



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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SALEM SOUND COASTWATCH AWARDED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT GRANT

BOSTON – Representative John Keenan (D-Salem) today announced that Salem Sound Coastwatch (SSCW) has been awarded \$24,509 through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Coastal Habitat Grant Program. The funds will be used for a Marine species fouling study to examine lobster traps within Salem Sound.

Funding for this program, which is administered by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone management (CZM) supports efforts to implement demonstrable steps and actions to further coastal habitat protection, restoration and assessment.

SSCW's project will expand monitoring of marine invasive species to deeper waters of Salem Sound, and research fouling impacts on fishing gear. Through partnerships with commercial lobstermen, fouling organisms on lobster traps within Salem Sound will be identified and cataloged, while increasing outreach and education to the public and commercial fishing industry. This project supports efforts of CZM's Marine Invasive Monitoring and Information Collaborative.

Representative John Keenan praised the project saying, "I congratulate Salem Sound Coastwatch for its dedication to protecting Salem Sound's water quality, coastal habitats, and commercial and recreational marine resources. Salem's coast is one of its most important assets and Salem Sound Coastwatch has been its faithful steward for more than twenty years."

"I am grateful to Secretary Bowles for recognizing the importance of this study," said Salem Sound Coastwatch Executive Director Barbara Warren. "The presence of invasive species or "bioinvaders" has emerged as one of the leading environmental and economic threats to our coastal area and to develop effective programs we first must collect information on those areas most at risk. These funds will be put to good use."

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