

**WORKING WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
PRESS RELEASE**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WORKINGWATERFRONT FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2009 THEME
Surf and Turf: Fishermen and Farmers Finding Common Ground

New Bedford, MA, February 19, 2009— Festival Director Laura Orleans and Associate Director Kirsten Bendiksen will discuss plans for the 2009 festival as well as the festival's Community Documentation Project, an ongoing oral history project and forthcoming radio series *Voices from the Port* on February 24th at 7PM at the Ocean Explorium (174 Union Street, New Bedford).

The 6th annual Working Waterfront Festival will take place in New Bedford, America's largest commercial fishing port, on Saturday and Sunday, September 26th & 27th. This free, family-friendly event opens the waterfront to the public with a rare look into commercial fishing America's oldest industry.

While continuing to focus on commercial fishing and other port industries, the 2009 *Working Waterfront Festival* will consider connections between fishing and farming communities in a special program, "***Surf and Turf: Fishermen and Farmers Finding Common Ground.***" Farming, like fishing, is a way of life. Fishermen and farmers share a deep knowledge of, reverence for and dependence upon the natural world. Both groups pass traditional skills and knowledge from one generation to the next, often incorporating new technologies alongside traditional practices. And both communities face many of the same economic, environmental and political challenges. Plans for this special program include an open air market featuring local produce and fresh seafood and cooking demonstrations highlighting traditional community recipes; panel discussions, author readings and film screenings which explore common issues; and occupational demonstrations of fishing and farming skills.

The **Working Waterfront Festival** is a project of the **Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern MA**, a non-profit organization. The FREE festival, a family friendly, educational celebration of New England's commercial fishing industry, features live maritime and ethnic music, fishermen's contests, fresh seafood, vessel tours, author readings, cooking demonstrations, kid's activities and more. It all takes place in New Bedford, MA, America's #1 fishing port, on the fourth full weekend of September. Navigate to us at www.workingwaterfrontfestival.org.

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