

# DOCK TALK

A newsletter from the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance  
Fall 2021

1991 – 2021

YEARS

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL  
**FISHERMEN'S  
ALLIANCE**

Small Boats. Big Ideas.



## A Note from our CEO

When I first got involved with commercial fishing more than 25 years ago, my first job (aside from being a crew member) was working in the policy arena, representing and amplifying the voices of the commercial fishing industry on the Cape and Islands.

Cape fishermen's livelihoods as well as the very nature of our local industry are shaped by the decisions of regulatory bodies, including those on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill. In these arenas, the strong, trusted voice of Fishermen's Alliance has proven invaluable to advancing initiatives that create sustainable solutions.

Year after year, fishermen come to us with concerns, ideas, and challenges. By working together, we are able to take action by testing ideas, providing data to law makers that help them make informed decisions, and advocating for sustainable solutions to challenges faced by our fishing fleets.

This work is at the core of who we are and how we help this coastal community remain solid, strong, and sustainable.

Looking back at our policy work over the past 30 years, Fishermen's Alliance has created regulatory frameworks that have not only been essential to protecting the fish as well as the fisheries, but have stood the test of time.

With your support, we continue to build on a foundation that was built 30 years ago. Thank you for being part of our past successes and for standing by us as we continue to work toward a sustainable future.

Thank you,

John Pappalardo, CEO



## Taking Care of Our Marine Infrastructure



Fishermen's Alliance worked in collaboration with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the University of Massachusetts Boston's Urban Harbors Institute on a comprehensive study to develop port profiles and assess the commercial fishing infrastructure of Massachusetts coastal harbors. The study, now complete and published, informs policy, programming, funding, infrastructure improvements, and other important industry-related decisions.

A key finding of this study has shown that dredging is a critical need in many of the Cape's harbors and channels. Sand and silt naturally wash into bodies of water. As it accumulates, it fills channels, harbors, and waterways. This build up of sediment causes the water to become more shallow, threatening the safe passage of boats and potentially affecting the delicate marine ecosystem.

Dredging to remove sediment and debris from the bottom of harbors and waterways ensures a proper water depth for navigation channels, anchorages, and berthing areas. It can also reduce the accumulation of contaminants that can adversely affect fish, wildlife, and people.

Because well-maintained, healthy harbors and channels are vital to our region, Fishermen's Alliance is at the helm of a new initiative to help ensure that our harbors and waterways are cared for. Much of this will involve important policy work, like navigating state and federal regulations and being a source for informed decision making.

This type of advocacy takes time and commitment—Fishermen's Alliance is well-positioned to take on this important work. Taking care of our marine infrastructure not only benefits our commercial fishing industry, it supports our ocean-dependent Blue Economy and a lifestyle important to all of Cape Cod.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

### Boat-to-Bowl Program, More Please



After celebrating the successful delivery of more than 725,000 servings of haddock chowder—with fish sourced from MA small-boat fishermen—since April of 2020, we are now charting the next phase of the *Small Boats, Big Taste* brand. The program has a two-part focus that brings benefits to both the fishermen participating as well as the food pantries distributing the chowder.

We continue to supply one of the largest food banks in the country, Greater Boston Food Bank, with our delicious, nutritious chowder. With committed support from the MA Emergency Food Assistance Program (MEFAP), the Greater Boston Food Bank supplies our chowder to food banks across the state, from western MA to Cape Cod.

As we expand support for those experiencing food insecurity, we also look for ways to expand support for our local, independent fishermen. Although many markets have recovered well, some

fisheries are still experiencing lagging effects of the pandemic. Fishermen's Alliance will be exploring new recipes with other species, beyond haddock, in the upcoming months. Being able to include other fish, like skate, would allow us to expand this boat-to-bowl program—cultivating a new market for the fishermen while providing high-quality, affordable seafood options for institutions and public schools.

### CHOWDER FOR PURCHASE

***Small Boats, Big Taste* chowder will be available for purchase by the case at our Open House event on Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Stop by the Captain Harding House at 1566 Main Street, Chatham between 4 and 6 p.m. to visit with staff, shop merchandise, enjoy refreshments and pick up a case (or two) of haddock chowder.**





## Fishermen Training Program, Re-Imagined

After seven years of advocating for federal government support, the *Young Fishermen's Development Act* passed in 2021. Eager to keep the momentum going, Fishermen's Alliance is planning to finish out the year strong with two young fishermen training projects.

We are teaming up with MIT Sea Grant to scope and develop a new framework for recruiting, training, and retaining the next generation of fishermen in New England. We are also bringing our pre-pandemic Fishermen Training Program back online, literally. We are expanding to include a self-paced online option for prospective deckhands to learn about the industry through pre-recorded content from fishermen and fisheries experts.

Do you know someone interested in pursuing an exciting career on the water? Direct them to [stephanie@capecodfishermen.org](mailto:stephanie@capecodfishermen.org) for more information.

## FUNDRAISING FOR GOOD



## BY THE NUMBERS

### 2021 Asics Falmouth Road Race

A huge congratulations and thank you to our amazing #fishrunfalmouth runners who crossed their finish lines both at home and in Falmouth for this iconic seven-mile race course: Rich Bryant, Holly Buddensee, Tarryn Christensen, Benjamin Greenspan, Monica Heuer, Brigid Krug, Kathryn Mandalakis, Gregory Mansbach, Katie McEachern, Heather Morin, Molly Ogren, Brendon Parker, Bryan Ruez, Nancy Ruez, and Stephanie Sykes.

The 2021 team collectively raised \$13,937—We are so appreciative of everyone's commitment and fundraising efforts!

**JOIN OUR 2022 TEAM! Contact [brigid@capecodfishermen.org](mailto:brigid@capecodfishermen.org)**

**4 Years – Participating in Number for Nonprofits Program**

**\$64,347 – Raised to Date**

**50 – #fishrunfalmouth Runners**

**7-Mile – Course**

## A BIT OF HISTORY

**1991:** Seeing the need for better fisheries management and wanting their on-the-water experiences to inform it, fishermen gathered to form Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association (The Hook).

**1997:** The first Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association logo and tagline; established as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.



PROTECTING A RESOURCE,  
A TRADITION AND A WAY OF LIFE

**2001:** Inaugural year of the Hookers Ball fundraising event.

**2006:** Launch of *Pier Host Program* where retired commercial fishermen engage with thousands of local residents and tourists each summer, sharing maritime traditions and the local commercial fishing history.

**2011:** *Meet the Fleet* program launched, which brings together community members, fishermen, and chefs to highlight local seafood.

**2013:** Re-branding with new name and updated logo to promote the expanded mission to include all Cape fishermen and fisheries.



**Small Boats. Big Ideas.**





## CAPE COD COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ALLIANCE

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Chatham, MA 02633

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## Donor Dollars in Action

CELEBRATING  
**30 Years.**  
NAVIGATING  
**30 More.**



Looking back on 30 years of successfully advocating for the local fleet, we realize we couldn't do it without the tremendous support of donors like you. As large foundations that have historically funded many of our programs shift their focus to new initiatives, your gift makes an even greater impact.

Your donation will help us continue our work for healthy oceans, sustainable fishing, and strong coastal communities here on Cape Cod. Thank you for supporting Fishermen's Alliance!

### PLEASE DONATE TODAY

Online at: [capecodfishermen.org](http://capecodfishermen.org)  
By mail to: 1566 Main Street, Chatham 02633

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

If you would like to partner with us and become an annual sponsor for 2022, reach out to [jennifer@capecodfishermen.org](mailto:jennifer@capecodfishermen.org) for more information.

### 2021 Annual Sponsors



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### 2021 Annual In-Kind Sponsors



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