



Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

E-HOOK: Your monthly update from CCCHFA

February 2010

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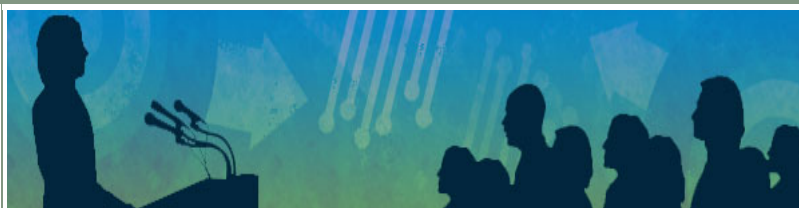
Dear friends,

In the coming weeks and months, you will be reading a lot about the trials and tribulations of fishermen transitioning to the catch share system of management as this year's fishing seasons begin (March 1 for scallops and May 1 for groundfish). We will keep you updated on progress and challenges, and what the Hook Association is doing to ease the transition, through this monthly e-newsletter and our quarterly newsletter.

Watch for the Hook Association's **2009 Annual Report**, which chronicles our progress toward protecting fish and fishing in our community and regionally, in your mailbox and online on our website in March.

Also, we invited you to attend our **Annual Meeting on March 19th at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Center in Chatham**. For those of you who can't be there in person, we'll be videotaping the event and posting it on our website.

With appreciation,
Sue Nickerson, Executive Director
Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE CCCHFA ANNUAL MEETING

Friday, March 19

Location:

[Chatham Community Center](#) 702 Main St., Chatham

Agenda:

9:30 a.m.- Continental breakfast

10:00- Annual Meeting with guest [Rep. Sarah Peake](#)

RSVP:

Please RSVP if you will attend the Annual Meeting!

Contact Katie at (508)945.2432 or katie@ccchfa.org

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IN THE NEWS: Local fishermen say catch limits go too far



Chatham fishermen worry that bureaucratic red tape will keep them from catching the fish they say will allow them to survive another year.

Usually, scientific studies showing fish population declines drive harsher regulations. But this year, new rules due to be implemented in May slash the catch of skates and pollock even though the scientists have information that those populations may actually be more robust than previously believed.

In the case of dogfish, the stock is booming and has even been declared "rebuilt" by one major regulatory body, but strict quotas remain in place because of a decade-old numbers dispute between the federal fisheries service and the regional fishery management councils.

"If we can't find a way to get higher skate and dogfish quota, and to get more pollock ... we'll see fishing businesses go under in 2010," said Thomas Dempsey, a policy analyst with the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association.

With an estimated 25- to 50-percent drop expected this coming fishing year in what can be landed in cod, haddock, flounders and other groundfish, fishermen were relying more on these other fish to take up the slack, Dempsey said.

- **READ:** the [full story in the Cape Cod Times](#)

Fishing Report: Slow going in February



Fishing continued to be very slow throughout the month of February. The 5 sector fishermen who ventured out to catch cod were meekly rewarded with approximately 1,500 pounds of fish. The monkfish and skate fishery has started to pick up for the gillnetters fishing south of Nantucket and the Vineyard, with reports of some very large catches of skates—some in excess of 10,000 pounds per trip.

- **LEARN MORE:** [about sector management](#)

NOAA announces new assistant administrator for fisheries

Feb. 10 Statement from NOAA administrator Jane Lubchenco:



"It gives me great pleasure to announce **Eric Schwaab** as the new assistant administrator for fisheries, starting February 16. We are excited to have someone with Eric's experience and proven leadership to bring a fresh perspective to the management of NOAA's [National Marine Fisheries Service](#).

Credit NOAA

"Eric will lead NOAA's efforts to rebuild our fisheries and the jobs and livelihoods that depend on them. His immediate priorities include improving outreach and

relationships with recreational and commercial fishermen, better aligning federal and regional fisheries priorities, restoring confidence in fisheries law enforcement, and promoting management approaches that will achieve both sustainable fisheries and vibrant coastal communities."

- **READ:** [the full NOAA press release](#)

IN THE NEWS: Report validates fishermen's concerns



Fair is fair, but the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been less than fair when enforcing fishing rules in New England, according to the U.S. Inspector General.

"The report came back validating the opinions and personal experience of a lot of our fishermen," said Tom Dempsey, a policy analyst at Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fisherman's Association. "For years the guys have been saying it's an unfair system plagued by heavy-handed enforcement."

In the report, released Jan. 21, the inspector general didn't investigate individual cases (they lacked the time) but examined the general flow of regulation.

"I take this report very seriously," NOAA administrator Jane Lubchenco said Feb. 3, in a statement. "I want a comprehensive approach to addressing both the IG's observations and the perceptions of fishermen. Fish are a public resource that should be protected through proper regulation and enforcement."

- **READ:** the full story in [the Cape Codder](#)

Navigation signal terminated across country



LORAN-C, a radio-navigation service for U.S. coastal waters utilized by fishermen, was terminated this month as part of a government plan to eliminate unnecessary federal programs. The Coast Guard notified fishermen that they would no longer be able to rely on LORAN-C as a navigation system starting February 8, though it might take more time for the signal to cut out across the entire country. The termination was made despite efforts by local

fishermen and politicians across New England to reverse the decision.

LEARN MORE: visit the [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) online

UPDATE: Captain Harding House progress



Between snow storms, the exterior work has been wrapping up: the transom windows, barn door, and historic shingling have been completed on the new barn. Inside, the heat is on and the plastering is almost done. Fishing work should begin later in March.

LEARN MORE: [about the Harding House project](#)

Nantucket Soundkeeper to utilize satellite program



The Nantucket Soundkeeper Program has a new, high tech way to assess the Sound. As part of the New England Consortium for Coastal Monitoring, which includes the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, we have access to high resolution (military grade) satellite imagery of our coastal waters. This remote sensing can locate, quantify and monitor non-point source pollution, as well as assess underwater features and submerged vegetation. There will be a flyover of the satellite in March to capture baseline data for comparison to future image

- **LEARN MORE:** [about the Nantucket Soundkeeper program](#)

Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association



The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that aligns protection of the oceans with the interests of our historic fishing community. We support stewardship of coastal ecosystems through education, research, and policy programs. Started in 1991 by the local fishing fleet, the Hook Association has become the leading community fisheries organization in the region. We're taking action now to make sure there are fish for future generations.

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