

DOCK TALK

A newsletter from the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance

Fall 2022

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ALLIANCE

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

A Note from the CEO



Even people from off-Cape often refer to Cape Cod as a fishing community. The distinction is one we value and take pride in. In truth, however, we are part of a broader, multi-

faceted community, and the fishing community is part of a larger whole that helps define the region.

As Cape Cod grapples with a rapidly changing economic landscape and climate shifts that threaten our coastal communities, our ability to work together to solve problems is absolutely vital.

I've come to appreciate that I've learned a lot from fishermen, from scientists, and from our supporters. The collective efforts of this extended community are essential to the ability to protect the Cape's fisheries as well as our environmental and economic future.

In this newsletter you will read about several initiatives that help raise awareness about important issues across the Cape. Our *Small Boats. Big Science.* events, for example, bring local scientists working on the most challenging problems into our office to talk with the community. And, our port profile visits take us to each selectboard on the Cape to discuss the value of investing in working waterfronts. We'll also have an update on Hookers Ball, our long-standing community gala where people from across the Cape gather to celebrate and support the local fleet.

Offering more opportunities to listen and learn from one another—as well as celebrate each other—will further strengthen this complex community as we tackle important challenges together.

Smooth Seas,

A handwritten signature of John Pappalardo in black ink.

John Pappalardo, CEO



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Small Boats. Big Science. *Ocean Changes: From the Arctic to You*



The first of this new speaker series, *Small Boats. Big Science.*, was held on August 15 in Chatham with more than 40 guests in attendance.

The goal of this series is to bring together the community, scientists and researchers, and commercial fishermen to discuss some of the latest scientific studies and advancements and explore how they relate to our fleet, our environment, and our coastal communities.

Through engaging presentations from guest speakers Dr. Jennifer Francis and Dr. Glen Gawarkiewicz, we learned how changes in ocean currents and weather as far away as the Arctic impact our Cape Cod communities today.



Dr. Jennifer Francis from the Woodwell Climate Research Center is an expert in climate change with extensive experience in the Arctic. Dr. Francis says, "The Arctic seems very far away, but the momentous changes occurring there affect us all. Global warming,

sea-level rise, tropical storms, and extreme weather events are all connected to the rapidly warming and melting Arctic." Dr. Francis discussed recent research into this "hot" topic.

Dr. Glen Gawarkiewicz from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution specializes in New England oceanography. Dr. Gawarkiewicz discussed changes in the ocean circulation and temperature/salinity around Cape Cod in recent years. There have been significant changes in the Gulf Stream as well as the continental shelf and slope. He also described how ocean technology is making a difference in understanding changes in the ocean.



Captain Eric Hesse, chair of Fishermen's Alliance Board of Directors, also gave his perspective from the water. Hesse is involved in several cooperative research projects with local scientists and discussed how fleets have started to notice things attributable to changes in the ocean temperature.

The Fishermen's Alliance is planning to host several more of these events with a variety of speakers and perspectives. If you would like to stay connected and be added to our mailing list, please email brigid@capecodfishermen.org.

ON THE WATER



Port Profile Project Works to Ensure Port Access in Support of the Small-Boat Fishing Industry

The collective might of the Cape's commercial ports surpass burly Gloucester harbor. Further, ex-vessel value (payment directly to fishing boats) has gone up in the last few years. Chatham reached nearly \$15 million and Provincetown \$12 million. Still, many people don't understand the enormous economic value behind those picture-perfect fishing boats, so the Fishermen's Alliance is presenting the "Port Profile Project," which was a collaboration with the state Division of Marine Fisheries and UMass Boston's Urban Harbors Institute in 2021.

As working waterfronts continue to face myriad pressures, including ballooning property values, town support is increasingly important. The information in the port profiles will help decision makers ensure that the needs of fishing communities, which can include dockage and offloading space, are met.

We are one-third of the way through our visits to selectboards, impressed and gratified by officials' support of the commercial fishing industry and the wider "Blue" economy. Harwich selectman Don Howell had this to say during our visit: "It is a real priority for us, concentrating on small-boat fishing and making a thriving industry. It's really important for a myriad of reasons, none the least is there is something legitimate to work in and stay in the community."

Small Boats, Big Taste Goes Retail

The concept for the chowder program was initially developed in 2020 in response to the fishing and food security challenges exacerbated by the pandemic. With funding from grants and generous donors, the program set out to accomplish two goals: help small-boat, independent fishermen stay on the water and serve the growing number of food-insecure people in our region. Since then, the program has gone on to provide more than 1.5 million servings of haddock chowder and a delicious tomato-based skate stew.



Chris Menard, Executive Director of The Family Pantry of Cape Cod, first partnered with the Fishermen's Alliance on our Fish for Families initiative many years ago. She agreed to take in the chowder for a test run in 2020. The response from families was positive and they have been offering the product on a regular basis since then.

"It's a great product that's well made and our families really like it," Menard said in a recent interview. "We really do appreciate the Alliance's partnership and their community spirit. We'll

have this product forever." Good news for the public, the chowder and stew are now available for retail and wholesale purchase through the Fishermen's Alliance office in Chatham. Funds generated from the retail efforts will support the program's original intent, giving fishermen a consistent, fair price for fish and providing a healthy, delicious meal for food pantries across the state.



**TO FIND OUT MORE OR PRE-ORDER CONTAINERS,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE
capecodfishermen.org/smallboats-bigtaste**

UPDATES & IMPACT

Science, Policy, and Programs

- » In 2021, Fishermen's Alliance and 30 scallop fishermen members successfully campaigned for the New England Fishery Management Council to retain exclusive access to Closed Area I, an area with limited fishing, for the small-boat fleet. Today, we continue to advocate for ongoing access. This is important to our fleet, our community, and our economy because it keeps the local scallop fleet safely fishing closer to home and landing delicious scallops in Cape Cod ports.
- » Team member Raymond Kane was just re-appointed to the Massachusetts Fisheries Advisory Commission. For the next three years, Ray will continue to represent local fishermen on decisions made about the regulations for fishing in state waters (0-3 miles from shore).
- » Engaging fishermen in discussions on the challenges created by warming waters and shifting fish populations. This sets the stage for regional discussions this fall and winter on how management tools will need to evolve in order to accommodate these changes and be more climate resilient.
- » In the spring, a federal judge overturned the herring protections we fought so hard for and NOAA declined to appeal the verdict. Our team is working to ensure the Council prioritizes herring in 2023 so we have a chance to secure alternate protections for this little fish that has a huge role as a food source for birds, whales, and fish.





It's Aboat Time!

On Saturday, August 6 under a hot summer sun, the Fishermen's Alliance team was on hand to set up under the big, white tent once again. We were thrilled to welcome back 400 guests for our largest annual event, Hookers Ball XXI: It's Aboat Time, which raised more than \$280,000. Thank you to all who attended, placed bids, played Heads or Tails, and danced the night away. The funds raised support mission-driven programming, including *Fishermen Training*, the *Pier Host Program*, and *Small Boats, Big Taste*.

Now in its 21st year, the first Saturday in August is always an exceptional evening with dinner and drinks, featuring fresh-from-the-boat seafood, including haddock, skate, scallops, littlenecks, oysters, and lobster. There was fierce competition out at the cornhole field, a lively round of Heads or Tails, active bidding on live auction items, an informative

presentation highlighting three of our community programs, and a silent auction with items from the Cape's great businesses, artists, and services.

The event brings fishermen and the community together for a guaranteed good time while also raising awareness for the organization and its mission to maintain a sustainable and profitable small-boat commercial fishing industry on Cape Cod.

"The Cape's unique culture was forged on our working waterfronts and on the boats of our fishermen," CEO John Pappalardo said. "With your help we want to ensure the Fishermen's Alliance can continue the important work of advocating for local fishermen, our marine environment, and the interests of our Cape community for another 30 years."



Businesses get Creative while Giving Back

There are many positive aspects to being part of a small community: a sense of belonging, taking care of one another, and businesses that choose to give back to the community by supporting nonprofits. The Fishermen's Alliance is fortunate to have a long list of businesses that sponsor, donate, and promote our work through different avenues. Some of them have gone above and beyond to develop creative ways to do just that.

The owners of **Quahog Republic**, Tom Hughes and Erik Bevans, reached out a few years ago with a proposal to add the Fishermen's Alliance logo and a short informational blurb to their cans of Golden Ale. After two years of great success, they have been donating a percentage of all sales directly to Fishermen's Alliance. Their idea was expanded to now include a Bloody Mary and a Margarita mix. You can spot the Fishermen's Alliance fish logo on their products at liquor and grocery stores across the Cape.

Everyone loves a visit to the Chatham **Candy Manor**, whether you live on Cape Cod or visit, it's hard to pass up their delicious fudge, made on site since 1955. When new owners Paige Piper and Robbie Carroll took over in 2019, they made the decision to make giving back to the community a priority. Each year they choose six nonprofits to support. Over a six-week period, they donate a portion of fudge sales for the week. An added bonus, they are also well-positioned to promote awareness about the organization with hundreds of patrons visiting their store each day.

Art and fish go well together with artist and business owner Aline Lindemann behind the creation. **Cottage** in Orleans is a space that celebrates unique and artfully made goods that make you feel at home, wherever that is. She enjoys bringing art to the community in creative ways and for three years running has curated an auction, *Cods for the Cape*. Bringing together 12 artists to create their own

wood fish art pieces, which are then auctioned off. The highest bidders take home their new one-of-a-kind wall art. All proceeds are donated to the Fishermen's Alliance.

Mahi Gold Outfitters is known for their nautically inspired signature prints seen on visitors and locals alike. In Chatham, Brian and Becky Voelkel have been active in the community working with nonprofits and often donating items to auctions. They jumped at the chance to print and donate our signature Hookers Ball t-shirts that boast the event theme, along with their well-known Mahi Gold logo.

The Cape community is forged by small business owners who come together to support causes that directly impact the vitality of Cape Cod. We encourage you to shop local and applaud their efforts—and be sure to tell them Fishermen's Alliance sent you.



MEET THE FLEET

For more than 10 years, the Fishermen's Alliance has been hosting *Meet the Fleet* events that aim to connect the community with local chefs and fishermen, providing them with an authentic way to learn more about the seafood and flavors of the region. Each event is unique and offers insights into different species that are landed locally, a variety of recipes and tips for preparing seafood at home, and guest speakers who share their on-the-water experiences.

The first in the series was held in May with 80 guests at the Fishermen's Alliance headquarters, also known as the Captain Harding House, in Chatham. Refreshments and lite bites were provided by Chatham Bars Inn and Quahog Republic while Lisa Whelan of Dancing Spoons Food Truck cooked up a tasty hake recipe. Retired Chatham fisherman Mike Anderson spoke about a lifetime of fishing with some entertaining fish tales that kept the crowd amused and engaged.

Falmouth was the site of the second event, held in June with 40 guests attending. The Fishermen's Pantry was a gracious host. Owners Tracy Sylvester and Jesse Remund shared their

interesting Alaska-to-Cape Cod fishing story then cooked up some Alaskan black cod for the crowd. Their fish and seaweed shop offers well-sourced, sustainable seafood and provisions from both Alaska and Cape Cod.

Local Falmouth fishermen Ken Baughman spoke about how he completed the Fishermen Training Program at the Fishermen's Alliance in 2019 and his experience as he works to grow his commercial fishing business.

The September event was hosted by Nauset Marine at their marina in East Orleans. More than 50 people gathered to hear from a panel of local fishermen that included Stephanie Sykes, Kurt Martin, Andrew Spalt, and Bill Amaru. Jonah crab and conch were on the menu, prepared by Cam and Tyler Hadfield of The Rail, a restaurant in Orleans you want to be sure to visit.

These informative and fun events are sponsored by long-time *Meet the Fleet* partner, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty. Mark your calendars for the next *Meet the Fleet* in Chatham on Thursday, November 17 at the Chatham Orpheum.





A huge congratulations to our amazing #fishrunfalmouth runners who have crossed the finish line “at-home” and in Falmouth for the 7-mile Asics Falmouth Road Race 2022! We were thrilled to be back for the fifth consecutive year and one of 184 organizations participating in the iconic race as part of the Number for Non-Profits program. It was a hot August day with the buzz of thousands of runners and spectators cheering us on along the spectacular and challenging seaside course from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights.

We are so appreciative of everyone’s fundraising efforts with the team collectively raising \$16,600! Thank you to all our race supporters and a special shout out to the two top fundraisers Cordy Elkins and Brian Tobin. And kudos to the two fastest runners, completing the race in under an hour—Corey Sherman and Brendon Parker.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED #fishrunfalmouth RUNNERS

Cristi Altman	Kathryn Mandalakis
Ken Baughman	Heather Morin
Alex Corcoran	Molly Ogren
Cordy Elkins	Brendon Parker
Monica Heuer	Corey Sherman
Brigid Krug	Stephanie Sykes
Carol Mackenzie	Brian Tobin

SHOP TO SUPPORT FISHERMEN’S ALLIANCE



Apparel, Cookbooks, and now Chowder!

Visit the Fishermen’s Alliance online store to shop branded clothing for all seasons, barware, the famous hook bracelet, and now chowder and stew. Whether shopping for yourself or for a gift, we have you covered. All items are in stock and available for pick up in Chatham, and all items except stew and chowder can be shipped directly to you. Visit our store today at capecodfishermen.org/ways-to-support or scan the QR code.





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Chatham, MA 02633

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Planned Giving and The Founding Fishermen Society

Making a planned gift is a wonderful way to show your support and appreciation for the Fishermen's Alliance and its mission while accommodating your own personal financial, estate-planning, and philanthropic goals. With smart planning, you may actually increase the size of your estate and/or reduce the tax burden on your heirs. Just as important, you will know that you have made a meaningful contribution that will help sustain the future work of the Fishermen's Alliance that will benefit the entire community.

Leave a Legacy and make a difference on in the lives of our fishing community for years to come. For more information, contact Jennifer@capecodfishermen.org.

Sponsorships

We are so grateful for the support of our local business partners.

These sponsors help Fishermen's Alliance in a myriad of ways, including cash donations, donated goods and services, contributing a percentage of their profits, and sharing their business expertise.

If you would like to learn more about 2023 sponsorship opportunities, contact Jennifer Bryant at: jennifer@capecodfishermen.org.

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