



**CITY OF NEW BEDFORD**  
**JONATHAN F. MITCHELL, MAYOR**

March 5, 2020

City Council President Joseph P. Lopes and  
Honorable Members of the City Council  
City Hall  
133 William St.  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Council President Lopes and Honorable Members of the City Council:

Attached for the Council's consideration are proposed amendments to Chapter 9, Section 1200 of the City's Code of Ordinances, clarifying the definition of seafood processing and light manufacturing, and adding a definition for seafood products, consistent with the proposed amended definitions.

The Code's definitions for seafood processing were established in 2003 to help address concerns that potential fish waste odors produced during traditional seafood processing operations could negatively impact nearby properties. Over the last seventeen years, however, the technology and methods of seafood processing have evolved dramatically, such that, today, certain types of operations no longer produce the waste (and consequently, the related odors) which were of concern in the past.

The proposed amendments seek to update the definition of seafood processing to reflect changes in technology and methods, so that the City can continue to restrict operations that may produce objectionable waste odors, while permitting the appropriate siting of operations that do not generate these impacts.

The proposed definitional change has been made in close consultation with the New Bedford Port Authority. In recent years, the Port has seen sustained, significant growth in the processing sector as other East Coast ports continue to relocate processing operations to New Bedford, and local processors expand their operations. The proposed changes will ensure that the Port maximizes its opportunities to take advantage of these industry trends, and stays competitive in the years ahead.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Mitchell  
Mayor



# CITY OF NEW BEDFORD

In the Year Two Thousand and Twenty

## AN ORDINANCE

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### Amending Chapter 9 Zoning

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31- 509

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of New Bedford as follows:—

#### SECTION 1.

Chapter 9, Section 1200 is hereby amended by inserting or amending the following definitions:

*Fish processing:* A process by which harvested seafood is eviscerated, resulting in a by-product.

*Seafood products:* The portions of seafood remaining for consumption after processing.

*Light manufacturing:* Fabrication, assembly, processing, finishing work of packaging, including seafood products, but excluding fish processing.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A of the General Laws.