

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL HOOK FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION BRINGS NANTUCKET SOUNDKEEPER ABOARD

NORTH CHATHAM- The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association (CCCHFA) announced today it has received the license to serve as Nantucket Soundkeeper from the national Waterkeeper Alliance. The transition of the license from the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound (APNS) to CCCHFA parallels the recent move of Susan Nickerson, formerly of APNS, to CCCHFA to serve as its Executive Director.

"We are delighted to be awarded this prestigious license, and look forward to continuing to develop the programs that were started while Nantucket Soundkeeper was at APNS," said Nickerson. "We now have a powerful union between an environmental entity and a community-based fisheries management organization. The conservation ethic that has characterized CCCHFA since its inception will be accented and expanded as we integrate the Nantucket Soundkeeper program into our existing agenda."

According to Peter Taylor, President of CCCHFA, the Association envisions a number of initiatives to link fishermen's interests in water quality and habitat protection to a program for Nantucket Sound. Among them:

- Habitat restoration projects such as restoring river herring runs, oyster gardening, and eelgrass planting;
- Collaboration on research projects in Nantucket Sound to improve conditions for local fisheries;
- Pilot programs for mitigating invasive species problems; and
- Advocating for increased access to the waterfront for fishing, shellfishing, and related pursuits.

"The Hook Fishermen's Association has always been an advocate for healthy fish stocks," Taylor said. "Bringing the Nantucket Soundkeeper program under our umbrella provides a new opportunity to help restore our damaged near shore fisheries."

Shareen Davis, a local weir fisherman, photographer, and owner of Monomoy Trap Company, expressed support for the license transfer, noting the importance of seeing the Nantucket Soundkeeper program move forward.

"The health and wellbeing of Nantucket Sound is critical to all users of the Sound, including the near-shore fishermen," she said. "Having an advocate and watchdog in our community bodes well for the future of these vital waters."

The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that aligns protection of the oceans with the economic interests of our historic fishing community. CCCHFA supports stewardship of coastal

of our historic fishing community. CCCHFA supports stewardship of coastal ecosystems through education, research, and policy programs. Started in 1991 by the local fishing fleet, CCCHFA is now the leading community fisheries organization in the region. CCCHFA is taking action now to make sure there are fish for future generations.

More information is available at www.ccchfa.org.

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~ Protecting a Resource, a Tradition, and a Way of Life ~