



Town of Bristol, Rhode Island

Harbor Commission

10 Court Street
Bristol, RI 02809
401-253-7000

February 21, 2024

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND

Bristol Town Council
10 Court St.
Bristol, RI 02809

Subject: Harbor Commission Recommendation for Liability Insurance for
Boats Renting Slips at Town Docks for 2024

Dear Honorable Councilmen:

The Harbor Commission discussed at their meeting on February 5, 2024 the new Council requirement for Liability Insurance on boats that are renting from the Town. The Commercial Fishermen who have looked into this have found that Insurance Companies so far do not want to insure for Liability Insurance only. Also, it has been suggested that the Liability Insurance might be as high as \$500K. This would possibly double dock fees for the fishermen.

Additionally, the Harbor Management Plan in CF3 on page 49 reads as follows: "When reviewing the dock fees, if possible, consideration should be given for only moderate fee increases for commercial fishermen." (This Insurance requirement acts just like a fee increase) Also, the boats affected will need to be surveyed to get the insurance coverage required. There are 24 commercial boats at town owned slips.

A quick survey of all at the meeting suggests that most object & agree that another year is needed to further research this new insurance requirement.

James Dollins, Vice Chair
Harbor Commission

cc: Gregg Marsili – Harbormaster
Steven Contente – Town Administrator
Melissa Cordeiro – Town Clerk
Jim Dollins – Vice Chair