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GAE 3/16/09

Bill 6375

Barbara Gordon
Executive Director

March 4, 2009

Senator Toni Harp
Representative John Gerogosian
Members of the Appropriations Committee

Senator Harp, Representative Gerogosian and Members of the Appropriations Committee:

CT's fishing industry has played an important role in our state's economy since the late 1700's. Our fishermen love their work – and continue to bring the freshest product to the market.

It is with enormous pride that the CT Seafood Council represents these proud and hard-working men and women.

In 1997, the legislature recognized the need for the seafood industry to be better represented to help ensure its protection and preservation. First begun as the CT Seafood Task Force, eventually becoming the CT Seafood Council by statute , the Council is working as a voice for the industry. The Council has become widely recognized throughout the state as a source of information for other states, for legislators, and for the press as well. Often quoted in the press, the Council is acknowledged as an authority for matters pertaining not only to our industry, but to Long Island Sound as well.

It was, in fact, the CT Seafood Council's lead in organizing groups to oppose pipelines and cables in the Sound in order to preserve this state treasure, which helped to put the Council in the forefront.

Interviewed by newspapers even outside CT, the Council has become synonymous with the preservation of Long Island Sound.

CONNECTICUT SEAFOOD COUNCIL
AS FRESH AS IT GETS℠

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The Council works closely with other groups, such as Save The Sound and CT Fund for The Environment on compatible issues.

We take great pride in having played a major role in stopping the Islander East Pipeline.

On the marketing front, the CT Seafood Council is a popular presence at the CT booth at the Big E. Our products served at the Big E are received with accolades from everyone who partakes.

The Council also participates in Ag Day at the Capitol in conjunction with the Marketing Division of the Dept. of Agriculture. We publish an attractive brochure touting the superiority of our CT shellfish and finfish. We take representatives from major grocery chains on tours of our boats, docks and facilities in both the eastern and western fishing areas of our state. We also publish a newsletter for industry members and legislators with informative articles and reports.

The CT Seafood Council holds regular monthly board meetings and two annual membership meetings, one in the eastern part of the state, and one in the western portion. These provide good forums for discussions, questions and concerns.

We respectfully request that our funding be continued, as we believe we play an important rôle in representing the seafood industry to the public; in being a source of information to the legislature and to the media, in boosting CT's economy, and in addressing the concerns of the industry itself.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Barbara Gordon,

Barbara