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# CAPE COD COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ALLIANCE

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

*An e-magazine about our fishing community –  
who we are, how we fish and our connection to the sea*

January 30, 2020

## Fish Tales

### A matter of trusts

After years of research, discussions, and painstaking planning, the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust had a rather unusual beginning.

Paul Parker, executive director at the time, was on his second date with his future wife when they met a fisherman just off the highway.



"I remember bringing a \$315,000 check to a rest stop in New Hampshire and he handed me a bill of sale," Parker said.

That sale was the first of many, mostly funded by loans from foundations and local banks as well as donations from Hookers Ball attendees and others who thought protecting the Cape's small boat fishery was worth the investment.

The purchase of permits, or more specifically quota on permits – cod, haddock, pollock, redfish, hake, blackback flounder and others – was meant to keep Cape fishermen fishing. The quota, kept in a "bank," would be leased locally at a reduced rate.

The experiment, the first in New England, worked. Now there are several permit banks in the region: Maine, Boston, Gloucester, Martha's Vineyard, and fishermen are trying to start one in New Bedford.

And Parker, having moved on from the trust in 2017, founded a national organization, Catch Together. It invests capital to support fishermen, fishing communities and ocean conservation and helps establish more permit

## On the Horizon

We have lots of exciting stuff happening.



Mark your calendars now and join us for fish talks, fun and food at our very popular *Meet the Fleet*. Upcoming dates: April 29, June 24, August 26 and October 28. And it's never too early to start thinking about summer. Save the date for Hookers Ball XIX on Saturday, August 1.



New year, new you? Like to run? The Fishermen's Alliance was awarded 15 bibs as part of the Numbers for Nonprofits program in the New Balance Falmouth Road Race. We are now accepting applications for runners to join us on race day Sunday, August 16. The fundraising commitment for each runner is \$1,500 that goes directly to helping us work to ensure the viability and future of Cape Cod's fisheries. To be a part of our #fishrunfalmouth team, click [here](#).



We are looking to add to our growing list of Sponsors for 2020. If you would like to partner with

banks, tailored to the needs of communities around the world.

*The story continues here ...*

Photo by David Hills/Fishy Pictures

## Plumbing the Depths

### Fish on Fridays just the beginning

Broad Reach CEO Bill Bogdanovich remembers when a family member of one of the residents at The Victorian, Broad Reach's



assisted living residence in Chatham, provided lobster, fresh off the boat, for everybody's lunch – as in dozens of people.

“Heck of a day,” said Bogdanovich with a grin.

Those days could become the new normal if a plan championed by the Fishermen's Alliance becomes a reality.

We've contacted facilities across the Cape that serve seniors to see if there is an interest in serving more fish from local captains. To gauge interest, the Fishermen's Alliance secured funding from Cape Cod Healthcare to send a survey to facilities up and down the Cape.

*The story continues here...*

## Aids to Navigation

### Working on the water can mean many things

Before Greg Skomal, internationally known shark scientist, spoke to 400 or so high school students gathered at the Cape Cod Community College, a video about last year's WaterWORKS event was projected on a big screen.



One student made an on-camera confession.

“I didn't know about any of these opportunities,” he said, speaking of the myriad water-related industries and nonprofits he had just visited with as part of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce's Blue Economy career day.

People say you have to go off Cape for good, well-paying fulfilling jobs, he continued.

“It just goes to show you really don't,” he said.

us, show your support, gain exposure for your business, and enjoy event benefits, please reach out to [Jennifer](#).



Thanks to our readers we received more

than 50 new subscribers to our e-mag. We appreciate the support and have picked a winner for our bag of swag - Pauline Garron, who found out about this salty publication through her daughter Michelle DeSilva.

## On the Water

Ever wonder how a boat, or a fish, got its name? Want the word on what people are catching --- or how to cook it?



Like many people in Chatham and

beyond, we have always had a special place in our hearts for the Eldredge family dock on Stage Harbor. The town bought the property from the fishing family a few years ago and knows the wisdom of keeping the spot available for the commercial fleet – particularly since the fish pier on the other side of town has recurring, increasing shoaling issues. Nonetheless, it still hurts to see it dismantled. Recently we had a chance to video some of the wood pilings being removed, you can watch it [here](#). Plans call for the dock to be replaced with concrete decks secured by steel pilings. Since we captured the end of an era, we thought it appropriate to once again share a [podcast](#) of Shareen Davis, now chair of Chatham's board of selectmen and long-time trap fisherman with her husband Ernie Eldredge, talking about her family's attachment to the place.

*The story continues here...*

## Charting the Past

### Saying goodbye to Napi

By Seth Rolbein

The week before Christmas the phone rang at the Fishermen's Alliance office and Napi was talking, which meant I needed to stop and pay attention because anytime Napi started talking you needed to focus. His mind was able to connect disparate, startling, shocking, brilliant, disquieting, cantankerous, but ultimately satisfying elements at a moment's notice.



"I've been going through my archives," he said, "and I came across an article you wrote years ago for *Yankee Magazine*. It was called 'One More Tow,' do you remember?"

"Of course I do," I told him. "The Patricia Marie, the scalloper that went down with all hands, the worst maritime tragedy in Provincetown's recent history."

I imagined him sitting in his cluttered dark office above the iconic restaurant he and his wife Helen opened in 1975. Originally a place where people showed up for communal dinners, talking art and politics, Napi's evolved into a warm, eccentric, year-round institution. Napi could be found early evenings at the edge of the bar with a drink and crossword puzzle, ready to engage anyone he found interesting. He had opinions about pretty much anything, and they'd get more insistent as the drinks went down.

*Story continues here ...*

## Alliance alumni From Flipper to Fisheries

*One wonderful result of having longevity in this fisheries world is that over time, many talented and committed people have made their way to our doorstep, accomplished a great deal while here, and then used those experiences to springboard into other fascinating jobs and positions within the broader fishing community.*



*We thought it would be fun to visit and revisit some of our friends and former colleagues, to find out what they've been up to since, well, you might say "graduation" from the Fishermen's Alliance. Claire Fitz-Gerald, who is now*

## On the Shore

This community thrives in large part because of a constellation of non-profit organizations and engaged businesses.



This year has started out busy, with opportunities to work with several organizations we are proud to know. On Jan. 7 our Research Coordinator George Maynard, Fisheries Trust Director Seth Rolbein, Policy Coordinator Amanda Cousart, and commercial fishermen Sam Linnell, Rob Martin and Rob Curtis all showed up at the second annual WaterWORKS at Cape Cod Community College, showcasing job and career opportunities on and along the water to high school students. We were a sponsor; Doreen Leggett, our community journalist, is on the planning committee and our CEO John Pappalardo is chair of the Blue Economy Foundation. Read more in our related [story](#).



Also in early January, Seth Rolbein was the guest speaker at the Chatham Women's Club and told a full house at the Chatham Marconi Maritime Center all about Ada "Tiny" Worthington and her fishnet fashion industry that was known around the world. Read more in this [article](#) or watch this Cape Cod Media Center [video](#) of Diana Worthington remembering her mom's style and how her love for trap fishing nets helped Truro survive the Great Depression.



We are happy to share that the Friends of

working on the federal side of the fisheries coin, is our latest in a series of profiles that appear here in the e-magazine on a regular basis. Read her story [here](#).

## Over the Bar

### Slow-mo government; there are reasons, many of them decent

We all express frustration with the pace of government, how the wheels seem to turn too slowly if at all, how the process feels like a slog through mud, how weeks turn into months turn into years.



Believe me, there are times when I share that feeling.

But after decades of trying to be a change agent working within government's structure, sitting in meeting after meeting year after year, I've also come to see that sometimes, maybe even often, there are reasons for the slow pace, and by that I mean decent reasons.

Dictators can move quickly. That's because they don't need consent, they don't need compromise, they don't need to listen. They don't even need much in the way of information. All they need is an opinion. And then they can crack the whip.

If I were the dictator of fisheries management, it wouldn't have taken more than 10 years to get a mid-water trawl buffer zone enacted, I can tell you that. It wouldn't be taking that much time and more to identify and protect undersea habitats, or enact management with ecosystem-based thinking, or engage our industry much more directly in the research, surveys and science that drives policies.

It wouldn't have taken nearly a decade to get an exemption area expanded on Georges Bank for General Category scallopers to be able to move farther east, a decision that literally everyone agrees should have been done long ago. Nor would it have taken a decade to acknowledge that lots of undersized fish caught on longlines or jigs can be released and swim away just fine, so mortality rates for those fisheries needed to be adjusted.

Note that the word "decade" seems to keep cropping up.

But from my vantage, these weren't cases of public officials stalling, or decision-makers ignoring important issues. Often there was real conflict among people in the fisheries, livelihoods at stake, a difficult balance to be struck between what's good for now and what's good for tomorrow, what's good for industry short-term and what's good for stocks and the ecosystem long-term. In many cases real science needed to be conducted so we weren't acting on a whim, or responding only to whomever has the most political clout.

Chatham Waterways is accepting Lewis E. Kimball scholarship applications for the 2020/2021 academic year. The Friends hope to offer three scholarships of up to \$3,000. All Cape Cod and Island residents or high-school graduates who are majoring in an area of environmental study, marine ecology or related topics and are either undergraduate students entering their junior or senior year of college or graduate students are eligible to apply. Applications are available [here](#). Applications are due by March 31, 2020.

## On the Hook

We do a lot of reading, searching through the wide world of fisheries, and often find intriguing pieces to share. In the old days, you might call this your clipping service.



John Pappalardo, our chief executive officer, was recently tapped to write a piece on electronic monitoring – putting cameras on boats to record catch and discards - for the *Environmental Forum*, a publication of the Environmental Law Institute. "New England fishermen spend more time observing our ocean environment than scientists do, yet their self-reported data currently have limited impact on stock assessments and management decisions," Pappalardo wrote. "That is unfortunate. Electronic monitoring is changing the data dynamic." Read more [here](#).



Fallout from "Codfather"

Slow and clunky, the process had to allow for public input, discussions and confrontations. Meetings needed to be posted with ample notice and agendas. As new issues came up they needed to be posted again with new agendas, and just as much notice. The clock keeps ticking.

So this tedious process should be seen as a gatekeeper, not an obstacle. It should be an equalizer, not a barrier. It becomes the vehicle for that thing we call democracy, creating opportunity for public voices in decision-making. And like democracy itself, the old saying applies: It's the worst form of government, except for all the other forms that have been tried.

Even the best decisions made behind closed doors become the worst decisions, because bad process undermines faith in the outcome. That in turn leads people to disrespect the rules and do their best to get around them.

All of this assumes that the slow-motion process is real rather than show, meaning there are no backdoor deals cut, no shortcuts taken by the privileged few. There's the real danger, not the molasses of public participation. And that's when cynicism about our government becomes justified.

There's one more thing to be said: As people bemoan this cumbersome process, they almost always use the occasion to demean the people who work it. Public officials become slugs, shirkers, their motives and intentions questioned, their credibility and work ethic dismissed.

My experience is overwhelmingly the opposite. Most public officials I know, elected or appointed, regulators or scientists, at every level of government, have a strong desire to do the right thing, and represent the public as well as possible. They often do so for less money, with fewer resources, and with many more headaches than if they slid into the private sector. They deserve our thanks and support far more often than they get it, and they almost never deserve the ridicule and contempt that is all-too popular these days, all-too easy to dispense.



*(John Pappalardo is the CEO of the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance)*

Carlos Rafael's crimes continue. Here is a [story](#) about the reaction to Blue Harvest, a fishing industry powerhouse corporation, paying nearly \$25 million for 35 of Rafael's groundfish vessels and their permits, Another [article](#) reveals bitterness behind the deal. We had advocated for having quota on the permits distributed across ports in New England where honest fishermen hurt by the so-called Codfather's deception are trying to run their small businesses.



A new study published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* earlier this month has generated a lot of interest. "There is a narrative that fish stocks are declining around the world, that fisheries management is failing and we need new solutions — and it's totally wrong," the lead author says in this [article](#).

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