

# BOSTON Herald

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## Clean harbor called boon for Boston

Findings: Project  
brought residents  
jobs, development

By **SCOTT VAN VOORHIS**

The Hub's waterfront saw an explosion in residents, jobs and developments in the wake of the multibillion-dollar cleanup of once-filthy Boston Harbor, a report released yesterday shows.

Neighborhoods on Boston's waterfront saw a population boom of 12 percent during the 1990s, accounting for the majority of Boston's residential growth in that decade, the study found. The activist group Save the Harbor/Save the Bay distributed the report.

As office high-rises took shape and businesses moved in, waterfront neighborhoods, such as Charlestown, East Boston and South Boston, saw job growth of nearly 30 percent, the study found.

But the biggest gains may come in the next two decades, with several block-buster projects in the works that could bring a further influx of residents and businesses to the harbor's edge, the report states.

Overall, \$21 billion has been spent over the past 20 years on everything from harbor cleanup to the Big Dig, which created highway connections to the Southie waterfront.

"These public investments have set the stage for the renaissance of Boston Harbor," said Patricia Foley, the Harbor group's president.

Still, the report's release comes as a number of planned waterfront megadevelopments have stalled, despite years of grand pronouncements by City Hall and various developers.

Chicago's billionaire Pritzker family has put its Fan Pier site on South Boston's waterfront up for sale after two decades of start-and-stop development efforts. Up for grabs is a \$1.2 billion development plan and 16 harbor-side acres near Anthony's Pier 4 and the Fan Pier federal courthouse.

Next door, Hub business executive Frank McCourt is selling his acreage of mostly undeveloped parking lots, a move that comes after years of equally ambitious plans but no development.



STAFF PHOTO BY TARA BRICKING

**GOOD NEWS: Maryann Gilligan, left, and Patty Foley, are delighted by the report.**

The report does not mention these stalled development plans — an omission defended by Paul Grogan, head of the Boston Foundation, which helped pay for the research.

Grogan contends that the study will play a helpful role in moving forward development by highlighting the harbor's importance.

Meanwhile, the harbor report predicts that the next two decades will see more than \$8 billion in fresh waterfront development, creating 47,000 jobs and 7,000 homes. Among the projects on the drawing boards are Fan Pier to a hotel and condo tower under construction at 500 Atlantic Ave.