



Hooked On Cod

Protecting a resource, a tradition, and a way of life. FALL 2010



CSF Subscribers Land Weekly Dose of Fresh Seafood

After spending days at a time at sea, Eric Hesse is used to watching his fish get trucked off to auction 125 miles away and then shipped out, again, before making it to someone's dinner table. The price is unstable, the process cumbersome and, most importantly, the seafood just isn't as fresh as it could be.

"There's no reason that fish caught off the shores of Cape Cod shouldn't stay here," said Eric, a commercial fisherman from West Barnstable who operates the vessel *Tenacious II*. "The benefit is huge both for seafood lovers and the fishermen who make a living bringing this fish to shore."

This fall, the cod and haddock that Eric catch are being delivered straight to Cape consumers as part of the Hook's pilot Community Supported Fishery (CSF), along with lobster, scallops and other seasonal fish from participating fishermen. The CSF is scheduled to run through November 20—though all dates are weather-dependent—and is providing five weeks of seafood for the 100 subscribers who signed up in early October. The pilot—run in conjunction with Buy Fresh Buy Local Cape Cod, is helping the Hook gather much-needed information on the best practices for future operations.

continued on page 2

Participating Fishermen



Eric Hesse, a bottom long line fisherman from West Barnstable, has been integrally involved in devel-

oping a Community Supported Fishery for Cape Cod and is providing hook-caught fish for the pilot program. Eric started fishing commercially in 1984 and is the captain and owner of the fishing vessel *Tenacious II*, home-ported at Wychmere Harbor in Harwichport. Eric also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association.



Tye Vecchione owns the 44-foot stern-rigged scallop vessel *BadaBing*, home ported at Aunt Lydia's Cove

at the Chatham Fish Pier. Tye, a Chatham resident, has been scalloping for eight years and provides fresh sea scallops to the Hook's CSF Pilot Program.



Kurt Martin is a lifelong fisherman and owner and operator of the lobster boat *Time Bandit*.

He also runs one of the last few weir fishing operations left on the Cape and has participated in a number of fisheries. Kurt, an Orleans resident, also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association. He is providing lobsters to the CSF Pilot Program this fall.

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John's Note

Moving In and Moving On

It took 12 months, but moving day was finally upon us. Into bankers boxes and fish totes went over a decade of ideas, of sweat, of results. We turned off our computers, unplugged our phones and started trucking across town. Two days later, the Hook began officially operating out of the Captain Nathan Harding House.

It seemed empty at first. The walls were bare, the paint shiny and new, but then the familiar voices of fishermen and other friends began echoing through the place and quickly, the Captain Nathan Harding House started to feel like home.

Don't get me wrong—there's still work to be done. This winter, we'll finish the interior of the barn with a generous donation from the Georges Bank Hook Sector. When it's finished, we'll be able to use this space for our new community outreach and education opportunities. We are also interested in making the house available to other community groups for their own events.

With construction plans underway, plans for programming are also in the works. At the Hookers Ball this year, our guests graciously stepped up with a total of \$20,000 to help us launch our expanded community outreach initiative. We are lining up speakers for a lecture series to kick this off and we'll be keeping you abreast of further developments as we move forward. Please stop by and see the house this winter. After all, it's your home too.



JOHN PAPPALARDO, CEO



Congratulations to John Pappalardo, for being reelected chairman of the New England Fishery Management Council. This will be John's fifth year as chairman and ninth year on the board.

cover story continued

CSF Subscribers Land Weekly Dose of Fresh Seafood

"After seeing other fishing communities launch similar programs in New England, we saw a need for a program like this on the Cape and set out to make it happen," said Amy Morris, who helped the Hook launch the pilot. "From Day 1, we received overwhelming support and the program is up and running this fall as we'd hoped."

A special thanks goes out to the Dennisport Lobster Company in Dennis Port and the Nantucket Fish Company in Chatham for covering all of the processing and reporting requirements for the CSF, the participating fishermen and everyone else who has helped to get this pilot off the ground.

The concept behind the Community Supported Fishery project is based on the "farm to table" model of Community Supported Agriculture. Our "fish to table" program is made up of subscribers who are collaborating with local fishermen by buying seafood directly from them for a predetermined price and length of time.

Shareholders pay in advance and, in turn, receive a share of seasonal seafood each week, guaranteed to be caught in local waters by local fishermen.

By supporting local captains, the hope is that subscribers gain an appreciation for fresh and seasonal seafood products and for the fishermen out on the water. For the fishermen, a CSF enhances control

of pricing and expansion of market space. It also places a premium on best fishing practices to ensure a quality product achieved through sustainable fishing methods.

The Cape Cod Economic Development Council and the USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program provided funding to make this pilot program possible. While this season's program was limited to 100 subscribers, we know there is more interest in the community and plan to expand our reach in the next round of the pilot. Please watch for updates on the pilot and future opportunities for you to participate. Further information can be found on the Hook website, www.ccchfa.org/programs/csf-pilot-program.htm.



PHOTO: DAVID HILLS

Council Delays Action on Herring Vote

For the herring committee, it's back to the drawing board.

Though the New England Fishery Management Council was scheduled to vote at its September meeting on final options for Amendment 5 to the Atlantic Herring Fishery management plan, the council opted to delay action and task the committee to keep working.

"I don't think this document is anywhere near ready for primetime," council member Terry Stockwell said during the meeting.

The council did vote to consider the protection of Atlantic herring spawning grounds on Nantucket Shoals as part of the amendment, but acknowledged the additional work may not be done by January, when the herring committee is scheduled to come back to the full council with a report. The group also tasked the committee to look into a bycatch cap for river herring under the amendment process.

"We're happy the council is recognizing the need to further develop this amendment, but we continue to be really concerned

about delays in the process," Ben Martens, policy analyst for the Hook, said after the meeting. "We're still seeing heavy midwater trawl pressure on spawning herring, quota overages and growing evidence that many hundreds of tons of fish are being dumped before observers can sample them. It's more important than ever that those interested in this fishery get involved and have their voices heard."

This fall, the herring fleet overshot its quota in the waters off of Cape Cod by 40 percent, further emphasizing the need to fix the management of this fishery—and fast.

The primary objective of Amendment 5 is to beef up monitoring and reduce bycatch for the industrial herring fleet. The latest push means new provisions won't be on the water until 2012 at the earliest—five years after the council recognized the need to install these improved measures.

Herring Enthusiasts Hit the Water

Eighty-five people packed onto a replica steamship anchored in Boston Harbor on a rainy evening this August to learn more about the need for reform in the Atlantic herring fishing industry. Sponsored by the Hook, the Herring Alliance and Honest ByCatch, the evening was filled with education, conversation and collaboration as the 72-foot vessel made its way down the Mystic River.



Policy Campaign Updates

At its September meeting in Newport, R.I., the New England Fishery Management Council took up a wide range of issues that will be important to the Cape fishing fleet in the coming year.

Groundfish

The Council continued to work on the upcoming groundfish Framework 45, which will set the harvest levels for all multispecies stocks for the upcoming fishing years. The Hook policy team and local fishermen will continue to track the development of this framework to ensure that the council continues to prioritize the sustainable harvest of all stocks.

Skate

The council voted strongly to request that the National Marine Fisheries Service initiate an emergency action to address the problems with the skate fishery this year. Sixty percent of the allowable landings for skate wings were caught in the first six weeks of the fishing season, which led to a quick move to a reduced 500-pound trip limit that essentially eliminated the fishery for Cape fishermen. Believing that current estimates of discards are unrealistically high, the council is asking NMFS to look into the most recent discard information and adjust the skate trip limit this year. This move would allow the Cape fleet to target the skate stock during the crucial winter fishing season.

Scallops

Small boats will be able to land more scallops per day—600 pounds as opposed to 400—and will be granted expanded protections from the potential harvest overages of the big-boat fleet under new rules approved by the council in September. The council also voted not to allow the largest scallop vessels to stack multiple permits onto their boats. Other minor rule changes will make the small-boat quota program more flexible and effective for local scallopers.



Harding Family History

The Captain Nathan Harding House may now be a place of business, but Jane Harding Patterson remembers when it was just her family's home.



JANE HARDING PATTERSON

The Harding House was built for Jane's great uncle, Nathan E. Harding, in 1903.

As a young girl in the '40s and early '50s, Jane would spend afternoons playing hide-and-seek in the barn with her cousins, teetering out onto the "widow's walk" or hitting the softball in the adjacent fields.

"I'm so happy that you people bought and restored this," said Jane, on her first visit to the house since it's been furnished and occupied. "It's really a piece of history."

The Harding House was built for Jane's great uncle, Nathan E. Harding, in 1903. Nathan was the master of the *Henry L. Peckham*, one of 11 schooners owned by Gardiner B. Reynolds of Newport, R.I., who was in the coal and lumber business. It was commissioned in 1892 and for 18 years it traveled the Atlantic coast from Maine to Georgia.

"It's really a piece of history."

JANE HARDING PATTERSON

In June of 1910, while loading ice in the Kennebec River, a spark from the Maine Central Railroad ignited the hay used for the packing material and burned the schooner to the water line. At that time, Captain Harding carried no insurance on the vessel, although he was the main share

holder. Eventually, the boat was sold and reconfigured with a single deck, renamed and continued the coastal trade. It sank off the west coast of Florida in 1920.

After Nathan died in the 1920s, his property was divided amongst his four children and his oldest daughter, Mercy, her husband, Bill Kendrick, and their three children moved into the Harding House. Mercy's daughter, Rachel, was the next to occupy the house with her husband, Clifton P. LaRose, Sr., who became known around town as the "man in the window" after he stopped working for health reasons and would spend his days doing crossword puzzles in the front bay window and waving to passers-by.

It was their son, Clifton P. LaRose, Jr., who in 2008 sold the family home to local businessman David Oppenheim. Just one year later, he agreed to renovate the house and sell it to the Hook Fishermen's Association.

The Hook's future will play out at the Harding House. But for Jane, who still lives close by, visiting the restored house is like going back in time.

"It's good to see the house so beautifully restored," she said.

Settling In...

The décor is still a work-in-progress, but our new office at the Captain Nathan Harding House is starting to feel like a home. Take a look!



↑
PHYLLIS MASON ROOM

The Phyllis Mason room on the second floor, named in honor of a dear friend of the Hook Association, is now home to the policy department. Over \$45,000 was given in memory of Phyllis during our capital campaign.



ORIGINAL FIREPLACE

The bricks, tile hearth and mantle of this fireplace are all original from 1903. Its brick chimney is exposed on the third floor and slants slightly to the north, a design of that era.



MEETING ROOM

The third floor is being used for both intimate meetings and larger group gatherings.



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CONFERENCE ROOM

This room on the first floor, with its large conference table, is the perfect place to conduct business.

Fixed Gear Sector Wraps Up Summer Season

Haddock was the catch of the summer for local hook fishermen this year, who fished roughly 100 miles east of Chatham through late July and then followed the fish closer to shore. These fishermen landed an average of 3,000 to 7,000 pounds of haddock per trip, with little by-catch interaction. For example, in September these fishermen landed nearly 86,700 pounds of haddock, while not landing a single pound of yellowtail or blackback flounder.

In addition to haddock, the hook fleet was able to take advantage of a prolific spiny dogfish fishery within a few miles of the Chatham inlet. Between the middle of June and the middle of July, these vessels sailed nearly 100 trips and landed approximately 280,000 pounds of spiny dogfish. Sector jig and handline fishermen continued to sail a few trips each week during September, landing anywhere from 100 pounds to 1,500 pounds of cod and pollock per trip.

The summer availability of cod and pollock was hit or miss, which really impacted the gillnet fleet. A handful of vessels were diligent in their quest for these fish, and were rewarded in early July with landings of 3,000 to 8,000 pounds per trip. But as the summer drew on, landings dropped to only a few hundred pounds per day. In response, most of these fishermen set some gillnets to target spiny dogfish through July and August. After the dogfish fishery closed at the end of August, fishermen increased their focus on catching skates and some monkfish.

Despite a drastic drop in the federal daily limit on skates late this summer, sector boats landed nearly 72,000 pounds on 150 trips. As of early October, sector fishermen had landed over 2.4 million pounds of skate wings for the year.



Fisheries Trust Celebrates First Million Pound Season

The Cape Cod Fisheries Trust commemorated its first full year of operations this fall by honoring all those who have supported the program with special gifts.



At a reception September 2 at Fisherman's Daughter in Chatham, donors, fishermen and volunteers took home sweatshirts and tote bags specially designed for the Trust and crafted by local businesses Fisherman's Daughter, Vervaine Design Studio and SeaCheryl Designs.

"Without all of our contributors and participants, this fleet would be struggling," said Paul Parker, founder and director of the Trust. "We wanted to do something to really let our supporters know how much their involvement with the Trust means."

Over the past year, the Trust directly aided 108 fishing boat captains and crew members. Over \$3 million has been raised to purchase permits to help the Lower Cape's small-boat commercial fleet. One million pounds of groundfish and scallop quota has already been distributed through the Trust, a model for similar programs that have sprung up across the country since its founding in 2005.

A dozen foundations have provided grants and loans and more than 50 individual donors have generously stepped up to allow the Trust to buy groundfish and scallop quota and lease it back to qualifying fishermen at affordable rates. The fishermen, in turn, are using sustainable business models to make sure that the investment is worthwhile.

"Our permit bank is helping these fishermen keep their homes, feed their families and do what they need to do to continue to operate. We're well on our way to making this program fully operational."

PAUL PARKER, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, CCFT

Hookers Ball 10 Sells Out

With a huge crowd and a tremendous turnout for our live and silent auctions, the 10th Anniversary Hookers Ball was a huge success!

This year's bidders walked away with trips to Italy, Hawaii, Montana and South Africa, the opportunity to go Great White Shark tagging with Department of Marine Fisheries scientist Greg Skomal, and tickets to two Red Sox games, among other amazing prizes. An original painting by Hyannis-based artist Elizabeth Mumford made exclusively for the ball was auctioned off for \$6,500.

The Hookers Ball, the Hook Association's biggest annual fundraiser, would not have been possible without the two dozen sponsors and nearly 100 volunteers that gave generously and worked hard to make this event unforgettable.

The Hook staff would like especially to thank its premier sponsors: The Cape Cod Media Group, Cape Cod Life and Chatham Bars Inn. Other sponsors of this year's event were: Nauset Disposal, The Casual Gourmet, Cape Cod Chronicle, Truro Vineyards, Gosling's-Castle Inc., Edible Cape Cod, L. Knife & Sons, Ben & Jerry's of North Eastham, Snow's Home & Garden, Cape Air, Seamen's Bank, Wequassett Resort & Golf Club, Sunderland Printing, Kayak Cookies, East Brewster Dental, Red Nun Bar & Grill, Pike Associates, Pine Acres Realty, Triple Eight Distillery, Stop & Shop of Harwich, Chatham Candy Manor and Harwich East Liquors.



A limited number of signed prints of the original Elizabeth Mumford painting are still available at the Hook office. Please call 508.945.2432 for more details.

Hook Partners with HCT to "Sweep" Harwich Beaches

More than 30 volunteers joined the Hook and the Harwich Conservation Trust (HCT) on September 28 to clean up nearly a dozen beaches in Harwich. The effort was part of Coastsweep, the statewide beach cleanup sponsored by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management and coordinated by the UMass Boston Urban Harbors Institute.

Volunteers worked in small groups to clean the shores, collecting everything from cooking utensils to children's toys.



FISHING UPDATE

Chatham Fishermen Go the Distance

Cape fishermen traveled farther than ever before this fall to find bluefin tuna. But, for most, the extra time and expense proved worthwhile.

At 120 to 130 miles east of the Cape—practically closer to Canada than to home—the fishermen were quickly and easily catching their three fish a day. Prices fluctuated anywhere from \$2 to \$15 a pound.

"It's a very good bite," fisherman John Our said. "But it's a long ways."

With codfish stocks down this year compared to last, Chatham's ground fishermen chose to diversify their business models to make sure the season proved fruitful.

"These guys have the ability to adapt. That's what makes them successful."

ERIC BRAZER, SECTOR MANAGER



CAPE COD COMMERCIAL HOOK FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY
DECEMBER
2

Holiday Party

You're invited to our annual potluck dinner!

Thursday, December 2
5:30 PM TO 8:30 PM
1566 Main St. Chatham

For more information and to RSVP,
please contact Jenna at 508.945.2432
or jenna@ccchfa.org.

Let us know what you think.

Let us know what you think about *Hooked on Cod*. Contact the editor, Stephanie Vosk, with comments about the Fall Newsletter or to send news items for the next quarterly edition: stephanie@ccchfa.org.

www.ccchfa.org

