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TO: Jill R. Goldsmith, Town Manager  
Select Board

CC:

FROM: Robert Duncanson, Ph.D., Director of Health & Natural Resources

DATE: January 27, 2023

SUBJECT: Update II – Fish Pier South Jog Bulkhead Replacement Project

MAS Building & Bridge, Inc., Project Contractor, received replacement steel sheets for the bulkhead starting last Friday with additional shipments this week. Installation of the replacement sheets began at the south corner of the Main Bulkhead/South Jog progressing north toward the Packing Building. Installation progressed smoothly until an obstruction was encountered about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way along, approximately 2½-3' below the mudline. The presence of the obstruction was unexpected as this is an area where sheets had been driven previously with no issues. The Contractor attempt to remove the obstruction without success. Concurrent with the obstruction there was a minor failure in a small section of the existing bulkhead. Divers are mobilizing to the site Monday to help ascertain what the obstruction might be. The situation is being monitored by MAS, their engineer, Foth (the Town's engineer) and Pomroy Associates.

To keep the Project moving the Contractor moved to the South Jog itself and started installing sheets on the north side of the South Jog from the corner eastward. After successfully installing 5 pairs of sheets noises were heard and a section of the old bulkhead (roughly 50-years old) pulled away from the concrete pad. It is believed a number of the old tie rods that span across the South Jog from side to side failed, the reason for the failure unknown. Luckily no one was hurt. The failure does not extend along the whole length as the seaward end has tie roads that were replaced following the 2015 partial concrete pad collapse when an excavator was on the South Jog. The Contractor, Engineer, and Pomroy Associates are reviewing the situation and developing a plan to safely continue work.

While these occurrences are troubling and frustrating for all involved, they highlight the critical importance of replacing the roughly 50-year old bulkhead.