

DOCK TALK

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

1991 – 2021

YEARS

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ALLIANCE

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

Good Work in 2020

At the dawn of every year, we look back at our achievements and look forward to the work ahead. 2020 was no different and as we cataloged our accomplishments, we were struck by how much good had come out of what was one hard year.

Take a look:

- » The Young Fishermen's Development Act, the first federal program to help train, educate, and assist the next generation of commercial fishermen, became law. And we held our own inaugural Fishermen's Training Course.
- » The New England Fishery Management Council approved new groundfish regulations that will require full accountability. Thanks to our extensive work with piloting electronic monitoring, fishermen can choose on-board cameras or human observers, which will provide more accurate data to help fish and fishermen.
- » In response to the pandemic, we launched the Haddock Chowder Program, "Small Boats, Big Taste," providing more than 216,000 servings to those in need last year, beginning locally and spreading across New England. We'll be heading toward a million servings this year.

- » We secured grant funds that allowed us to directly support fishermen with \$250,000 to offer extra quota discounts, issue fuel subsidy checks, and purchase haddock for the chowder.

That is just a fraction of our work. You'll notice that some accomplishments were the result of years of time and effort while others came more quickly because we had to be especially nimble and responsive in 2020.

The day-in and day-out resilience, coupled with the ability to be innovative and make quick decisions, is the hallmark of the Cape's commercial fishermen—we've learned from the best. As we enter our 30th year, many of you have been with us through our earliest, long-running campaigns as well as the surprise challenge of the recent pandemic. Thanks so much for your continuing support, we can't do it without you.

Thank you,


John Pappalardo, CEO



BECAUSE OF
YOUR SUPPORT



In 2020 Fishermen's Alliance staff:

- ✓ Distributed more than **216,000** servings of locally caught seafood to regional food banks
- ✓ Secured funding to offer boat fuel subsidy checks to **190** fishermen totaling **\$40,000**
- ✓ Distributed over **3,200** Coastal Learning Books to children
- ✓ Spent more than **200** days attending (in-person and virtually) local and regional regulatory and advocacy meetings
- ✓ Collaborated with over **85** other organizations and partners
- ✓ Leased **331,380** pounds of groundfish and scallop quota to **22** local fishermen
- ✓ Took part in **6** scientific studies including scallop reproduction, electronic monitoring, ocean temperature, seal deterrents, and more

Celebrating 30 Years— Navigating 30 More



In 1991, Cape Cod's small-boat fishermen found their livelihoods at risk. When they spoke up, they felt their voices were not making an impact and that they were considered insignificant because they

were too small. So these independent, innovative, salty fishermen came together and formed an organization that has changed the course of commercial fisheries.

For the past thirty years, the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance has overcome tremendous odds to protect traditions, a way of life, and the economy of a peninsula while modernizing the fisheries to create sustainable businesses—which includes protecting fish and habitat. The Fishermen's Alliance was born in crisis and has weathered many more by creating partnerships and long-lasting solutions that build resiliency. The stalwart group of fishermen who came together three decades ago was the heart of an organization that has grown with the community and has become an indispensable foundation for a successful future. "Small Boats, Big Ideas" indeed.

SCALLOP FACTS

- Scallops have nutritional benefits as well as a great taste. They are high in vitamin B12 and protein and low in carbohydrates and fat.
- The sea scallop is a bivalve, an adept filter feeder with a great many eyes, and is also quite mobile. They swim pretty well by clapping their shells together, which forces water out.
- Much like a tree, you can tell their age by counting rings on their shells.



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

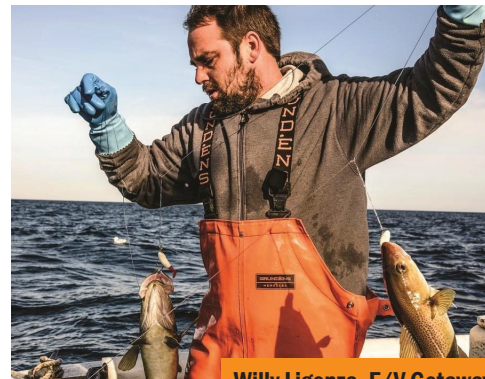
The Fishermen's Alliance held its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, February 3 with industry, board members, and staff who attended via Zoom. Special guest Dan McKiernon, Director of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, gave a recap of 2020, plans for the new year, and an overview of the soon-to-be-released Port Study project.

Board members were voted in to include Greg Bilezikian, Chuck Borkoski, Greg Connors, Beau Gribbin, Eric Hesse, Gwen Holden Kelly, Tim Linnell, Brian Sherin, and two incoming members, Andy Baler and Kurt Martin.

Nick Muto completed his multi-year term and stepped down as chair. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Nick for all his work with Fishermen's Alliance over the last nine years as a board member.

Getting to Know the Fleet

During our recent Virtual Meet the Fleet event, guests at home had the opportunity to cook fresh scallops with Chef Daniel Coté of the Pelham House and hear from local fisherman Willy Ligenza.



Willy Ligenza, F/V Getaway

Willy had gone straight from the wheelhouse of the F/V Getaway to join the event via Zoom. He shared with guests that he had been scalloping off the tip of Monomoy about 15 miles offshore, in close to 17 fathoms of water, much closer than the grounds he travels to in warmer months. Ligenza enjoyed sharing experiences on the water and answering questions from 70 people who were in attendance. He noted that he is working with an experimental dredge, which he figures saves him about half the amount of fuel for each trip. Unlike traditional New Bedford dredges, this one has no cutting bar, so it also has less impact on the ocean bottom.

Like many fishermen, he is passionate about the ocean and has a vast knowledge that extends to various fisheries as well as emerging technologies and markets. Now 38 years old, he has been scalloping for more than half his life and is planning for many more.

The next Meet the Fleet is set for March. Four of these events are planned for the 2021 year and guests can brush up on seafood cooking skills while also learning more about the fishing industry from the men and women who know it first-hand.



ANDY BALER



KURT MARTIN



Barbara has supported the work of the Fishermen's Alliance for more than 18 years and hasn't missed a Hookers Ball yet!

Barbara Matteson



"It's hard to believe 30 years have passed since the fishermen first organized. Even though they are now known as the Fishermen's Alliance, I'll probably always think of them as 'the Hook.'

With the changes our town has experienced, major credit goes to the organization that has kept fish and fishing relevant to our fishermen and women, and to our community. Protecting the resources—fish stocks and their food sources—has been as important a mission as learning how to manage within onerous government regulations has been. Educating consumers about the viability and tastiness of more non-traditional species of fish as well as various alternative preparations of the better-known ones are learning experiences not

to be missed at their Meet the Fleet events. If only I could locate my copy of guest chef Barton Seaver's cookbook, "In Cod We Trust."

Since I believe what the Fishermen's Alliance does is undeniably vital to the survival of the entire industry, I will continue to support their well-planned and tireless efforts, and to revel in their accomplishments. The added benefits to Chatham, the Cape, and fishing in general are very fortunate by-products."

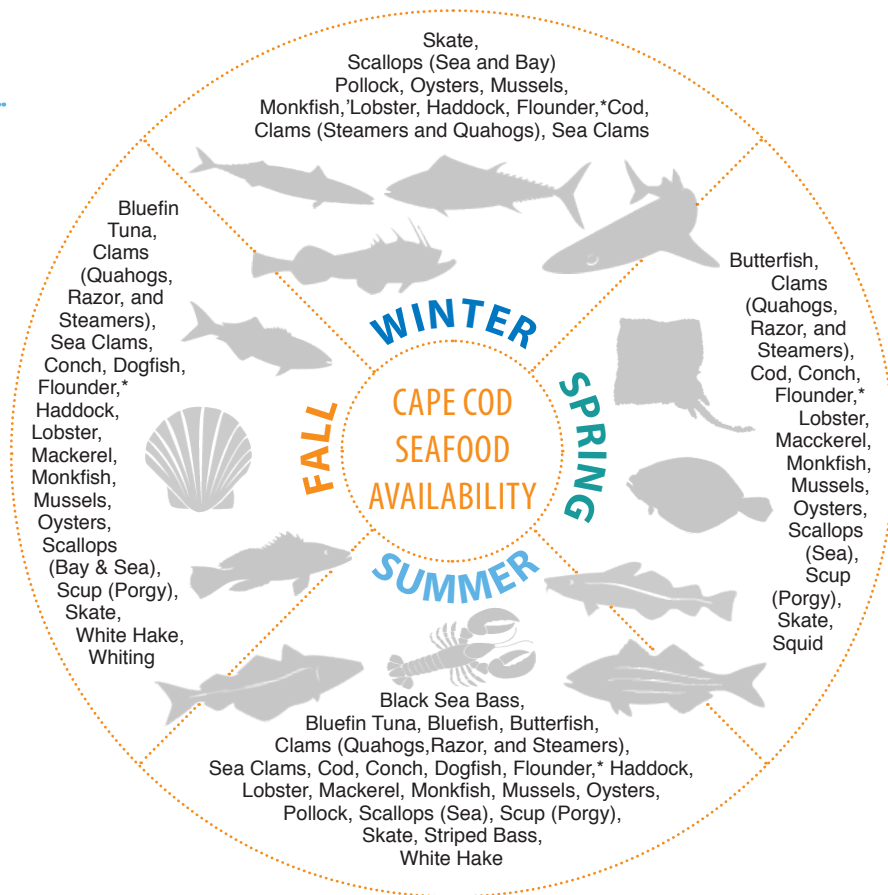
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

EAT MORE SEAFOOD

Famous foodie Barton Seaver has a friend who is a doctor; that friend has three pieces of essential health advice: "Wear your seatbelt, don't smoke, eat more seafood."

He's not alone in adding seafood. National Dietary Guidelines recommend that people eat seafood two to three times a week. Fish and shellfish provide protein, omega 3s, more vitamin B12 and Vitamin D than any other type of food, iron (which is very important for infants, young children, and pregnant women), and other important minerals, such as selenium.

And the benefits of eating local fish go far beyond personal health, helping protect ecosystems and economies as well as reducing our carbon footprint to battle climate change by choosing fish that is sustainability caught and not packaged and transported from far-away places.



EVENTS

WHILE PIVOTING TO VIRTUAL EVENTS AND MAINTAINING OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS, WE ENGAGED WITH MORE THAN 1,000 PEOPLE IN 2020 WHO JOINED US FOR AUCTIONS, COOKING CLASSES, INFORMATIONAL EVENTS, MEET THE FLEET, HOOKERS BALL, AND THE PIER HOST PROGRAM.

WE PLAN TO DO THE SAME THIS YEAR!

HOOKERS BALL XX



Saturday, August 7

Meet the Fleet

March

May

October

November



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Donor Dollars in Action

**YOU HELP KEEP
CAPE COD'S
FISHING INDUSTRY
AFLOAT!**



Throughout the years, your donations have played an important part in helping the Cape's fishermen weather challenges.

Fishermen's Alliance works tirelessly to make sure the small-boat independent fleet has a voice at the local, state, and federal level.

We connect local fishermen with business resources, advocate on their behalf, and seek out solutions to challenges that make sense for their business and the ocean.

Your support helps us continue to deliver programs and services that benefit the whole community.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

Online at: 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 2021, reach out to jennifer@capecodfishermen.org for more information.

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2021 Annual In-Kind Sponsors



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