

To: Fred Welch
Town Manager, Hampton

You are cordially invited to attend the

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Assessment Team Visit
Seabrook, NH

EDA

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Time: Tuesday, May 10th
1:00 pm to 2:45 pm Town, City & Regional Planning Professionals

Seabrook Public Library
25 Liberty Lane
Seabrook, NH 03874

Hosted by: Town of Seabrook
Regional Economic Development Center of Southern NH,
(REDC)

Questions to: Laurel Bistany, Executive Director, REDC
(603) 772-2655 or laurel@redc.com

 **REDC** REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTER
of Southern New Hampshire



Wednesday, March 30, 2011

Contact:

Commerce Department to Deploy Economic Assessment Teams to Six Northeast Fishing Ports

Teams will visit Portland, ME; Seabrook, NH; New Bedford, MA; Gloucester, MA; Point Judith, RI; Montauk, NY

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Commerce Department announced today that economic development assessment teams will deploy next month to conduct a two-day analysis of six northeast fishing communities. The teams will visit Portland, ME; Seabrook, NH; New Bedford, MA; Gloucester, MA; Point Judith, RI; Montauk, NY. The assessment teams will conduct meetings with local leaders to help identify economic development challenges and opportunities facing local industries and communities.

“The Department of Commerce is committed to supporting a vibrant and profitable fishing industry in the United States. The assessment teams will help communities identify and begin to address the economic difficulties they are facing,” Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said. “We know that by rebuilding stocks, we will improve economic conditions for fishermen and coastal communities, but we recognize that transition is difficult. We are committed to help identify proactive solutions during these challenging economic times.”

“Supporting fishermen and fishing communities with economic assessment and planning assistance is a top priority for the Department of Commerce and the administration,” said Brian McGowan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. “The northeast economic development assessment teams will play an important role in providing technical expertise to local leaders as they develop strategies to increase economic and job opportunities.”

The goal of the visits is to provide customized technical assistance for fishing communities that experienced reductions in groundfish fishing revenues in recent years. EDA, in partnership with other federal agencies, will meet with local leaders to assess current and emerging economic issues. EDA, with the assistance of the U.S. Commerce Department’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), evaluated economic and fisheries industry data, including groundfish landing revenues and the percentage of groundfish landed at a port relative to the state totals, in order to select ports for the interagency assessments.

“Fishing is one of our nation’s oldest and proudest professions. While we are turning a corner toward a more sustainable fishing industry, we recognize the hardship many fishing families and communities are facing today,” NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco said. “NOAA is eager to work with our colleagues in EDA to keep fishing communities prosperous.”

The teams will work with local government, community, and business leaders, regional planning organizations, and economic development organizations to explore issues ranging from infrastructure challenges to development and financing needs, attempting to look at the total

economic picture for each community. After the assessment, EDA will present to each community, a report that captures economic development best practices and customized strategies for the community's long-term strategic planning. The teams are modeled after the Economic Development Assessment and Evaluation Teams deployed to Gulf Coast communities following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The team approach proved an effective way to further local economic planning efforts by kick-starting a collaborative process among participants from the local community as well as outside experts.

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov):

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Assessment Team
Town of Seabrook Public Library, NH

Agenda
May 9 to May 11, 2011

Day 1 – Monday, May 9

9:00 – 9:15 ***Welcome Meeting with Local Elected Officials at Seabrook Public Library***

Attendees: Seabrook Local Officials

9:15 – 10:30 ***Overview Meeting of EDA Assessment Goals***

Purpose: Review expectations for site visit, discuss region's economic development strategy and business efforts

Attendees: Economic development organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and county, town, and city staff involved in economic development and business recovery

10:30 – 12:00 ***Fishing Industry Representatives***

Purpose: Discuss challenges

Attendees: Fishing Industry Representatives

12:00 – 1:00 ***Working Lunch with Fishing Industry Representatives***

Purpose: Discuss economic recovery priorities and challenges

1:00 – 3:00 ***Small Business Development and Finance***

Purpose: Discuss small business development programs, finance, and challenges

Attendees: Representatives from local banks, SBA, SBDC, CDFIs and other alternative financing organizations

3:00 – 6:00 ***Tour Fishing Pier in Seabrook***
Tour Rye Harbor
Tour Fishing Pier Portsmouth

Day 2 – Tuesday, May 10

9:00 to 10:00 ***Workforce development and housing at Seabrook Public Library***

Purpose: Discuss workforce development programs and challenges as well as workforce housing

Attendees: Workforce housing representatives

10:00 – 12:00 ***Major business representatives in key industries***

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