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Save the Harbor to splash on March 5 to save free beach programs this summer

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More than 250 people took part in last year's Harpoon Shamrock Splash, which raised more than \$40,000 for free beach events in 2016.

More than 250 brave beach-lovers will plunge into the icy waters of Boston Harbor at the BCYF Curley Community Center on Carson Beach in South Boston on March 5th at the **Harpoon Shamrock Splash** to raise money to support free events and programs on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket this summer after DCR Commissioner Leo Roy indicated that the Baker Administration's most recent round of budget cuts will prevent his agency from investing in the Better Beaches program this year.

This round of cuts includes a \$5 million cut in DCR's operating budget and a \$400,000 reduction for seasonal staff. They also include cuts to the Metropolitan Beaches budget line, including \$50,000 for algae removal in Lynn, Swampscott and Nahant and \$100,000 for free beach events and programs this summer.

"This year's splash is more important than ever before" said Bruce Berman, Director of Strategy & Communications at Save the

Harbor/Save the Bay. "With deep cuts to DCR's metropolitan beaches budget this year, all the funds we raise will support **Save the Harbor/Save the Bay's Better Beaches Program** to fund another great summer of free events and youth programs on the beach from Nahant to Nantasket."

This year's splash will be better than ever, with refreshing Harpoon beer, real food from b.good and music by the Mix 104.1 & AMP 103.3 street teams. And of course there are many chances to win free flights from our partners at JetBlue and great swag from Harpoon for best costumes, biggest fundraisers and just for taking the plunge.

Registration for this year's **Harpoon Shamrock Splash** is just \$20 at www.shamrocksplash.org You must be 21 or older to take participate. All proceeds go to support free events and programs on the region's public beaches in 2017. Find out more about the event and the impact of the cuts on Save the Harbor's



blog at www.blog.savetheharbor.org

Thanks to the **Metropolitan Beaches Commission**, the **Department of Conservation and Recreation** and the more than 700 people who made pledges in support of the **2016 Harpoon Shamrock Splash**. Thanks as well to Save the Harbor's **Better Beaches** program and policy partners and event sponsors at Harpoon Brewery, JetBlue, b.good, Keezer Sportswear, The Boston Foundation, Harold Whitworth Pierce Charitable Trust, Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, MarineMax Russo, P&G Gillette, National Grid, Comcast, Google, Mix 104.1, AMP 103.3 and Boston Centers for Youth & Families, Sullivans Castle Island and the YMCA of Greater Boston for their support.

About the Better Beaches Program

Save the Harbor launched the **Better Beaches Program** in 2008 to help local communities and beaches friends groups create and sustain free events and activities on the region's public beaches from Nahant to Nantasket, as recommended by the Metropolitan Beaches Commission, which we help lead and manage for the Legislature.

Over the past 8 years, Save the Harbor's community partners in Nahant, Lynn, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, South Boston,

Dorchester, Quincy and Hull have leveraged \$628,700 in small grants received from Save the Harbor/Save the Bay with \$1,918,065 in cash and in-kind contributions from local government and small businesses for a total investment of \$2,504,725 in 391 free events and programs for the region's residents and visitors alike.

In 2016, with the support of Save the Harbor's foundation funders, program partners, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and hundreds of volunteers, the Better Beaches Program awarded \$219,442 in small grants and organizational support to 43 groups in 9 beachfront communities and waterfront neighborhoods. In turn, these groups leveraged those funds to support 107 free concerts, fitness boot-camps, beach festivals, sand raking demonstrations and sand sculpting competitions.

You can download a copy of the most recent Better Beaches program report on our website at savetheharbor.org/Content/2016YouthReport.pdf

For more information about Save the Harbor/Save the Bay and the work they do to restore, protect and share Boston Harbor, the Boston Harbor Islands and our region's public beaches, visit their website at www.savetheharbor.org, their blog "Sea, Sand & Sky" at blog.savetheharbor.org, or follow savetheharbor on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram