The institute assisted the City of Gloucester with development of a new Municipal Harbor Plan and Designated Port Area (DPA) Master Plan, replacing the previous plan completed in 1999. Working with the city’s Harbor Plan Implementation Committee, the institute researched, updated, and mapped information on the physical environment, marine-related uses, the status and trends of the commercial fishing industry, recreational boating, and public access opportunities. The plan contains recommendations on commercial fishing, berthing, processing, port security, visitor-based economy, dredging, and transportation. The plan’s most significant recommendations:

1. Support the traditional fishing industry and marine infrastructure by attracting and expanding compatible industries to reinvest in existing marine assets and knowledge base of the community.

2. Maximize the amount of supporting uses allowable under the state’s Chapter 91 regulations to provide waterfront property owners with additional sources of revenue while the groundfish industry recovers.

3. Promoting public access along the waterfront in ways that do not interfere with the working waterfront to further activate the harbor, and

4. Integrate harbor management with the city’s economic development functions.

Funded by the City of Gloucester with a grant from the Massachusetts Seaport Council. The plan was approved by the Commonwealth’s Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in December 2009.