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**CITY OF GLOUCESTER**  
**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**For Immediate Release:**  
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**Gloucester seeks over \$2 million from the Saltonstall-Kennedy grants for Innovation in the Fishery**

**Gloucester, Massachusetts** – The port of Gloucester, hub of the seafood industry on the east coast, stepped forward with requests totaling over \$2.25 million in response to a Federal Funding Opportunity under the Saltonstall-Kennedy grant program.

The Saltonstall-Kennedy funding, intended to support marketing and innovations for the American fishery, has long been diverted into research for stock assessments. In the wake of the declared disaster in the northeast fishery, The Department of Commerce, and its agency NOAA, for the first time in four years, made available the SK funds to researchers and industry outside the agency.

“We ask that the Department of Commerce fund each and every request from the port of Gloucester,” said Mayor Kirk. “Our fishermen, and the shoreside industries that depend on them, must be given every opportunity to develop new markets and products at this time of crisis.”

The SK funds are from a tax on imported fish, and were originally intended to support the American fishing industry with the marketing and access to new processing methods that ensure a competitive domestic market. The project applications from Gloucester, ranging from \$145,000 to \$400,000, represent multiple partnerships between fishermen, shoreside businesses, and research organizations. The following applications are known to have met the deadline of September 29<sup>th</sup>, in the tight unexpected 60 day window given for the funding opportunity.

- The Gulf of Maine Research Institute and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries are partnering with fishermen who are harvesting whiting. The fishermen, GMRI, and DMF propose research to support expanding opportunities to harvest whiting, as well as marketing efforts to increase regional demand of the fish.
- Cape Ann Seafood Exchange seeks funding for new processing equipment, marketing and branding for redfish, partnering with Endicott College.
- Cape Ann Fresh Catch seeks funding to train chefs in four culinary schools on methods to prepare and use alternative species of fish.
- A city-led proposal partners with Salem State University’s Northeast Aquaculture Center and Maritime Gloucester to team up with displaced groundfishermen to experiment with growing a new shellfish product in state waters.

- UMass Boston, in collaboration with Mortillaro's Lobster Co. and Ocean Alliance, proposes to test the new environmentally sound "green concrete" and floating island technologies to improve water quality and fish habitats in this industrial harbor, and help sustain working fishing waterfront
- Ocean Crest Seafoods, parent company of Neptune's Harvest Fertilizer, is teaming up with scientists to develop ways to extract the valuable chitin from lobster and crab shells that are now a waste product in the harbor, as well as to develop a new and longer lasting lobster and fish bait from liquid fish.
- Northeastern University seeks to partner with community leaders to bring additional support to fishing families in crisis.

The Department of Commerce had indicated that grant funding would be made available in January, 2014, recognizing the immediacy of need in the industry. The NOAA personnel in charge of the appropriations are currently furloughed due to the shutdown in government operations at the federal level. The Mayor hopes that the government shutdown will not impact this highly valuable process given the needs of fishing communities such as Gloucester around the country.

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