

Long Island Commercial Fishing Association

P.O. Box 191 ~ Montauk, N.Y. 11954

Phone 516-527-3099 ~ Fax 631-668-7654 ~ E-mail Greenfluke@optonline.net

Sustainable Fisheries and Fishermen for the 21st Century

July 6, 2011

Congressman Bob Gibbs, Chairman
House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Gibbs,

My name is Bonnie Brady and I am here today representing the Long Island Commercial Fishing Association as its executive director. Our membership represents commercial fishermen from 11 different gear groups at 15 ports throughout Long Island. I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to present my comments before the subcommittee today.

It is my understanding that H.R. 104, "Realizing America's Maritime Promise (RAMP) Act," will allow funds gathered from import tariffs in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF) to be used specifically for dredging and maintenance of US ports, harbors and waterways. It is also my understanding that in the past, the funds in the HMTF were not always fully utilized in their original intent.

Commercial fishing on Long Island is responsible for 99% of New York's landed seafood catch, in 2009 that translated to over 34 million pounds of fish, shellfish and crustaceans worth just over \$49 million dollars at the dock. With a standard economic multiplier of four, that translates to a \$200 million industry which helps to power the economic engine of hundreds of Long Island businesses. These mom and pop shops, whether it's a fishing boat, ice supplier, welder shop or restaurant, are the very fabric which makes up the coastal communities of Long Island.

Our Long Island coastal waterways and ports are our Metros and Beltway, and without properly maintained dredging, hundreds of local businesses and families are negatively impacted yearly on Long Island.

Our own Congressman Bishop from the First District has done an admirable job to stay on top of dredging nightmares as they appear courtesy of Mother Nature, but in some cases by the time funding is secured for dredging, thousands of dollars in potential revenue are lost.

Lost through inability to land one's catch at the closest port for the best market price, lost through repairs necessary due to accidents involving hull and wheel issues along with vessel groundings, and lost through pollution control costs from those groundings. Of course there is also the potential loss of life through accidents because of shoaling that can and has happened on

Long Island. All of the above are unacceptable sequelae due to improper or inadequate maintenance.

Just this year in Montauk, New York State's largest commercial fishing port and the 48th largest commercial fishing port in the nation, we have had some of the most severe shoaling at the harbor's inlet in years. Instead of a 12-foot depth and 150-foot wide inlet, instead we have had barely a nine-foot depth in some of the most traveled areas under the best of conditions. Add a northwest wind and low tide to the scenario, and the depth shrinks to six feet.

Several commercial boats have had to either pack in different states due to Montauk's excessive shoaling, or wait up to 14 hours for the tide to be favorable in order for them to pack their fish. In some cases, the delay in shipping fish to Hunts Point has had dramatic consequences to the price of the catch, dropping from one dollar a pound to 15 cents per pound. When you are landing sometimes in excess of 40,000 pounds of fish, it is basically the difference between a decent trip financially and what is referred to as a "broker" in commercial fishing parlance.

Montauk's port is just one of many ports on Long Island that could benefit from H.R. 104. Other ports with excessive shoaling issues, such as Shinnecock and Moriches Inlet, would immediately benefit from well-maintained dredging, for both the commercial and recreational fleet.

Shinnecock used to be a major commercial fishing port to New York State, especially in the summer months when squid schools nearby. Commercial fishing landings equaled \$9.5 million dollars to Shinnecock in 2000. However, its often shoaled port which limited access during key summer catch months helped to further the burden on limited shoreside infrastructure businesses, already reeling from increased state catch restrictions, increased fuel costs and decreasing economic revenues.

Even though Congressman Bishop accessed funding for dredging of Shinnecock in 2004 and 2010, a series of Northeast storms continued to wreak havoc with dredging efforts. Boats that avoided Shinnecock to decrease the risk of grounding translated into less catch on the dock which then dominoed into less ice, fuel, and box sales, the end result of which was to further plunge Shinnecock shoreside businesses economically. By 2009, commercial fish revenue dropped by almost half to \$5.3 million. It is my belief that a more continual maintenance dredging of Shinnecock Inlet there could have made the difference.

On behalf of Long Island's commercial fishermen, we applaud the House Subcommittee on Water Resources and Infrastructure's attempt to address these issues through H.R. 104. My thanks to the subcommittee for allowing me to express these views today.

Sincerely

Bonnie Brady
Executive Director
Long Island Commercial Fishing Association

BONNIE BRADY

EMPLOYMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR 2000-PRESENT
Long Island Commercial Fishing Association Montauk, NY
All facets of work as the director of a not-for-profit organization with 300 members representing 11 different gear types in 15 ports across Long Island, including but not limited to communicating with local, county, state and Federal officials; writing grant proposals and news releases; creating, organizing and speaking at various community fishing events; attending fishery council meetings and chairing in-house fisheries meetings with varied gear groups, and educating the public about the U.S. commercial fishing industry.

HEALTH VOLUNTEER 1991-93
United State Peace Corps Cameroun, West Africa
Co-coordinator of Primary health care for Bengbis Hospital, Dja and Lobo, South province, Cameroun. Responsible for implementation and continued progress of Project SESA, a joint initiative of USAID and Harvard University to establish pre-natal and post-natal care for mothers and immunizations for infants and children at risk in geographically isolated areas of the Dja and Lobo rain forest. Account supervisor for hospital's pro-pharmacy. Created community health initiatives at the village level.

MONTAUK REPORTER 1990-91; 1993-94
East Hampton Star East Hampton, NY
Print and photographic reporter for a weekly newspaper with a year-round circulation of 12,000.

LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT/AIDE 1987-89
United States Senate Washington, DC
Answered constituent phone calls and mail; followed-up on constituents' requests.

FRONT-DESK RECEPTIONIST/BOOKKEEPER 1985-86
Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Agency Washington, DC
Receptionist and then bookkeeper for land-title insurance closing agency with high call-volume, daily correspondence and busy accounts-receivable office.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1979-84
Columbia, SC- Bachelor of Arts- Journalism 1984, minor french Columbia, SC
Secretary at Student Union; Burney Dorm President.

PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION PROGRAM 1995-96
State University at Stony Brook, Health and Science Center Stony Brook, NY
NYC-REMAC certification, National Registry of EMT's certification, ACLS instructor.

AWARDS, ACHIEVEMENTS & INTERESTS

\$50,000 grant from New York State's Pride of New York seafood program to highlight locally-landed seafood in 2004. <http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/AP/PrideofNY/releases2.html?ReleaseID=1349>
Montauk Fire Department member 1991-2007
New York State Emergency Medical Technician 1991-1995
New York State Paramedic (EMT-P 152978) 1996-2008
Montauk Fire Department Secretary (elected) 2003 and 2004
Montauk Fire Department Ambulance Company Training Officer (elected) 1996-99
Fluent in English, French and American Sign Language
Member Les Deux Zeros men's volleyball team, Bengbis, Cameroun 1992-93
Volleyball, softball, running and cycling.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
Truth in Testimony Disclosure

Pursuant to clause 2(g)(5) of House Rule XI, in the case of a witness appearing in a nongovernmental capacity, a written statement of proposed testimony shall include: (1) a curriculum vitae; and (2) a disclosure of the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by the witness or by an entity represented by the witness. Such statements, with appropriate redaction to protect the privacy of the witness, shall be made publicly available in electronic form not later than one day after the witness appears.

(1) Name:

Bonnie Brady

(2) Other than yourself, name of entity you are representing:

Long Island Commercial Fishing Association

(3) Are you testifying on behalf of an entity other than a Government (federal, state, local) entity?

YES

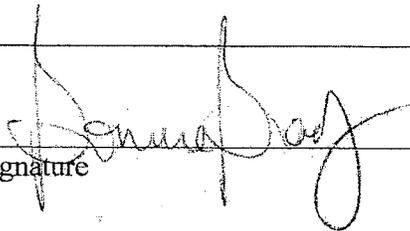
If yes, please provide the information requested below and attach your curriculum vitae.

NO

(4) Please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each Federal grant (or subgrant thereof) or contract (or subcontract thereof) received during the current fiscal year or either of the two previous fiscal years by you or by the entity you are representing:

0

Signature



Date

7/7/11