



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Fishing Heritage Center Announces Exhibit Examining the 50th Anniversary of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Management and Conservation Act opening May 14**

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**New Bedford, MA** – New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center (FHC) is excited to announce a new exhibit, *In History's Wake*, which explores the complicated history and legacy of the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). The exhibit will open to the public on Thursday, May 14, and will be on display at the Center through spring 2027.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act established the 200-mile limit – pushing out foreign factory ships – and laid the groundwork for much of the governance and oversight that manages the commercial fishing industry today. An important piece of legislation, MSA continues to provoke strong reactions on New Bedford's waterfront.

More than a mere examination of the MSA's legislative history, this exhibit examines the evolution of the industry and the often-challenging relationship between commercial fishermen, the state and federal government, environmentalists, and scientists. It also highlights the important role the local fishing community played in advocating for the 200-mile limit and how the contemporary industry continues to make its voice heard on the impacts of regulation, management decisions, and environmental concerns.

FHC will be hosting a free exhibit opening event during the May AHA! Night on Thursday, May 14, from 5:00pm until 7:30pm. The exhibit will be supported by tie-in programs throughout the year, including panel discussions, special talks, film screenings, and more. Learn more about *In History's Wake* by visiting the Center's website:

<https://fishingheritagecenter.org/in-historys-wake/>.

*In History's Wake* is funded with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, an Eversource Community Impact Grant, the Dartmouth, Mattapoissett, New Bedford, and Westport Cultural Councils, and the Helen Ellis Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee.

**About New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center.** Established in 2016, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center is located at 38 Bethel Street in New Bedford's Seaport Historic District and is dedicated to preserving and sharing the story of the commercial fishing industry, past, present, and future through exhibits, programs, and our growing archival collection. For more information, visit the Center's website at: [www.fishingheritagecenter.org](http://www.fishingheritagecenter.org).

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