

New Bedford's New Fire Boat to Enhance Fire Department's Ability to Respond on the Water

On Monday, Mayor Jon Mitchell joined with Fire Chief Michael Gomes, members of the New Bedford Fire Department and other City officials to unveil a newly constructed fire boat that will enhance the Department's water response abilities. The new fire boat is the most recent example of the City's commitment to investing in the infrastructure and equipment needs of its public safety departments generally and specifically in its Fire Department.

Officials showcased the new purpose built vessel on Tuesday, August 16, at 12:30 P.M. at City Pier 3 on the New Bedford waterfront.

The Port of New Bedford is the number one value fishing port in the nation and generates more than \$1 billion in economic activity for the region. The fishing fleet of 500 lands over 133 million pounds of product annually. In addition to commercial fishing, the Port supports a diverse market of cargo transport and handles over \$230 million in shipping of bulk commodities and break-bulk cargo. The Port of New Bedford is also a popular destination for recreational boaters and has recently hosted an increasing number of rowing and sailing events. New Bedford also offers high-speed passenger service to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

All photos by Josh Souza.

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