

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:  
August 5, 2015

Contact: Peter D'Agostino  
617.416.5344 cell  
[pdagostino@lynchassociates.net](mailto:pdagostino@lynchassociates.net)

**Mass Harbormasters Announce Port Security Grant Award**

The Massachusetts Harbormasters Association (MHA) is an organization founded to ensuring the public safety of the waters and waterways of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to promote the general welfare of the boating public. MHA has been developing a port security camera project for the past year. In cooperation with the United States Coast Guard and Massport, the MHA has designed a port security initiative that will protect all harbors from the northern border of Massachusetts to the Cape Cod Canal. These efforts have resulted in the award of \$1 million dollars in port security grant money from the federal government.

This new initiative will link all the ports and provide multiple agencies with access to viewing incidents that occur on the waters bordering the coastline. The security of our ports is essential to the Commonwealth and has historically been an area of grave concern in providing safe access to municipalities.

In addition to providing security against terrorism threats and protecting cargo coming in and out of Massachusetts, this initiative can provide quick response to safety incidents, like recovering lost or disabled boaters. Rescue and recovery efforts will now be able to span multiple water locations at the same time.

*"I was happy to see that the federal grant application was accepted and I look forward to working with my colleagues to secure the Commonwealth's portion of the necessary funding." Said Senator James E. Timilty, Senate Chairman of the Committee of Public Safety. "Securing the many ports of our coastline is critical to not only our defense but also a vital part of our economy. I look forward to continued work with the Mass Harbormasters Association, EOPSS, the Coast Guard, FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security to bring this important project to fruition."*

*From Massachusetts Harbormasters President Rosemary Lesch, "I am extremely pleased with the successful approval of our grant, and thank Vice-President Ken Corson, who led the effort to create a port security network offering robust protection of our coastline"*

The MHA is pleased their grant application was accepted and funded. In the coming months, this project will be initiated with the input and cooperation of the affected communities. The MHA will now work closely with the legislature and the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security to acquire the additional funding needed.

###