

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Region
State, Federal & Constituent Programs Office



REVISED COMPLETION REPORT

Grantee: GALILEE MISSION TO FISHERMEN, INC.

Project No: 94-FIG-056

Grant No: NA56FK0111

Project Title: SUPPORTIVE SERVICES TO THE RHODE ISLAND
FISHING COMMUNITY

Period Covered: 02/01/95 – 07/31/98

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Statutory Funding Authority: ☐ Anadromous Fish Conservation Act
P.L. 89-304)
☐ Chesapeake Bay Studies
☐ Endangered Species Act
☐ Interjurisdictional Fisheries
Act (Title III of P.L. 99-659)
☐ Magnuson Act
☐ Oyster Disease Research
☐ Saltonstall-Kennedy
☒ Unallied Industry Projects
☐ Unallied Science Projects
☐ ACFCMA

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**PROJECT FINAL REPORT
NOAA Award No. NA56FK0111**

I. Executive Summary

A major conclusion of this project was that training and education related to fishing was both needed and popular. Any type of support for improving skills around running a profitable business, legal assistance or fishing was sought after. In the area of employment and training for the purpose of changing careers, the project was of limited impact. The scope of services needed for such intervention was clearly beyond the capacity of the project. Meaningful education or training is a long-term and intricate process which requires, among other things, some means of income support. A venture to integrate the fishing community into the mainstream of services may, in retrospect, have been more effective.

II. Introduction

The enclosed information is a summary of the entire project's work from its beginning until the present. The period of time covered is quite lengthy and this may influence the compilation of some of the data.

III. Purpose

The purpose of NOAA Grant No. NA56FK0111 was to provide business and supportive services to the fishing community. The objective was to assist individuals negatively impacted by or unemployed as result of federal restrictions.

IV. Approach

- a. The initial approach was to provide consulting, training and support to 25 individuals who either wanted to leave fishing and start a new business of their own or strengthen an existing business. The plan was to utilize Bryant College's R.I. Small Business Development Center (RISBDC) to present a collaborative Fishing Community Program (FCP) combining support services, business consulting and training for individuals. In addition, the Galilee Mission was to operate a resource center for the purpose of doing community outreach, case management, job referral, financial counseling, as well as business support services such as skill training and business support.
- b. The principal operator of the grant or the grantee was the Galilee Mission to Fishermen, Inc. The Bryant College Small Business Development Center provided actual self-support services with their own staff. The Mission, in addition to its own administrative staff, purchased skill based training from various vendors, such as NorthEast Maritime Academy, Jamestown Marine, the University of Rhode Island and Vortex, Inc.

V. Findings

- a. Twenty-five individuals enrolled in the first phase of the project. 17 remained active throughout the period. They received individual counseling around such business support skills as computing, bookkeeping, business management and sales and ad marketing. It is thought that these skills should eventually prove meaningful to this group. In the business or resource center part of the effort , hundreds of individuals were served in various capacities. In specific training areas:
 1. Computer Classes - The Resource Center was set up with fine personal computers. Instructors were hired for specific class presentations. Participants: 25
 2. Legal Assistance - A private Maine attorney offered counseling bi-weekly. Participants: 21
 3. Tax Assistance - Periodically an accountant was hired to present classes on tax and record keeping. Participants: 14
 4. Able Body Seamen - A licensed fisherman was hired to present courses based on demand. Participants: 5
 5. Asbestos Removal Training - Classroom instruction purchased from recognized vendor, Vortex. Participants - 10
 6. Lead Abatement Training - Classroom instruction purchased from recognized vendor - Jamestown Marine. Participants: 12
 7. CPR/Marine First Aid - Classroom training purchased from recognized vendor - Jamestown Marine. Participants - 35
 8. Hazewopper - Classroom training purchased by recognized vendor - Jamestown Marine. Participants - 55
 9. Marine Skills - Classroom training was purchased from recognized vendor - NorthEast Maritime. Participants - 5
 10. RI Education Opportunity Center - Educational assessments offered at the Resource Center by college staff. Participants - 47
 11. Dept. of Labor and Training - Referrals made to state agency for purpose of job placement training. Participants - 26.
 12. Social Services - Referrals made to community agency for basic needs. Participants - 50
 13. Social Service Counseling - Directly by staff. Participants - 344

VI. Evaluation

- a. An estimated 1200 individuals have participated in this project over its course. Similar referrals for food or other basic needs often took more time than an educated assessment but received the same priority. For most of those who participated in courses, a successful completion was reported
- b. Specific accomplishments centered on the personal development of individual fishermen in career changes and also increasing the skill levels of others so as to better their productivity within the industry. In both of these areas there was some success.
- c. The project benefited the fishing industry by dealing with the needs of individuals and also focusing other resources on the overall problems of this group and the need for developing realistic responses to their situation.
- d. The project was able to upgrade the skills of many individuals and this was of benefit to the industry. Certainly this in service training issue was of real value and also seemed to generate some support from the principals involved. The project while successful with some individuals did not appear to be that successful in helping fishermen prepare for other types of careers.

- e. Federal assistance may be needed to increase the skill levels of the workers in the industry just as it is necessary in other industries. The notion that this type of assistance can be mingled with employment and training employment and training services in relation to a downsizing does not seem appropriate.

VII. Conclusion

- a. One conclusion is that the fishing industry is strong and active. It needs workers who are substance free and able to work. Skill building education in the quickly changing environment is an evident need. Education and training that can support a career change out of the industry is also a need and in order to be effective any programming should be based on real needs assessment. Who wants what and what they are willing to do to get it? The resources of the community's education and training system must also be used. Perhaps this should be the real focus. To bring that system into the rhythm of the industry.
- b. The project was most successful in demonstrating that there is a great deal of interest in supporting fishermen. The project attracted state, local and foundation support. It was also helpful in demonstrating that a motion of a single resource center both as a trade support and a social service support in a "one stop shopping" had little concrete support from anyone.
- c. The task that remains is to bring the social service, as well as, the education and training resources of the state to the fishermen in a meaningful way. The stand alone and removed strategy cannot replicate the resources of other systems.

