



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 16, 2005

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### SPEAKER DIMASI APPOINTS REPRESENTATIVE STRAUS TO STATE FISHERIES COMMISSION

(Boston) Rep. Bill Straus (D-Mattapoisett) announced today that he has been appointed by House Speaker Salvatore DiMasi as a legislative member to the Massachusetts Fisheries Recovery Commission. The Commission was created by the Legislature in 1996 to develop scientific and economic research for aiding in the recovery of the Massachusetts commercial fishing industry. The Commission includes numerous governmental, academic and industry members under the co-chairmanship of Dr. Brian Rothschild of Umass Dartmouth and Paul Diodati the Massachusetts Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries.

“I am very much aware of the commercial fishing industry’s importance to the state’s overall economy and to those small, often family-owned businesses, which make fishing part of the unique fabric of coastal communities in the South Coast”, said Speaker DiMasi. “Bill has developed a particular expertise in fishery issues as a long time member of the Environment Committee and from the nature of his district which includes significant portions of the fishing industry in Fairhaven”, added the Speaker.

“I am honored by the appointment and look forward to the additional opportunity to assist this region as a member of the Commission” said Representative Straus. “The fishing industry is an important component of the Massachusetts economy contributing an estimated \$850 million annually to the economy of New Bedford and Fairhaven alone”, he continued.

The Commission includes a number of Southcoast based individuals in addition to Dr. Rothschild including Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford), Robert Bruno, James Kendall, Marty Manley of the New Bedford Harbor Commission and fisherman Michael O’Malley.