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# New Bedford Fishermen's Pension Trust

114 MacArthur Drive • New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

April 27, 2016

U.S. Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Public Disclosure Room, N-1513 200 Constitution Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20210

RE:

Notice of Critical Status -- 2016

Marin de Arerais

Dear Sir/Madam:

Enclosed please find the Notice of Critical Status for 2016 from our Actuary, Basil Castrovinci, Jr., for the New Bedford Fishermen's Pension Fund.

Sincerely,

Maria DeF. Areias Administrator

Enclosure

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## **New Bedford Fishermen's Pension Plan**

114 Mac Arthur Drive, Suite 9, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740 (508) 996-5618

#### **2016 Notice of Critical Status**

This is to inform you that on March 31, 2016 the plan actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and also to the plan sponsor, that the plan is in critical and declining status for the plan year beginning January 1, 2016. Federal law requires that you receive this notice.

#### **Critical Status**

The plan is considered to be in critical and declining status because it has funding or liquidity problems, or both, and is not expected to improve. More specifically, the plan's actuary determined that the sum of the plan's normal cost and interest on the unfunded benefits for the current plan year exceeds the present value of all expected contributions for the year and the present value of vested benefits of inactive participants is greater than the present value of vested benefits of active participants and the Plan initially had an accumulated funding deficiency for 2010. The Plan was in critical status last year, is projected to continue to have funding deficiencies and is not expected to emerge from Critical Status.

#### **Rehabilitation Plan**

Federal law requires pension plans in critical status to adopt a rehabilitation plan aimed at restoring the financial health of the plan. This is the fifth year the plan has been in critical status. The law permits pension plans to reduce, or even eliminate, benefits called "adjustable benefits" as part of a rehabilitation plan. In November 2010, the Trustees adopted a Rehabilitation Plan and you were notified that the plan reduced the monthly benefit for future service to \$10 for a full year of service. The Trustees also eliminated adjustable benefits. On April 30, 2010, you were notified that the plan is not permitted to pay lump sum benefits (or any other payment in excess of the monthly amount paid under a single life annuity) while it is in critical status. If the trustees of the plan determine that further benefit reductions are necessary, you will receive a separate notice in the future identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions. Any reduction of benefits will not reduce the level of a participant's basic benefit payable at normal retirement.

# Adjustable Benefits - The plan eliminated the following adjustable benefits:

- Pre-Retirement death benefit
- Post-retirement death benefit
- Disability benefits (if not yet in pay status);

### **Employer Surcharge**

The law requires that all contributing employers pay to the plan a surcharge to help correct the plan's financial situation. The amount of the surcharge is equal to a percentage of the amount an employer is otherwise required to contribute to the plan under the applicable collective bargaining agreement. The employers all agreed to increase contributions by 10% commencing in 2011 and the 10% increase continues to be paid.

#### Where to Get More Information

For more information about this Notice, you may contact Ms. Maria DeF. Areias at 508-996-5618 or in writing at New Bedford Fishermen's Pension Plan, 114 MacArthur Drive, Suite 9, New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740. You have a right to receive a copy of the rehabilitation plan from the plan upon written required when available.