

## United States Senate

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### KENNEDY, KERRY, MOAKLEY ANNOUNCE FUNDS FOR PORT OF BOSTON DREDGING

Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry and Congressman Joe Moakley today announced that a House-Senate conference committee has approved \$500,000 for the first stage of a project to deepen current channels and enable the Port of Boston to accommodate larger and more modern vessels.

The project involves dredging the Mystic River, Chelsea Creek, and Reserve Channel.

"The competition between East Coast ports for domestic and international trade is intense and it is vital for the Port of Boston to be able to accommodate modern cargo vessels. With these funds, dredging can now begin," said Kennedy.

Congressman Moakley said, "If we don't dredge the Port of Boston ships will be forced to either bypass us or enter only at high tide. The shipping industry is an essential part of the Boston economy and we must do everything we can to protect it and the 9,000 maritime jobs it brings to the area."

"The harbor dredging has been priority # 1 for Boston shippers for some time. Today's action is the push we've been looking for, and it will be the catalyst for bringing more business and jobs back to Boston Harbor," Kerry said.

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Initially, the House and Senate bills included only \$90,000 for the project. Kennedy, Kerry, and Moakley were able to secure an increase to \$500,000 to start actual dredging in the fiscal year that begins October 1. The dredging will take two years and will cause no disruption to current commerce. The funds are contained in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill. Now that the Senate-House conference committee has completed its work, the final bill is expected to be approved by the full Senate and House and sent to President Clinton for his signature by the end of this month.