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**Mayoral Challenge Issued for 2015 Annapolis-to-Newport Race
Pantelides bets bushel of crabs, Napolitano wages bucket of lobsters**

ANNAPOLIS, MD (May 13, 2015) – Annapolis mayor Mike Pantelides is planning a lobster bake to be held shortly after the 2015 Annapolis-to-Newport Race concludes.

During an environmental conference in April, Pantelides issued a friendly “Mayoral Challenge” to his Newport counterpart Jean-Marie Napolitano. Pantelides wagered a bushel of Chesapeake Bay blue crabs against a bucket of New England lobsters that an Annapolis boat would beat a Newport boat in the 35th biennial distance race that connects the two historic seaport towns.

“I absolutely love lobster and I am really looking forward to sharing the spoils of victory with the Naval Academy crew that is racing on behalf of Annapolis,” Pantelides said.

Napolitano believes Pantelides won’t have to worry about buying a boiling pot or melting butter and said he should start thinking about how he’s going to ship a bushel of crabs to Rhode Island.

“We truly look forward to receiving the crabs and please don’t forget the Old Bay seasoning,” Napolitano said.

Both mayors will be rooting for their respective entries in the 2015 Annapolis-to-Newport entry. Annapolis will be represented by *Corsair*, a TP52 campaigned by the United States Naval Academy. Competing on behalf of Newport is *Prospector*, a Farr 60 that is raced by a syndicate known as Shelter Island Transatlantic Partners.

“*Corsair* and *Prospector* have very similar ratings so it should be a fair fight,” said Dick Neville, co-chairman of the Annapolis-to-Newport Race. “The Farr 60 is bigger and older while the TP52 is smaller and newer. We will determine the winner based on corrected time.”

Corsair was donated to the Naval Academy by New York owner Austin Fragomen, who had much success with the boat under the name of *Interlodge*. Midshipman second class Charlie Morris (Manhasset, N.Y.) will serve as skipper of *Corsair* for the Annapolis-to-Newport Race.

“Here in America’s Sailing Capital, we couldn’t be prouder that Mayor Pantelides chose a Navy Varsity Offshore Sailing Team boat to represent him and the City of Annapolis,” said Commander Les Spanheimer, Deputy Director of Naval Academy Sailing.

The Navy Varsity Offshore Sailing Team has a long history of competing in the Annapolis-to-Newport Race, aboard both donated boats and its 44-foot training vessels. *Swift*, one of the academy's older McCurdy & Rhodes-designed 44s, has captured class honors on two occasions (1993, 2011). Navy has entered a total of five boats in this year's Annapolis-to-Newport Race, which starts June 5 and 6 on the Chesapeake Bay.

"The Annapolis to Newport race has been a centerpiece of our summer training calendar since its inception," Commander Spanheimer said. "Of course, we view this race as not only another shot at winning some silver but also one of the best leadership development challenges at an institution entrusted to develop our nation's future leaders. Racing a TP-52, offshore against the best boats and crews in America – that's a fantastic leadership challenge!"

The Mayoral Challenge will be somewhat personal for Naval Academy junior Ryan Jaenke, the executive officer aboard *Corsair*. Jaenke is an Annapolis resident and Broadneck High graduate and thus has particular interest in championing his hometown's interests. Newport will also be represented on the Navy boat as freshman Andrew Bilden is the grinder onboard.

Rounding out the crew is junior Jack Cathcart (Greenwood, SC), sophomores Phil Campbell (Louisville, KY), Charles Stabler (Ocala, FL), Mike Usoz (Los Gatos, CA) and Mike Madigan (Los Angeles) along with freshmen Ted Decker (Chicago), Pat Francis (Woodbridge, CT), Ben Hynes (Pasadena, CA), Will Johnson (Boston), Teddy Papenthien (Fort Collins, CO) and K Parriott (Murray, NE).

Prospector was purchased for the specific purpose of competing in the upcoming Transatlantic Race and is using Annapolis-to-Newport as an important preparatory event. Larry Landry and Paul McDowell are the managing partners while Jeffrey Hughes, Dave Siwicki, Jeff Pribor and Brendan Brownyard round out the ownership group.

"We're very excited to be sailing on behalf of Newport and intend to do our best to get the mayor her bushel of crabs," said Terry Glackin, program manager for *Prospector*.

This particular Farr 60 is a proven commodity in the Annapolis-to-Newport Race, having set the course record while named *Carrera* and owned by Joseph Dockery. Skipper Chris Larson and crew completed the 475-nautical mile course in 42 hours, 58 minutes and 12 seconds during the 2001 edition.

"We're hoping there isn't too much pure downwind sailing because that would favor the TP52," Glackin said. "If it's primarily upwind and reaching conditions, our boat will be fine."

Mayor Pantelides and Mayor Napolitano spent considerable time working together during a two-part environmental conference focused on water quality, the dangers of rising sea levels and flooding. Annapolis and Newport agreed to develop shared resiliency plans that include stormwater management, green infrastructure, alternative energy solutions and innovation hubs. Plans call for collaborative efforts from the public and private sector to plan for preparedness in both regions.

"Our cities share so many attributes from the presence of U.S. Naval bases, thriving seaports, national historic properties, and of course our love of sailing," Napolitano said. "The race has

instilled a bonding of Annapolis and Newport unlike any other regatta in our community. We are honored to have the tradition with Annapolis and truly look forward to this event.”

This is not the first Mayoral Challenge surrounding the Annapolis-to-Newport Race. In 1987, then-Annapolis mayor Dennis Callahan was forced to ship a bushel of crabs to then-Newport mayor Patrick Kirby after a Coast Guard Academy boat beat a Naval Academy boat. City Hall staff found an old poster that Callahan had printed conceding that Annapolis lost the challenge that stated “I.O. Hizhona!” and congratulated the Coast Guard crew aboard *Evolution* for beating the Navy’s *Conquest*.

“Obviously, we need to even the score and I am very confident the Naval Academy will do so,” Pantelides said. “Who better than the Navy to represent Annapolis interests on the high seas?”

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For more information, please contact:

Margriet Mitchell
Media Chair, A2N
media@annapolisnewportrace.com

Linda Ambrose
AYC Regatta Manager
info@annapolisnewportrace.com

The official A2N event website: annapolisnewportrace.com