

A message from Bill Rock
Chairman, Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission

The Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management is responsible for all activity from mean high water to the center of the channel and waters immediately off the Stratford Coast as well as the development of waterside properties along the Stratford Waterfront. This includes the waters of the Housatonic River, the Long Island Sound shoreline and Lewis's gut.

This commission is actually two organizations in one. As the Harbor Management Commission it handles the facilities that are under its jurisdiction. As the Waterfront Authority, it has powers vested by the state of Connecticut and endorsed by the Town of Stratford dealing primarily with any and all construction that borders the shoreline as designated by the State Coastal Management Act.

One of the primary areas of jurisdiction of the commission is the Birdseye Street Launching complex, which includes the launching ramps, docks, fishing pier, Coast Guard Auxiliary dock, refreshment stand and parking lot. The commission issues launching permits, and maintains the facilities. It also has jurisdiction of three other launching ramps. They include Breakwater Key, bonds dock and the foot of Broad Street.

We own the harbormaster vessel which is operated by a state appointed harbormaster who executes the directives of our commission in addition to state boating regulations. We also own, operate, and maintain a pump out boat for the purpose of pumping waist from privately owned vessels to help keep Stratford's waterways clean.

The commission is also the steward of the Stratford Water Safety Plan, which is an initiative promoting cooperation among the safety entities on Stratford's waterways. Included are the Stratford Police Marine Unit, the Stratford Fire Marine Unit, the Harbormaster and the Stratford Flotilla of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary.

The Stratford Waterfront and Harbor Management Commission is working to make our waterfront a more enjoyable and valuable part of the town of Stratford.