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Monday, August 18, 2014

Attention Selectboards, Mayors, and Town Managers,

Welcome to the second annual offering of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) small grant program to improve recreational fishing access. DMF is tasked with finding and funding projects that enhance recreational saltwater fishing opportunities through improved public access. On November 3, 2009 House Bill 4309 instituted a saltwater fishing license. Line 20-22 of that law reads, "Provided that at least 1/3rd of the license fees appropriated for expenditure in a fiscal year shall be expended on existing or new facilities and other activities that improve public access to recreational saltwater fishing." In order to improve saltwater fishing opportunities we are funding a grant program in the form of a Request for Responses (RFR) to municipalities. This grant opportunity is posted on the state Commbuys system.

In the first offering of this opportunity we funded projects in Swansea, Fall River, Rockport, Quincy, and Duxbury. This grant is located in the following link. Application instructions are found in the "File Attachments" on that link.

<https://www.commbuys.com/bsa/external/bidDetail.sdo?bidId=BD-15-1046-DMF-FW205-00000001161&parentUrl=activeBids>

-If you have any trouble finding this listing please email me at the address below and I will forward you a direct link.

This opportunity exists for all towns with waters that require a saltwater fishing permit according to DMF regulations. Potential project types include but are not limited to: clearing of ways to the water, installation of lights on a fishing pier, installing parking for fishing access sites, improving existing boat launches, etc. This grant opportunity has a closing date of November 3, 2014. Each grant is limited to \$10,000.00 / project. Some of the requirements that municipalities must agree to include an equitable public access agreement. Any questions should be directed to Ross K. Kessler at ross.kessler@state.ma.us.

Thank you,

Ross K. Kessler
Public Access Coordinator

