

1991 - 2021

30
YEARS

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL
**FISHERMEN'S
ALLIANCE**

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

June 7, 2021

Nathan Sears
Orleans Natural Resources
40 Giddiah Hill Road
Orleans, MA 02653

Dear Nathan Sears:

Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance believes that working waterfronts are not only essential to sustain commercial fishing fleets, but the economy of the Cape – and the state – as whole.

For that reason, and many others, we are staunch supporters of the efforts of the town of Orleans to upgrade Rock Harbor to address the safety of the fleets and to further foster the success of a vibrant port.

For 30 years, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance has been a member-based, non-profit organization that works to build lasting solutions to protect our ecosystem and the future of our fisheries. The Fishermen's Alliance represents 150 fishing businesses and more than 300 fishing families, making our organization the leading voice for commercial fishermen on Cape Cod. We are deeply invested in the scientific assessments and public policies that impact our communities.

We know well the challenges faced by the small, yet hugely important, ports across Cape Cod. Collaborating with the state Division of Marine

Celebrating 30 years. Navigating 30 more.

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Fisheries and Urban Harbors Institute at UMASS Boston, we helped develop “Port by Port: Profiles and Analysis of Massachusetts Commercial Fishery.”

Among other facts revealed by the study, the town’s industry is robust. Information from 2018 shows 125 permitted fishermen with an Orleans address and 145 who land their catch in town.

In fact, more than \$2.5 million of fish and shellfish was landed in Orleans in 2018, an impressive number but one that could be significantly larger. The number of active harvesters in town has been cut nearly in half since 2014, mainly because shoaling and lack of access at low tides has hit the lobster and quahog fisheries hard.

Making needed improvements to Rock Harbor would help protect and grow the fleet, particularly since a deteriorating bulkhead and lack of dock space means vessels tie up next to each other and captains can’t easily unload their catch.

The importance of working waterfronts to the culture and vitality of the Cape can also not be overstated. As more young people leave the peninsula because of skyrocketing home prices, commercial fishing is one of the few industries that is resilient and a bulwark against gentrification.

Sincerely,



John Pappalardo

