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KEVIN RYAN
CHIEF OF STAFF
WASHINGTON

FREDERICK W. CLARK
DISTRICT DIRECTOR
BOSTON

E-mail: jmoakley@mail.house.gov
URL: <http://www.house.gov/moakley>



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2109

March 23, 2000

235 CANNON BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8273
FAX: (202) 225-3984

UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE
SUITE 3110
1 COURTHOUSE WAY
BOSTON, MA 02210
(617) 565-2920
(617) 439-5460
FAX: (617) 439-5157

4 COURT STREET
TAUNTON, MA 02780
(508) 824-6676
FAX: (508) 880-3520

BROCKTON FEDERAL BUILDING
166 MAIN STREET
BROCKTON, MA 02301
(508) 586-5555
FAX: (508) 580-4692

The Honorable Norman Dicks
Ranking Democrat
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Dicks:

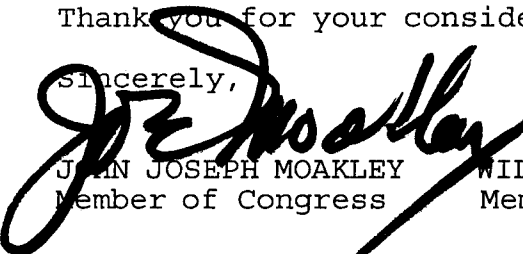
As you proceed to mark-up on the Fiscal Year 2001 Interior Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include a \$340,000 increase for operations for the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.

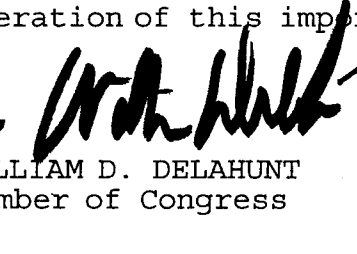
The Boston Harbor Islands partnership is comprised of 30 islands within a 50 square mile area of Boston Harbor. In 1996, Congress enacted legislation to create a unique national park partnership to recognize and preserve the rich cultural and natural resources of the islands. The Boston Harbor Islands are managed by a 13 member partnership of federal, state and local entities. Funding for the partnership is unique as well. Every federal dollar must be matched by three non-federal dollars.

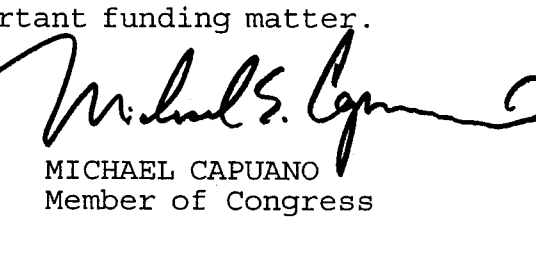
In Fiscal Year 2000, Boston Harbor Islands received \$382,000 to coordinate the partners, provide visitor information and orientation, and support a federal advisory committee. A \$340,000 increase in the operational account is necessary to fund a comprehensive resource management program that would protect the cultural and natural resources of the park as visitation to the park increases. Specifically, the increase in funding would protect two National Historic Landmarks -- Boston Light, the first lighthouse site, and Fort Warren, a Civil War prisoner's camp. President Clinton recognized the importance of additional funding for the park and included a \$340,000 operation increase in his Fiscal Year 2001 budget.

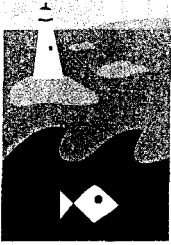
Thank you for your consideration of this important funding matter.

Sincerely,


JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY
Member of Congress


WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT
Member of Congress


MICHAEL CAPUANO
Member of Congress



**BOSTON
HARBOR
ISLANDS**

A national park area

**Boston Harbor Islands
A national park area**

**Congressional Briefing
April 5, 2000**

Boston Harbor Islands
Partnership

National Park Service
Terry W. Savage
George E. Price, Jr. — alternate &
project manager

United States Coast Guard
Captain Charles C. Beck
Commander Sue Bibeau — alternate

Massachusetts Department of
Environmental Management
Peter C. Webber
Todd Frederick — alternate

Metropolitan District Commission
David Balfour
Brian Broderick — alternate

Massachusetts Port Authority
Louis A. Cabral
James Doolin — alternate

Massachusetts Water
Resources Authority
Bob Durand, Partnership Chair
Douglas B. MacDonald — alternate

City of Boston
Cathleen Douglas Stone,
Partnership Vice-Chair
Andrea d'Amato — alternate

Boston Redevelopment Authority
Thomas N. O'Brien
Linda Mongelli Haar — alternate

Thompson Island Outward
Bound Education Center
Alden I. Giffard
George Armstrong — alternate

The Trustees of Reservations
Richard T. Howe
Lisa Vernegaard — alternate

Island Alliance
Maynard Goldman
Katherine F. Abbot — alternate

Boston Harbor Islands
Advisory Council
Edih Andrews
Rob Moir
Phil Lemnios — alternate
Claudia Smith-Reid — alternate

Purpose

Opportunity to present and discuss progress and the status of the plan for the Boston Harbor Islands with Congressional Delegation Members and Staff. Principal topics will include the draft General Management Plan which will be distributed for public comment starting April 28, and financial issues related to the matching requirement and GMP implementation costs. The meeting is the follow up requested by the Congressional offices at a similar briefing last spring.

Agenda

- 10:00 Introduction
Review of Island project and GMP alternatives
Partnership progress and early successes
- 10:15 Island Alliance update
State and City updates
- 10:25 Review of funding support and match documentation
- 10:40 Projected implementation costs for GMP
- 10:50 Questions and discussions
- 11:20 Next Steps

Partnership Representatives

Cathy Douglas Stone, Partnership Vice Chair, City of Boston
Peter Lewenberg, Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
Maynard Goldman, President, Island Alliance
Kathy Abbott, Executive Director, Island Alliance
Jack Wiggin, Chair, Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council
Virginia Mayer, Director of the Washington Office, City of Boston
Anne Gavin, Director of the Governor's Office for Federal/State Relations
George Price, Project Manager/Superintendent, Boston Harbor Islands,
NPS

Location

Members Conference Room
Room 235
Cannon Building

408 Atlantic Ave
Suite 228
Boston, MA
02110-3350

Park Information
617.223.8666

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Briefing Statement

July 27, 1999

State: MA

REGION/OFFICE: Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area

TITLE: Background & Talking Points

Park Purpose: When Congress designated the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area in 1996, it directed the National Park Service:

- (1) to preserve for public use and enjoyment the lands and waters that comprise the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area;
- (2) to manage the recreation area in partnership with the private sector, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, municipalities surrounding Massachusetts and Cape Cod Bays, the Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center, and Trustees of Reservations, and with historical, business, cultural, civic, recreational and tourism organizations;
- (3) to improve access to the Boston Harbor Islands through the use of public water transportation; and
- (4) to provide education and visitor information programs to increase public understanding of and appreciation for the natural and cultural resources of the Boston Harbor Islands, including the history of Native American use and involvement.

Management Structure: The park is managed by the **Boston Harbor Islands Partnership**, a 13-member management board appointed by the Secretary of the Interior which includes representatives from: National Park Service; U.S. Coast Guard; Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management; *Metropolitan* District Commission; Massachusetts Port Authority; City of Boston Office of Environmental Services; Boston Redevelopment Authority; Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center; Trustees of Reservation; Massachusetts Water Resources Authority; Island Alliance; 2 members from Boston Harbor Islands Advisory Council.

A Unique Model Because:

- 1200 acres; 30 islands; 50-sq. mi. area of harbor; no NPS land ownership but authority to spend appropriated funds according to approved Management Plan (in progress).
- Required 3:1 non-federal to federal match.
- Partners have agreed to manage park in accordance with NPS laws and standards.
- Legislated not-for-profit fundraising organization, the Island Alliance.

- Major focus on education for urban youth. City's population is 25% African-American, 10% Hispanic and 5% Asian. Park is easily accessible by water for day visits.

Status:

- Partnership has been meeting since June 1997.
- First meeting of Advisory Council was March 1998. This 28-member group called for in law advises the Partnership and provides continuity with grassroots efforts to protect the harbor and its islands.
- Bob Durand, Secretary for Environmental Affairs for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, was elected Partnership Chair, July 15, 1999. Peter Webber, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Management, was the first Partnership Chair, 1997 – 1999.
- Senator Kennedy, Senator Kerry, Congressman Moakley and Congressman Delahunt were successful in securing the authority to acquire an easement on Thompson Island using appropriated funds under H.R. 3910. This was a major accomplishment to assist with land protection within the Boston Harbor Islands.
- Working with island owners and managers, coordinating public information about programs and access to the islands for the 1998-99 visitor season.
- Collaborated with the MDC, DEM and Friends of Boston Harbor Islands Partner agencies, as well as NPS seasonal staff, to sponsor Information/Orientation program for the Boston Harbor Islands. Provided: seven-day staffed information kiosk at long wharf; established telephone information lines for visitor inquiries; supported special events; and began correspondence fulfillment program.
- Co-sponsoring a variety of public programs with the Island Alliance and with managers of the Boston Harbor Islands State Park -- Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and the Metropolitan District Commission -- the City of Boston and others.
- Developed Proposed Visitor Program for Federal Courthouse at Fan Pier with Island Alliance, Judges, and GSA. Now designing visitor information center at courthouse arcade with café, water taxi dock and other public amenities for opening in 1998. Secured a \$100,000 grant from Coke through the NPF for a Discovery Center at the Courthouse.
- The U.S. Coast Guard, Island Alliance, NPS, and Massport collaborated in the development of a pilot visitor program to Little Brewster, Boston Light, for the 1999 summer season.

Consultations with Native Americans:

- The Islands have been inhabited for thousands of years. Human remains have been found that are 4,100 years old, as well as artifacts 11,000 years old.
- Native American presence is extensively documented, and will be further researched as the park develops its interpretive and management plans.
- Because of historic use of the islands by Native Americans and the expressed interest of tribal representatives, NPS has begun a consultation process with the eight

federally recognized tribes with a cultural affiliation with New England during the King Phillip's war period (1675-76).

- 4 Members of the Advisory Council represent Native American interests.
- Several of the islands were used as internment camps during the King Phillip's war, 1675-76. In proportion to the population; this was the bloodiest war in American History and marked a turning point in race relations between the Indians and English settlers.
- Some of the Indian representatives have outstanding issues with the park's legislative language, feeling that the term "Recreation Area" is disrespectful of their ancestors who were interned on the islands during the war. These concerns are being addressed in park interpretive programs, and in the adoption of a marketing name for the park, but they have also been raised with the Congressional delegation.
- The Partnership adopted the marketing name "Boston Harbor Islands - A National Park Area" in response to this concern.
- Jill Lepore, a Boston University historian, recently published The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity. This book has been favorably reviewed in the national press (including the Globe) and by National Public Radio.
- Visits have been made by the Project Manager, BOHA, as the US Government Official to the Narragansett Indian Tribe, RI, and Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), MA, to learn about current issues and culture of the most local Federally Recognized Tribes with cultural affiliation with the Boston Harbor Islands.

Goals for the Future

The Boston Harbor Islands Partnership envisions a future where every child in the Boston area has enjoyed the pleasures of swimming in the clear waters of Boston harbor, has rambled the shores and beaches and explored the forts of at least a few of its 30 islands. We see an affordable ferry system linking the islands to other points of interest so that visitors from near or far can enjoy a day at the beach, a quiet nature walk, or a fascinating film that tells stories of the pirates and sailors, ghosts and lighthouse keepers making Boston's maritime history come alive. We see the new Spectacle Island marina and visitor center as a focal point from which people can start their island experience, which may include a City, State or National Park Service-sponsored program or a special event hosted by the Friends of the Boston Harbor Islands. Above all else, we see the islands as a living laboratory of coastal processes, and a teaching tool for future generations to learn how to care for our world in ways that are sustainable over time. What better place to do this than through this unique system of drowned drumlins, so near to an urban population yet with all the feel of a wilderness right in our own backyard?

CONTACT: George Price, NPS Project Manager 617-223-8666 fax 617-223-8671

