
Annual Gratitude Report 2024

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL
**FISHERMEN'S
ALLIANCE**

Small Boats. Big Ideas.



MISSION

The Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance is fishermen, community members, public officials and scientists working together to build creative strategies, advocate for improved marine policies, protect the ocean ecosystem, and ensure the viability and future of Cape Cod's fisheries.



Small Boats. Big Ideas.

VISION

Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance is the voice of Cape Cod's fishing community, working to ensure our future livelihood within a balanced ocean ecosystem.

March 2024

Dear Friends,

When fishermen leave the dock, it is a leap of faith. Even the most seasoned captain doesn't know what the day will bring, if the fish will be there, if the market will be there, if he'll make it home.

Everything we do aims to make that leap a little less risky, to make an uncertain future a little more predictable. 2024 efforts include: our economic development work to increase seafood sales and price paid to fishermen; our Fishermen Training programs to recruit better prepared people into the industry; our advocacy efforts for commonsense regulations; our support for working waterfront infrastructure improvements.

You will also read about a series of programs that make our work more meaningful and help fishermen fish smarter, not harder.

Our management system isn't accounting for the reality on the water, nor adjusting to a fast changing ocean. The old way of doing things has contributed to extreme instability in catch advice and fishery yield, negative impacts to markets and price, loss of community value and infrastructure, lack of reliable and competent crew, and a trajectory towards an unnecessary decline of the region's fishing industry. With the help of dozens of local fishermen, we are working to reverse that course. Fishermen across the Cape and beyond have joined the largest cooperative network of fishing boats equipped with environmental sensors in the country,

to study changing ocean temperatures. Another program outfitted local boats with instruments to collect temperature and salinity data throughout the water column in the Outer Cape Coastal Current to better understand changes to the environment. Fishermen know the ocean better than anyone and including their observations will improve the science we all depend on.

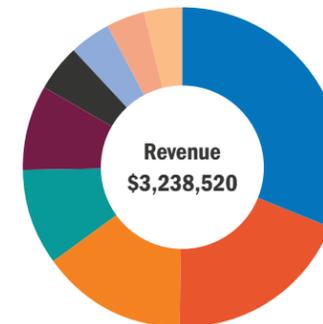
The efforts will help fishermen get better real-time information before they leave the dock each day, data that will strengthen their business long-term. The work will also benefit coastal communities that use the ocean for recreation and transportation, and diversify our economy by not only strengthening commercial fishing but blue technology and education.

This exciting, innovative work will pay dividends and is not possible without your support--thank you for being part of it.

In gratitude,

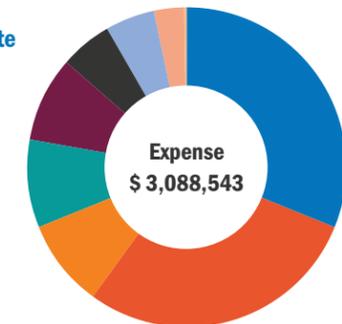
John Pappalardo, CEO

2024 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Profits and reserves were used to pay off a \$250,000 CCFT loan.

*eMOLT Revenue from State Grants & Contracts



The Fishermen's Alliance is a nonprofit organization subject to chapter 501(c)(3) of the IRS. The graphics represent a summary of the Fishermen's Alliance unaudited 2024 financial performance. Financial statements will be audited by Sanders, Walsh & Eaton LLP, certified public accountants. The Fishermen's Alliance is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Leadership For Fisheries Management Policy, Advocacy and Fishermen-Driven Science



More than
350
policy meetings

We bring fishermen's on-the-water expertise to federal and state decision-making tables to help develop practical, long-term solutions. Our professional staff attended policy meetings to represent Cape Cod fishermen and contribute to fisheries management efforts along the East Coast.

WE ARE EFFECTIVE BECAUSE STAFF HOLD VOTING SEATS ON:

New England Fishery Management Council
Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission
Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Team
MA Offshore Wind Fisheries Working Group
MA Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission
Commercial Fisheries Commission



REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING ECOSYSTEM

This year, the New England Fishery Management Council created the Ecosystem and Climate Action Steering Committee, chaired by our CEO John Pappalardo, to focus on climate resilient fisheries and ecosystem-based approaches to fishery management. This committee will help the Council address the impacts of climate change, environmental factors, and scientific uncertainties on fisheries.

FLOATING OFFSHORE WIND

When the proposed Gulf of Maine wind areas unexpectedly included large areas directly east of Cape Cod, staff expanded our monitoring of offshore wind development. We attended Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) meetings, hosted meetings at our office, and participated in groups such as the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance. We helped fishermen submit comment letters on various stages of the offshore wind development process and engaged with media outlets. Through collaboration with BOEM, fishing organizations, and local communities, we successfully advocated for modifications to the proposed wind lease areas. As a result, the lease area that directly impacted some Cape fishermen was reduced by 11,743 acres.

THE CONTINUED FIGHT TO PROTECT ATLANTIC HERRING

After a federal judge overturned regulations preventing large herring trawlers from fishing in coastal waters, John Pappalardo and other council members voted to initiate another regulatory amendment to rebuild ocean herring. Atlantic herring continues to be a major concern in our community, as evidenced by 811 written comments the Council received during the scoping period. At a packed Buzzards Bay scoping meeting, commercial fishermen, tribal members, recreational anglers, and nonprofits gathered to advocate for the rebuilding of Atlantic herring populations and the protection of river herring and shad. The collective message was clear: action is needed for the future of these vital fish species, and we continue to play our part in that fight.

ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON D.C.



We traveled with Fishing Communities Coalition partners to Capital Hill where staff members Doreen Leggett, Aubrey Church, Ray Rowell and fisherman Bradley Louw met with congressmen to discuss legislation for working waterfronts, funding for the Young Fishermen's Development Act, USDA support for small seafood businesses, and funding for regional fishery management councils and industry-based fishing surveys.

Aubrey Church delivered closing remarks at Capitol Hill Ocean Week's plenary session on climate-ready fisheries.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

We launched a 2.5 year project with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution to research environmental factors influencing scallop growth. Fishermen transported researchers to collect plankton, sediment samples, baby scallops, and water quality measurements. This project also provided the local fleet with access to more than 60,000 pounds of extra scallop quota and their quota leasing funded the research.

Monkfish landings drive the population assessment that determines next year's catch limits, but what happens if there are fewer monkfish trips? Low prices and other factors have meant significantly less monkfish being landed. We are working with University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the fishing industry to dig into the data with the hope of improving future population assessments.

We are helping to scale up the eMOLT Program (environmental monitors on lobster traps and large trawlers) with a grant from the Innovation Institute at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative to add 150 vessels to the program. With a wide network of partners, we are assembling the nation's largest cooperative fleet of fishing boats equipped with environmental sensors, providing fishermen with the critical information they need to navigate the challenges of rapidly changing oceans.



2024 FISHERIES LEADERSHIP INTERN

Our internships are supported by the Nat Mason Memorial Fund and offer students hands-on experience in fisheries policy, community advocacy, and a unique opportunity to work directly with fishermen. Intern Caroline Williams spent her summer launching the Cape Cod Oceanographic Research Fleet and training fishermen. With funding from NOAA SeaGrant, we are working with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation to collect oceanographic data. Fishermen were equipped with "CTDs" (Conductivity, Temperature, Depth) to collect bottom temperature and salinity data along the Outer Cape Coastal Current, an under-studied area that is undergoing immense change. Caroline also created outreach materials on offshore wind development to inform the public and fishermen on how to participate in the planning process. Caroline is completing an accelerated masters program in Public Policy and Leadership at the University of Virginia.



EXPLORE THE DATASET

Economic Development

We invest in fisheries to provide opportunities for both today's fisherman and future generations

CAPE COD FISHERIES TRUST

The Cape Cod Fisheries Trust was founded with a vision of ensuring small-boat fishermen affordable access to groundfish and scallop quota. When management of those fisheries shifted to "catch share" systems, a group of fishermen collaborated with Fishermen's Alliance to create the Trust. The Trust acts as a quota bank from which local commercial fishermen can lease quota. Working together with the Community Development Partnership, the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust offers financing, business planning, and technical assistance to fishermen who want to grow their business.



SMALL BOATS, BIG TASTE PROGRAM

We help keep fishermen on the water and increase access to local seafood through our Small Boats, Big Taste program, which has provided almost 2 million servings to food banks and pantries on Cape Cod and across the state and has infused more than \$5.5M into the economy. You can purchase delicious Haddock Chowder, Provençal Fish Stew, or Clam Chowder from our online store.



In 2024, we were honored to be selected as one of five beneficiaries of the Seaside Le Mans Race, an important community fundraiser that, for 23 years, has provided grants to numerous organizations across the Cape, supporting those that make a positive impact in the community. We were grateful to receive \$50,000 to expand our Small Boats, Big Taste program.



TRAINING THE NEXT GENERATION OF FISHERMEN

Since our Fishermen Training program started in 2020, it has evolved to meet the needs of a changing industry. The training program introduces the next generation to fishing through lessons on safety, gear types, regulations and on-the-water expectations. The course also serves as an opportunity to connect captains with potential crew and serves as a platform to talk about the dozen different fisheries the peninsula affords.



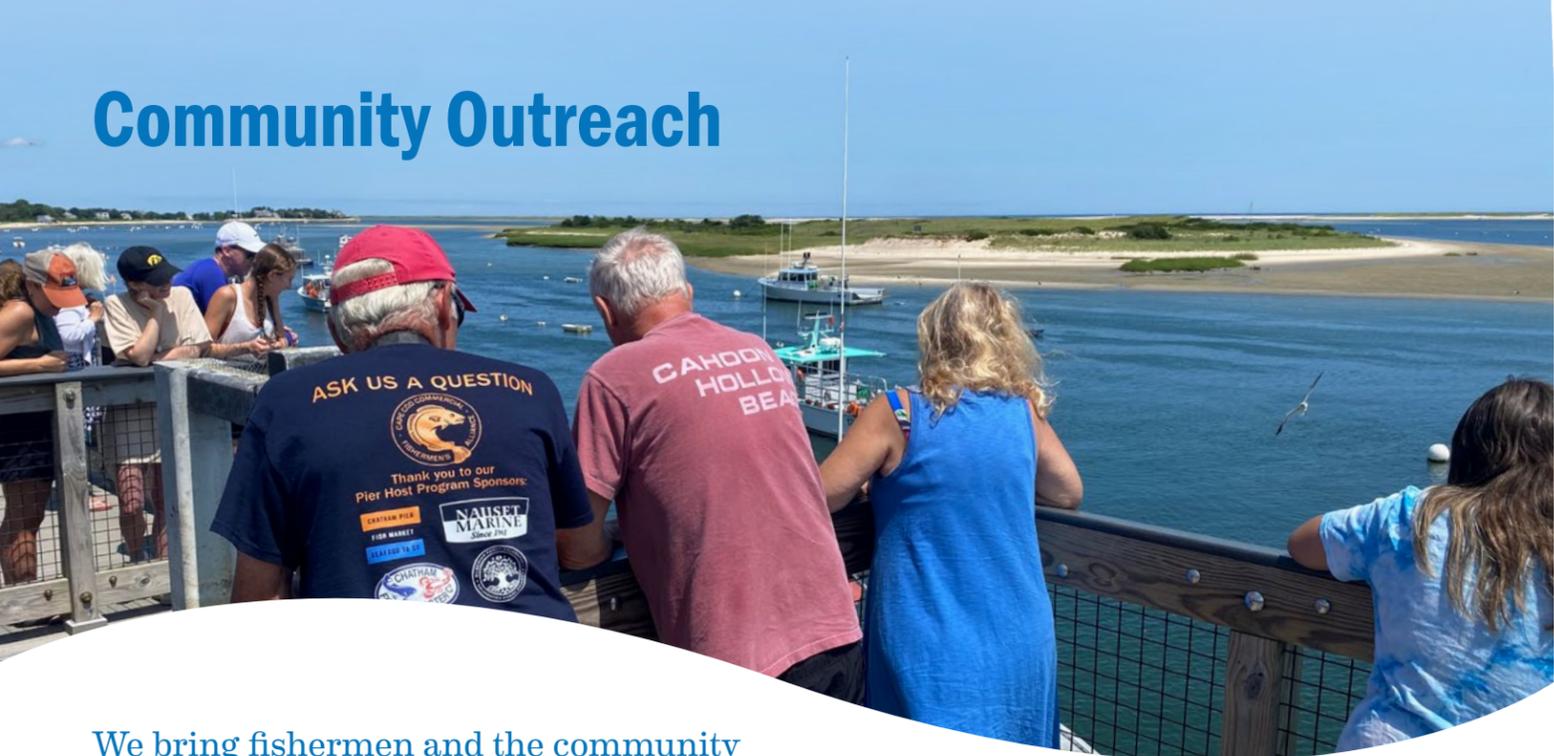
WORKING WATERFRONTS

As we update the Port Profile report with the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and UMass Boston's Urban Harbors Institute, communities across the Cape, including Orleans and Chatham, are investing in their commercial fishing infrastructure. We continued to encourage towns to support the Cape's working waterfronts, which provide an economic boost of more than \$250 million.



In 2024 we expanded the training to add a translated course for the Brazilian community and placed graduates on fishing boats and in processing jobs onshore. Our work with high school students continues through the Cape Cod Chamber's WaterWORKS events.

Community Outreach



We bring fishermen and the community together to promote the local catch, build appreciation for fishing traditions, and engage the next generation. Our staff actively participate in and present at numerous community outreach and educational events, while also hosting three key programs:

MEET THE FLEET

Meet the Fleet brings together community members with chefs and local fishermen to learn about a fishery and seafood preparation. This year we welcomed more than 300 attendees to learn about flounder, bluefish, surf clams and bluefin tuna. We extend our gratitude to chefs **Ben Porter of Viera on Main, Tyler Hadfield of The Barley Neck, Brian Reeves of PJ's Family Restaurant, and Chef Hong of Bluefins Sushi & Sake Bar**, for sharing their recipe tips and serving up delicious tastings of the fresh catch. Guests were inspired by the fishermen who shared their experiences and expertise: **Bill and Jason Amaru, Tom Smith, David Hills, Mike Van Hoose, Keith Rose, Eric Hesse and Andy Baler**. Thank you to our sponsors **Chatham Bars Inn** and **Nauset Marine**.

Scan the QR code for recipes and videos.



SMALL BOATS. BIG SCIENCE.

Small Boats. Big Science. brings together our community, researchers, and commercial fishermen to discuss the latest scientific advancements and how they relate to our fleet, our environment, and our coastal communities. Last summer we hosted a talk by Meghna Marjadi, a scientist at NOAA's Northeast Fishery Science Center, who is using fishermen's study-fleet data to estimate the economic exposure of the summer flounder fishery to offshore wind farms.

PIER HOST PROGRAM

The Chatham Fish Pier attracts more than 50,000 visitors each summer, and the Pier Host Outreach Program is a highlight for many. Led by seasoned fishermen, it offers an inside perspective on the Cape's commercial fishing industry. We thank our dedicated Pier Hosts—**Ken Eldredge, Mike Anderson, and Rick Miszkin**—for another great season. Since 2006, they have engaged thousands of visitors, sharing their knowledge and the importance of preserving this tradition. Special thanks to **The Bilezikian Family Foundation** and our sponsors **Chatham Pier Fish Market** and **Nauset Marine**, for making this program possible.



Fundraising Highlights



HOOKERS BALL XXIII

Thank you to the 400 guests who joined us for Hookers Ball XXIII, our beloved annual fundraiser, to Shuck It Off! The night was filled with incredible food, unique auction items, and great moments under The Big White Tent! Thanks to your generosity, we are thrilled to share that we raised \$300,000!

Scan the QR code to watch the Hookers Ball video which celebrates the next generation of fishermen on Cape Cod.



FALMOUTH ROAD RACE

Fishermen's Alliance is proud to have participated for the seventh consecutive year in the Asics Falmouth Road Race as part of the Number for Nonprofits Program. We are grateful to the #fishrunfalmouth runners who participated in the seaside race and fundraised to support our mission:

Tim Bailey, James Fleming, Brigid Krug, Mike Landry, Jenna Louw, Sylvia Louw, Emily Manach, Kathryn Mandalakis, Heather Morin, Moira Noonan-Kerry, Matthew Ortiz, Brendon Parker, Keri Peterman, Alexa Sherr and Caitlin Townsend.



The team raised **\$19,185!**

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

We were delighted to be part of **Cods of the Cape**, a unique art show and auction for the fifth consecutive year, coordinated by artist and **Cottage boutique owner, Aline Lindemann**. Thank you to the 2024 artists for generously donating their stunning artwork: **Susan Adler, Gail Bor, Clara Clough, Kim Deane, Jen Decker, Jodi Lutz French, Nick Heaney, Amy Mason Design, Mike Palmer, Sunshine Singleton/Cape Cod Landshark, Suzanne Rupp and Ted Skirvan**. The auction raised \$3,200 for Fishermen's Alliance.

Ocean To Art, Cape Cod's Seafood Palette was a collaborative exhibition that featured the detailed artwork of **Mike Palmer of Waquoit Bay Fish Company**. It focused on highlighting the range of seafood available from our local waters and its importance to our regional economy. A percentage of sale proceeds was generously donated to Fishermen's Alliance.

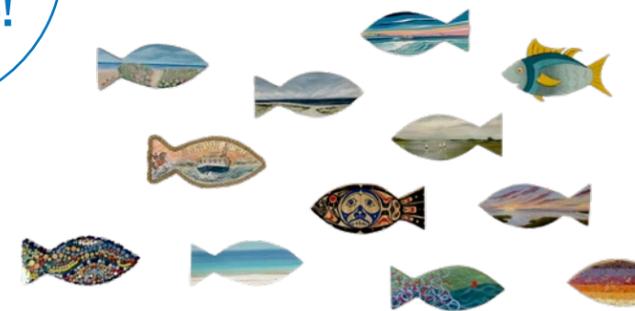
Chatham Candy Manor supported Fishermen's Alliance with a sweet fudge fundraiser, donating a portion of fudge sales for an entire week (531 pounds of fudge) which totaled \$4,779!

\$2,500,000

CHARTING OUR COURSE FOR THE FUTURE

Capital Campaign Progress to Goal

In 2023, we launched Charting Our Course for the Future, a \$2.5 million endowment capital campaign to ensure that Cape Cod fishermen have professional representation at local, state, and federal levels. We are pleased to be halfway to our goal and continue to fundraise for this important initiative which will enable us to advocate for our fishing community for decades to come.



Outstanding Partners and Supporters

The following individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations, and collaborators supported the Fishermen's Alliance in 2024. We acknowledge and greatly appreciate those whose gifts help to uphold the heritage of commercial fishing, protect our ecosystem, and create a better future for Cape Cod.

THE HIGHLINER SOCIETY

Honoring our most instrumental supporters who have a lifetime cumulative giving history of \$100,000 or more.

Anonymous	Stephen & Mary Beth Daniel	John W. Kelleher	David & Gail Oppenheim	Keith & Janet Sherin
William Beinecke*		Tom & Trish Kennedy		The 1156 Foundation
The Bilezikian Family Foundation	The Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation	Barbara Matteson & Stephen Clayton	William & Sandy Rogers	

THE SALTY DOG SOCIETY

Honoring our loyal supporters who have a lifetime cumulative giving history of \$25,000 or more.

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THE CAPTAIN HARDING SOCIETY

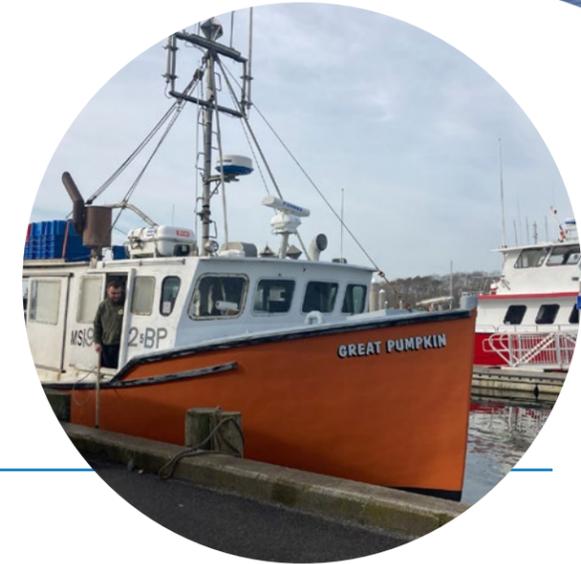
Recognizing donors who gave \$1,000 or more in 2024.

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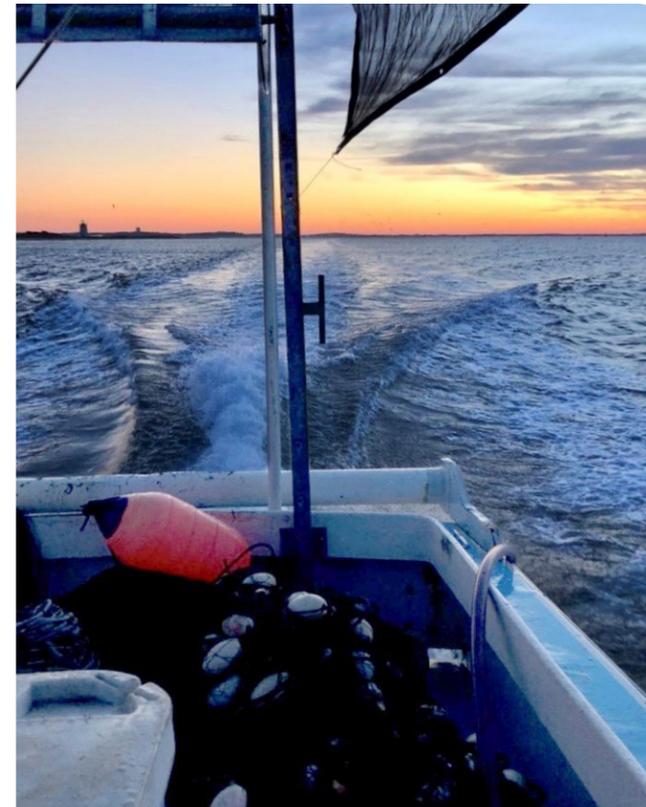
Robert Hesse
Phil Marshall



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Brazilian Resource Center	Cape Cod Children's Place	Cape Cod Regional Technical High School: Marine Services	Joint Ocean Commission Initiative	Northeast Fisheries Science Center
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		Community Development Partnership	Massachusetts Emergency Food Assistance Program	South Shore Community Action Center
		Coonamessett Farm Foundation	Massachusetts Maritime Academy	University of Massachusetts Dartmouth School for Marine Science & Technology
		Fathom Resources	National Future Fishermen Coalition	Wellfleet Shellfish Company
		Fishing Communities Coalition	The Nature Conservancy	Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
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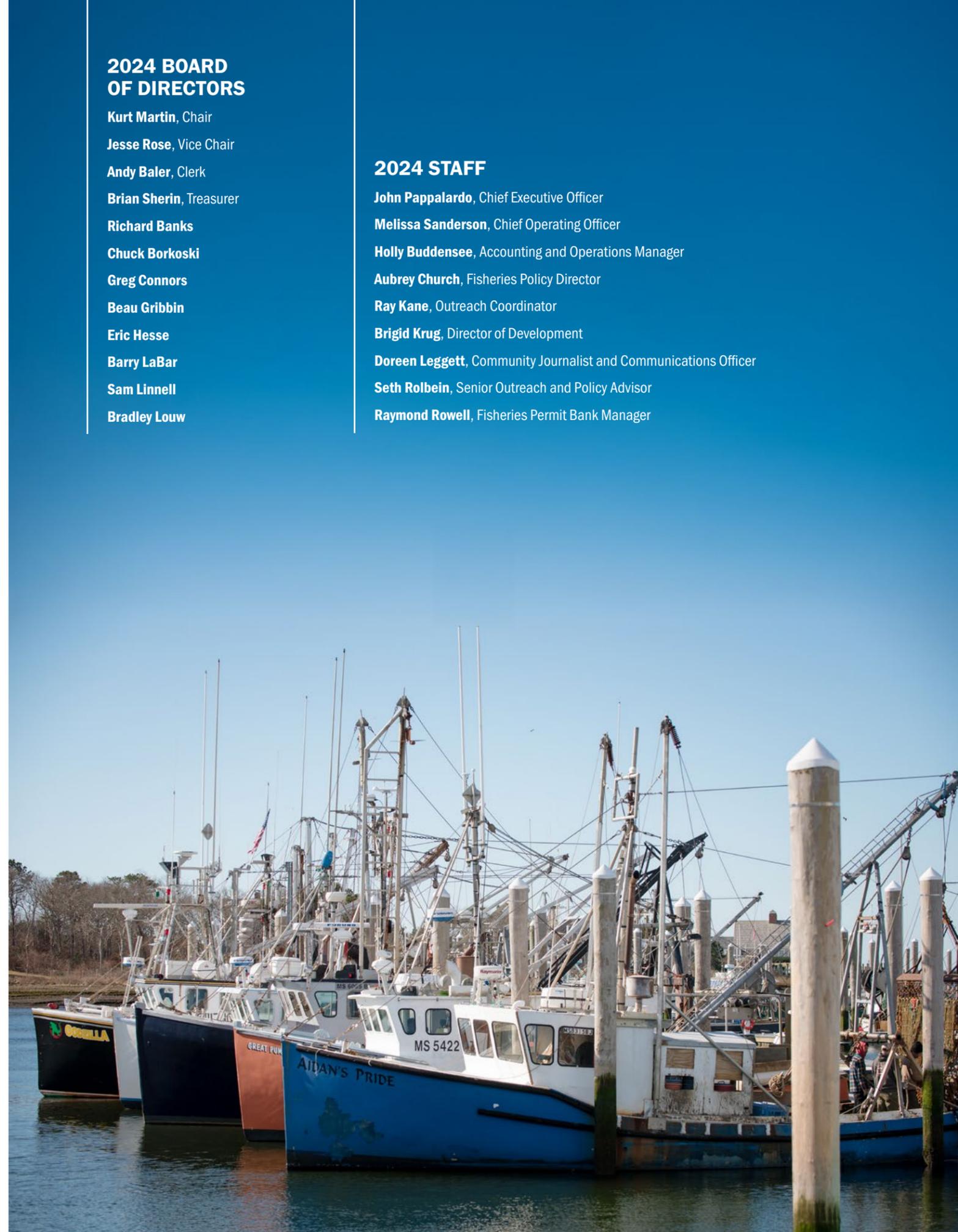
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