

NOAA-FISHERMEN'S SAFETY PROGRAM
Final Report

Grant Number: NOAA award No. NA05NMF4271296

Amount of Grant: Federal \$ 99,960.00
Match \$ 46,494.00
Total \$146,454.00

Project Title: Safety Training for Commercial Fishermen

Grantee: City of New Bedford, MA

Award Period: From October 1, 2005 to December 30, 2006

This Commercial Fishermen Safety Training Program was started with \$50,000 from the City of New Bedford and began in April 2005. The NOAA grant has enabled the city to continue the program beginning in October 2005 and carried us to the end of December 2006.

Coast Guard Certified Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Trainers conducted two types of training.

Phase I (Basic Safety Training) is a hands-on half-day program that provides instruction in Firefighting, Emergency Communications, Damage Control, Life Rafts and Equipment, Emergency Flares, Donning of Immersion Suits, and Helicopter Hoist Procedures. Each class begins at 8:00 AM and is completed by 1:00 PM. Two additional classes were completed from September 1, 2006 through November 30, 2006 and a total of 38 fishermen were trained during this period. The extension of the grant end date to December 31, 2006 allowed us to expend the remaining grant funds on two more Phase I trainings.

Fishermen trained utilizing NOAA funds from October 2005 through December 2006 is 285. The total number of fishermen trained in Phase I from April 2005 through November 2006, using NOAA and New Bedford funds, is 649.

Phase II (Train the Trainer) is a day and a half course that certifies fishermen to be Drill Conductors. The course is a full day of classroom instruction plus a half-day of onboard drills. Each participant is presented with a certificate that has been approved by the Coast Guard that they met the legal requirements of a Certified Commercial Fishing Vessel Drill Conductor. NOAA funds paid for the training of 101 Drill Conductors from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006.

The numbers of attendees for both Phase I and Phase II Drill Conductor classes during the period of August 2006 through November 2006 was less than in the previous periods primarily as a result of good fishing weather that resulted in large numbers of vessels being absent thus reducing the opportunity for the crews to attend. Government regulations that were designed to restrict fishing were postponed thus allowing for more fishing to occur during this period as well.

The following chart displays the TOTAL number of fishermen trained and the specific areas of training from April 2005 through November 2006 (19 months) Those trainings delivered by NOAA Funds are so noted:

PHASE I BASIC TRAINING 2005					
DATE	# OF ATTENDEES				
4/16/2005	52				
5/7/2005	51				
5/27/2005	54				
6/17/2005	50				
7/15/2005	41				
8/12/2005	62				
9/16/2005	54				
10/14/2005	65	NOAA			
11/18/2005	27	NOAA			
Total	456				
PHASE II DRILL CONDUCTOR'S TRAINING 2005					
DATE	# OF ATTENDEES				
10/6/05 & 10/7/05	28	NOAA			
11/3/05 & 11/4/05	20	NOAA			
Total	48				
PHASE I BASIC TRAINING 2006					
DATE	# OF ATTENDEES				
3/24/2006	30	NOAA			
4/21/2006	25	NOAA			
5/19/2006	45	NOAA			
6/23/2006	16	NOAA			
7/21/2006	30	NOAA			
8/25/2006	9	NOAA			
11/3/2006	22	NOAA			
11/17/2006	16	NOAA			
Total	193				
PHASE II DRILL CONDUCTOR'S TRAINING 2006					
DATE	# OF ATTENDEES				
5/4/06 & 5/5/06	14	NOAA			
7/27/006 & 7/28/06	27	NOAA			
9/28/06 & 9/29/06	12	NOAA			
Total	53				
Total City Phase I	364				
Total City Phase II	0				
TOTAL NOAA Phase I		285			
TOTAL NOAA Phase II		101			

The below shows all NOAA funds expended from October 2005 through December 2006. No special problems were encountered.

	Phase I	Phase II	TOTAL	Charged	Charged	Total		
	Budget	Budget	Budget	through	7/1/06 -	Charged	Balance	
				June 30,	12/31/06	thru		
				2006		12/31/06		
								MATCH
Salaries	6,770.00	7920	14,690.00	7,054.00	1,605.45	8,659.45	6,030.55	2,663.00
Fringe	1,896.00	2218	4,114.00	1,853.00	417.42	2,270.42	1,843.58	481.28
Printing	250.00		250.00		-	-	250.00	-
Office Supplies	98.00	118	216.00	342.00		342.00	(126.00)	121.00
Marketing	500.00	1000	1,500.00		1,185.00	1,185.00	315.00	-
Meeting Supplies	500.00		500.00	709.00	462.78	1,171.78	(671.78)	-
Gift Certificates	500.00		500.00			-	500.00	-
Contracted Training	24,000.00	33000	57,000.00	49,679.00	27,976.52	77,655.52	(20,655.52)	12,000.00
Training Mtrl's & Supplies	2,000.00	17240	19,240.00	4,070.00	3,251.50	7,321.50	11,918.50	36,000.00
Administrative Expense	728.00	1222	1,950.00	619.00	735.33	1,354.33	595.67	-
Total	37,242.00	62,718.00	99,960.00	64,326.00	35,634.00	99,960.00	0.00	51,265.28

IN SUMMARY

The Fishermen's Safety Program accomplished much to educate and train the fishing fleet in safety procedures in a "hands on" method. Some fishermen had never fired a flare, extinguished a fire, donned their immersion suits, or attempted to enter the water or climb into a raft from the water in their immersion suits, among other things. We received many comments on how it affected their outlook on being prepared for any emergency while out on a trip. Indeed, we do have some testimonials from fishermen who encountered an emergency at sea and attribute their survival to the training they received through this grant: living proof that a program like this is meaningful and does save lives. We are looking to our 101 certified Drill Conductors that we trained, to help sustain this effort on their vessels on a regular basis.

The second item that this grant had an impact on was the industry itself. People on the piers (peripheral services) and fishermen themselves became involved in assuring that their friends and family were aware of the training and encouraged everyone to get involved. Word-of-mouth works extremely well on the waterfront and there is now a more meaningful awareness of safety at sea and how easy it is to take the extra precautions when going to sea.

This grant not only provided tangible results but gave birth to the intangible; a sense that safety is *the* important tool for fishermen and their families. Being prepared to handle emergencies and assuring that crew members are prepared is a great use of funds for those who work a dangerous profession.

It is felt that only 50% of the commercial fishermen in the area were reached by the training and to ensure a greater level of safety to the fleet, additional resources to reach this other 50% are needed.