



Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPE COD COMMERCIAL HOOK FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION RECEIVES FEDERAL FUNDS, LAUNCHES FINAL LEG OF CAPTAIN HARDING HOUSE CAMPAIGN



NORTH CHATHAM, MA: The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association today announced two awards from the USDA Rural Development program. The first of these, a \$500,000, low-interest, 40-year loan, anchors the Hook Association's capital campaign for the purchase of their new headquarters, the Captain Nathan Harding House property, sometime in late June. The other award is a grant of \$10,000 to assist the Hook Fishermen's Association with exploration of a local Community Supported Fishery program to benefit local fishermen and consumers of seafood.

"We are very pleased to have these funds at our disposal," said Peter Taylor, President of the Hook Association. "USDA has stepped up and helped position us to pursue two important opportunities that help CCCHFA support the fishing community here in Chatham."

Both Congressman William Delahunt and Senator John Kerry assisted with securing the funds for the Hook Association.

"We were very gratified that our federal officials went to bat for our requests and facilitated a positive decision", said Hook Association Executive Director Sue Nickerson. "We also had significant assistance from the New England Farmers Union,

which is active on Cape Cod in helping to bolster farming and fishing activities. It was the Farmers Union that actually brought these funding prospects to our attention."

The Captain Harding House restoration is proceeding rapidly toward completion under the direction of current owner David Oppenheim. Interior and exterior work is expected to be largely finished by the end of May, with final touches in June.

In the meantime, the Hook Association has launched a 90-day, intensive fund drive to raise the remaining \$270,000 needed to complete the \$1.3 million capital campaign for the project.

"The community, through its support of the town meeting article for Community Preservation Act funds, started us off on the right foot last fall, for which we are very grateful," said Nickerson. "From there we were fortunate to have significant contributions made by the Oppenheim family, Stephen and Mary Beth Daniel, and the Beinecke family, supplemented by many generous gifts from other supporters in the community. We are very close to our goal, and are working hard to close the remaining gap."

The Hook Association plans to send a request for donations to property owners and businesses in Chatham in early May as part of their effort to raise the remaining funds.

"The Captain Harding House is a true gem, and we so appreciate people coming together to make this project a reality for the community and for the Hook Association," Nickerson concluded.

Photos of the restoration progress are available online at http://www.ccchfa.org/about/about_hq.htm

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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 is now the leading community fisheries organization in the region. We are taking action now to make sure there are fish for future generations.

~ Protecting a Resource, a Tradition, and a Way of Life ~
www.ccchfa.org