

discourse, engaging in principled advocacy, and creating strong community partnerships.

In 2004, Ms. Blunt-Bradley became President of the MWUL and under her leadership the organization successfully implemented the Achievement Matters Education Program. The Achievement Matters Campaign is an academic achievement initiative that will provide community and school-based interventions for children in Wilmington from grade 6 through to graduation. The program is designed to provide underprivileged children with the skills they will need to be competitive in the job market of tomorrow.

Ms. Blunt-Bradley's successful career did not begin at the MWUL; she has a long legacy of successful advocacy work. The American Council of Young Political Leaders honored Ms. Blunt-Bradley with the Gary L. McPherson Distinguished Alumni Award in 2003. Additionally, prior to working at the MWUL, Ms. Blunt-Bradley served as Secretary of Labor and Deputy Secretary of Health and Social Services for the State of Delaware. In those roles she oversaw the day-to-day management of the largest agency in the State of Delaware with approximately 4,500 employees. Her supervisory responsibilities included providing services to individuals with disabilities, and providing emergency shelter for the homeless. In addition, as the State agency's liaison to the Delaware General Assembly, she worked on issues such as child support enforcement legislation and regulation of managed healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to once again commend Ms. Blunt-Bradley on her success while at the helm of the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League. Lisa's constant professionalism, tireless leadership, and appetite for hard work have improved the lives of countless children and adults in Wilmington and throughout the State of Delaware.

IN HONOR OF 15TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ARMENIA'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and honor the nation of Armenia and all people of Armenian descent. Today marks the 15th anniversary of Armenia's independence, and is a proud day for the people of a country that has struggled for so long and succeeded so greatly.

The mass killing of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Empire was the first genocide of the 20th century. I am proud that the United States stood by as an ally to Armenia at that time and has continued to do so throughout the last century. During the cold war, the United States championed the rights of the Armenian people to be independent, and was one of the first countries to recognize that independence in 1991.

As one of the first countries in post Soviet Union Europe to embrace the ideals of freedom and democracy, Armenia has taken great strides down the path of democratic change and development. All of this has been done in the shadow of the great adversity that these proud people have endured. Over the last fifteen years the Armenians have proven their commitment to democratic values and a secure and stable Caspian region.

My district in California is home to thousands of Armenians who I am grateful to have worked with and become friends with during my time in Congress. They, and all Armenian people, deserve our most heartfelt congratulations on this momentous anniversary.

FISHING RULES TAKE THEIR TOLL

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in my representation of the City of New Bedford, I have of course spent a significant amount of time on matters affecting the fishing industry that is so vitally important to that community, economically, culturally, and in every other relevant way. In doing so, I have benefited from the wisdom and experience of a number of people involved in the fishing industry, one of whom is Deb Shrader, the executive director of an excellent organization called Shore Support Inc.

As part of a very useful series that the New Bedford Standard Times is carrying on the fishing industry, Deb Shrader published an article in the Standard Times for September 20, which gives an excellent summary of the difficult economic position in which current fishing policy puts so many hardworking people and their families. I hope my colleagues will read this because they will understand why I am working as hard as I am for amendments to the Magnuson Act, which will thoroughly recognize the legitimate economic interests of people in the fishing industry and will do so in ways that do not jeopardize any valid environmental concerns.

Mr. Speaker, no one should be voting on fishing issues without having a full understanding of the matters that Deb Shrader discusses so well, and for that reason I ask that her article from the Wednesday, September 20, Standard Times be printed here.

[From the Standard Times, Sept. 20, 2006]

FISHING RULES TAKE THEIR TOLL

(By Deb Shrader)

How fishing regulations affect the people in a fishing community is nearly a taboo subject. Though the Magnuson Act of 1976 requires that the social and economic impact of fishing regulations be studied, in fact the impacts are rarely measured, the information that is gathered is considered anecdotal or it's ignored. Measuring the cumulative effects of these omissions is impossible, much like retracing the steps of a dinosaur after their extinction.

Presently, Shore Support, Inc. is working with UMass Dartmouth and its School for Marine Science and Technology, and economics Professor Dan Georgianna, to study the most recent effects of regulations on groundfishermen. We have been meeting with fishermen, aboard their boats, to talk with them. I recently spoke with members of a crew who, after spending 10 days at sea, working two nine-hour shifts with three hours rest in between, came home to a paycheck of \$750. If you work out the 18 hour day, multiply by 10, and then divide the \$750 by the 180 hours worked, these fishermen worked for well below minimum wage at about \$4 an hour. The high cost of fuel, coupled with the low prices for fish make me wonder why they still "go down to the sea in ships," and I'm not afraid to ask that question of groundfishermen. The answer is usually that they are fishermen through and

through, and with most of the men in their mid to late forties, the idea of starting at the bottom of a ladder in a new trade is more than depressing. They are used to the unique lifestyle of commercial fishing with its sense of independence, competitiveness and chance to work close to nature.

In 2005, Professor Georgianna and I published a study called "Employment, Income and Working Conditions in New Bedford's Offshore Fisheries." As part of this study, we visited and spoke with the captains and crews from more than half of the offshore scallop and groundfish boats that call New Bedford home port, and are 50 feet or longer.

In this study, working with fishermen and settlement houses, we put a human perspective on the industry. After meeting with crew from more than 200 boats, we found that the workers in the industry are rapidly aging. The average age of a scalloper is 40 with 19 years at sea; the average age of a groundfisherman is 46 with an average of 26 years at sea. These fishermen are professionals with many years of experience, in some cases more than half their lives. During our entire process, we spoke with only four groundfishermen who were 25 years old or younger. We attribute this to the fact that fishing is so very dangerous, that considering the difficulties and insecurities created by a regulatory system, young men are not choosing to fill their father's boots, a practice in previous generations that has kept our port so strong. In fact, many fishermen discourage their children from joining them on the boats. Instead, they discourage their sons from being involved in an industry that has become too complicated and laden with bureaucracy.

It has been predicted that the Port of New Bedford will lose approximately \$15 million due to the changes presented in the most recent Framework 42 (a framework is a process for amending a fisheries plan) of the groundfish regulatory system. Please keep in mind that because we have an offshore fleet, our boats are larger and carry more men than some of the coastal fisheries in other areas. Each groundfishing boat carries three to five men. At the end of each fishing trip, the boat owner and crew split the proceeds. The boat owner usually gets 50 percent of the value of the fish caught, while the crew splits the remaining 50 percent (after expenses like fuel, food, and ice are deducted). Each groundfishing boat represents four to six families' incomes. If this community loses \$15 million in commerce from these regulatory changes, \$7.5 million will be removed from fishermen and their families, which has a wider spread effect than a corporate loss. This would mean \$7.5 million less to pay mortgages and auto loans held by local banks, less to buy groceries in local markets and home goods at the local mall. If you think this crisis will not affect you because you are not involved in this noble industry, you are wrong. These types of losses in a community with rampant unemployment will be devastating to all.

New Bedford is also one of the last great ports as far as what is available for shoreside support industries. The failing of the industry in Gloucester, and other smaller ports, has already caused a collapse of the net makers, dredge builders, welders, ice makers, chandlers, and other support industries in those ports. New Bedford has become one of the last remaining sources for supplies and labor on which all the boats depend. The big question is whether these crucial support industries will survive this regulatory process. Many of these are small businesses and are presently carrying a great deal of debt owed by the boat owners who have a difficult time