



P R E S S R E L E A S E

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**PINE POINT FISHERMEN TO BENEFIT FROM NEW WHARF**

**Scarborough, Maine — February 17, 2011**— The Town of Scarborough is in the midst of building a new wharf to benefit the local fishing community and is the latest project to be protected under the state's Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program (WWAPP). The wharf at Pine Point is owned by the Town and has been in need of improvements and updates for years. "The fishermen have to work twice as hard to use the existing pier. They can't drive on it, it's narrow and they are limited by the tides. It's back-breaking work just to get out on the water to go fishing" says local Marine Resource Officer Dave Corbeau.

Corbeau and other town officials have been working diligently to improve the facility for the public over the years. The Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program provided an ideal opportunity to improve the commercial fishing infrastructure on the property. Corbeau said "When the pier was built in 1971 there were 15 full time fishermen using it, today there are 35 full time lobster boats (many with additional stern men) that use the facility. Scarborough has nearly 200 acres of prime soft shell clam flats and about 40 commercial diggers and 300 recreational diggers access the flats via the Pine Point property."

Located at the end of King Street on Pine Point in Scarborough, the property and wharf border the Scarborough River. The two acre property includes nearly 700 feet of shorefront, a large paved parking area with room for boat trailer parking and two launch ramps. A permitted improvement to the property is the construction of a new pier to be located to the west of the current pier which will remain in place and open to the public. The new pier will be 4,200 sq. ft. and will include two mechanical hoists, 220 and 110 volt electric service, lighting, fresh water, security camera surveillance, vehicular access onto the pier, 24-hour access and a walking ramp that leads to seven floats.

Working waterfront access in Maine has dwindled in recent years as the value of properties on the water has risen. "In this part of the state, there are very few choices or alternatives for commercial fishermen to access the water. The Scarborough property is a good example of a community investing in their fishing future and they deserve credit for sticking with this project." says Deirdre Gilbert, Maine Department of Marine Resources.

Discussions for improving the pier began in 2002 with a small group of fishermen, the following year the town became engaged in the discussion. In 2004 the town secured a \$15K grant from the Maine Department of Transportation's Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) to design a new pier. Soon after the fishing community was consulted for their input about what would be best for their needs and later the town council earmarked \$400K in the town's budget to invest in the project and continue to maintain the facility over time. In 2006, the town secured a second SHIP grant (\$50K) to finalize the pier design and secure the necessary permits. In

2007 the design was completed and work continued to obtain the necessary permits, and a third \$100K SHIP grant (\$100K) was secured to put towards the pier's construction. In 2009, the town applied to the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program and was allocated an award amount of \$252,500.00 in exchange for an agreement to place a restrictive "working waterfront covenant" on a portion of the property to keep the facility available for commercial fishing use in perpetuity. The combined resources of the town, the Department of Transportation, and of the Working Waterfront Access Pilot Program allowed the project to succeed. "I was pleased to be part of this project as it is a great example of leveraging local and state resources to preserve and enhance an important part of Scarborough's working waterfront that will provide future generations of commercial fishermen the opportunity to earn their livelihood in traditional ways", said Tom Hall, Scarborough Town Manager.

The WWAPP is jointly administered by the Land for Maine's Future Program (LMF), the Maine Department of Marine Resources and Coastal Enterprises, Inc. Increasing interest in the program from working waterfront property owner's supports estimates that there are approximately 100 commercial fishing properties on the Maine coast that remain unprotected. These properties are critically important to much of coastal Maine's reliance on fishing for economic prosperity. The recent November 2 bond referendum (Question #3) has recapitalize the WWAPP program with an additional \$1.75 million.

There will be a presentation on the WWAPP program at the 2011 Maine Fishermen's Forum at the Samoset Resort in Rockport on Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:15 AM. The WWAPP presentation will be delivered during the "Maine Working Waterfront Coalition Update" session. The state expects to solicit proposals for new projects beginning in March 2011. For additional information on the WWAPP visit the website, [www.wwapp.org](http://www.wwapp.org)

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