370,000**

Hingham will fund the replacement of the Maritime Center's Main Docking System and the Sailing Floats. This re-construction of the aging dock system, will be able to sustain the community boating programs that use this space and also ensure that this resource continues to be available for future generations.

**Town of Marshfield - \$95,000**

Marshfield will use this award for a feasibility study on its aging commercial piers, wharfs and supportive concrete revetment walls. This study will seek ways to better conduct maritime business and repair the aging infrastructure.

**Town of Nantucket - \$1,000,000**

The town of Nantucket will use this award to support improvements to the Town Pier, Harbormaster's office, which supports 13,500 transient vessels each season and 45 ferry transits each day in season. The facility is comprised of 75 recreational slips and 20 slips assigned to commercial businesses such as; mooring providers, fishing charters, environmental habitat charters, boat rentals and a vessel towing company. Nantucket will fund replacement of the Harbormaster's office, boater- public bathroom and shower facilities.

**Town of Plymouth - \$1,000,000**

Plymouth will use the award to create the Maritime Facility. The existing Harbormaster Facility is in poor condition with no bathroom facilities for the staff of the public, limited work space, and a variety of safety hazards. The harbor itself has approximately 1000

moorings and slips for both recreational and commercial boating for catching lobster, charter fishing, whale watching and aquaculture. The award will fund the new facility which will include transient boater facilities, public restrooms, and Harbormaster staff. The Maritime Facility will provide increased accessibility and support to all the commercial and recreational activities of Plymouth Harbor.

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