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.

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.
Dear Friends,

The Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance formed in 1991 at a crisis moment. In response, a group of independent, forward-thinking fishermen created a united front to make sure major regulatory changes hitting the industry wouldn’t destroy Cape Cod’s small-boat fishing heritage and way of life for many.

Today, we find ourselves in another pivotal moment. The pandemic shaking the world is affecting us all and hitting the local economy hard, but we will weather this storm as well.

When I look back on 2019, I can’t help but be grateful for the incredible community that stood by us. More than 40 percent of our support was from individual contributions — people who are passionate about sustaining a healthy ocean environment, foundations that care about preserving the fishing industry, local businesses who join us in our efforts and events that bring us together to celebrate the fishing community.

Over the years when faced with challenges, fishermen diversified and improvised. Many switched to more abundant species, rebuilt their business plans and remained committed to a life on the ocean working the Cape’s original Blue Economy. They had won the right to sail into a brighter future.

Fishermen’s Alliance works tirelessly to protect that future. In 2019 we started a fishermen’s training program, taught in part by experienced captains who have much to show, and who need more knowledgeable crew. We continue to turn to good science to drive smart fisheries policy. Our support, investment, and pioneering efforts in electronic monitoring will help address several hurdles the industry faces. Decades of work to protect vital herring stocks succeeded and will pay dividends for the fisheries, the Cape’s ecosystem, and its economy. We continued to invest in the A.R.C. Hatchery in Dennis, which supplies shellfish seed to many local growers and most Cape towns.

The global challenge we face today will not destroy these successes. We have mobilized to provide fishermen with support to get through this and are focused on new valuable opportunities that will come out of this. As an organization, we are confident in our flexibility, resilience, and perseverance.

I believe that with your help, we will look back and say we came out of this stronger than ever. We will succeed because the broader community believes in our mission. All of us want to see an active fishing fleet on Cape Cod — it’s hard to imagine what this place would be without it.

With appreciation,

John Pappalardo, CEO

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**Financial Highlights**

The Fishermen’s Alliance is a nonprofit organization subject to chapter 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service.

The graphics below represent a summary of the Fishermen’s Alliance unaudited 2019 financial performance. The financial statements will be audited by Sanders, Walsh & Eaton, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

Fishermen’s Alliance is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**2019 REVENUE**

$1,967,259

- 32% State & Federal Grants: $632,796
- 21% Private Foundation Grants: $407,890
- 16% Individual Contributions: $325,443
- 20% Fisheries Trust: $380,097
- 8% Events: $171,032
- 3% Other: $49,201

**2019 EXPENSE**

$2,041,228

- 67% Programming: $1,338,632
- 19% Fundraising: $406,671
- 14% Administrative: $295,925
In 2019, staff spent 140 days at regulatory meetings advocating for the fishermen of Cape Cod and taking part in the regional fisheries management efforts that span the entire east coast. We play an active role in the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, New England Fishery Management Council, Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Team and the Massachusetts Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission.

We bring on-the-water knowledge to the decision making table, helping develop workable, long term solutions.

Hard work by the Fishermen’s Alliance and our national partners in the Fishing Communities Coalition made a big impact in Washington, D.C. The Young Fishermen’s Development Act passed out of the House committee in 2019. This is a big step toward becoming a law that would support training for the next generation of fishermen across the nation.

In 2019, the federal government announced that it would be implementing long-awaited protections for herring, a critical forage fish in our ecosystem. After investing more than 15 years battling for restrictions on the industrial-scale midwater trawl vessels, we feel this an enormous victory. These regulations will limit the amount of herring the big boats can catch, plus establish a 20-mile buffer off of the Cape’s backshore. The impact of this will dramatically benefit our environment, fishermen, and the entire community.

“This little fish means so much to our community,” said John Pappalardo, our CEO. “People trying to resurrect our herring runs, support historic fishing effort, and rebuild the ecosystem, all rallied around this one key step.”

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Fishermen Driving Science

We believe good science drives good policy.

Collaboration Gives Fishermen a Voice

In 2019, we joined the efforts of the Responsible Offshore Development Alliance (RODA), an east coast wide collaborative of fishing industry interests designed to work with scientists, regulators and offshore wind industry to give fishermen a voice in the offshore wind development process. While many development areas have already been delineated south of the Cape, discussions are still underway in the Gulf of Maine. RODA convenes fishing industry stakeholders for discussions every few weeks to give us an opportunity to make our voices heard as offshore energy comes into our region.

Pilot Program Proves to be a National Resource

The Electronic Monitoring (EM) program is a regional collaboration that we lead and it continues to make great strides with onboard cameras that record what is discarded on every fishing trip. The lessons learned over the past several years are now proving to be a valuable national resource and staff from the Fishermen’s Alliance shared the pilot program at the national EM workshop. Twenty four captains around New England volunteered for the monitoring program. These fishermen produced high quality data, do not have to take human observers, and they receive special access to closed areas.

Fishermen Data Helps Scientists Track Climate Change

Fishermen’s Alliance participated in a region-wide, collaborative effort to provide fine-scale ocean bottom temperature data to the oceanographers and climatologists who develop marine forecast models. Six fishermen on Cape Cod joined dozens of others throughout New England in installing temperature probes on their fishing gear and providing the data to scientists at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Data collection is ongoing and NOAA researchers hope to begin deploying shipboard weather stations on fishing vessels in the next year or two.

Halibut Biology Informs Policy

The Fishermen’s Alliance and our partners analyzed biological samples from more than 240 halibut last year. So far, we have used the data to convince National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to convene an international Atlantic halibut working group that will include fishermen, scientists, and resource managers from New England and Canada. The first meeting will happen later in 2020.

Additionally, our results will be presented at the International Flatfish Symposium in New Hampshire. As fisheries managers begin to better understand this fish’s biology, it is our hope that we will be able to support changes that will lead to the re-emergence of a targeted hook fishery for halibut.
**Economic Development**

Our investments in people, fisheries, and Cape Cod’s Blue economy build a sustainable future for all.

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**Fishermen’s Training Program**

Building off our national efforts with the Young Fishermen’s Development Act, the Fishermen’s Alliance worked with local partners and industry members to develop our first ever Fishermen’s Training program.

Through this program, emerging fishermen are provided with critical training and certifications that will help make them safe and successful on the water. The goal of this training is to ensure our local fishing industry can find crew and that there is a next generation ready and able to take the helm.

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**Cape Cod’s Original Blue Economy**

Commercial fishing is the original Blue Economy and an enormous driver in today’s world so we are very involved with the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce’s efforts to celebrate the region’s water and coastal resources. The Fishermen’s Alliance is a partner in promoting a year-round maritime focused economy with the Blue Economy Foundation. For two years, our staff as well as commercial fishermen have participated in WaterWorks, a hands-on career showcase connecting the next generation to Blue Economy jobs in the region.

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**Fisheries Trust**

The Cape Cod Fisheries Trust is a program that helps to keep fishing permits and fish quota here on Cape Cod while providing cost savings to participating fishermen. We lease this quota each year at a discounted rate to fishermen in the region who are just getting started, or are wanting to grow their business. Quota leased included scallops, cod, haddock, hake, and smaller amounts of groundfish like dabs and flounder. This program also creates opportunity for fishermen to catch a variety of species and stay on the water throughout the year.

In 2019 the Trust provided: 315,000 pounds of subsidized quota to 32 fishing businesses with a total cost savings of $250,000 to the fishermen.

What is Quota? Fisheries scientists determine the amount of fish that can be caught each year while still leaving enough in the ocean to support our ecosystem. Then the government gives each fisherman the right to catch a share of the annual limit — known as “quota.”
**Community Outreach**

We bring important initiatives to the public, businesses, state and federal agencies, schools, and community partners.

**Bringing Fish to Families and Senior Facilities**

Since 2013, we have partnered with The Family Pantry of Cape Cod to bring locally caught seafood straight from Cape fishermen to our neighbors in need as part of our Fish for Families Program.

In 2019, a total of 8,720 pounds of fish were distributed, offering more than 22,000 servings of fish to food pantries across Cape Cod.

With support from Cape Cod Health Care, we are exploring new ways to bring local seafood into settings where groups of older residents receive nutritious meals, for example at Councils on Aging, nursing homes, and assisted living facilities.

**Community Events Promote Local Seafood**

Joining with Cape Cod Cooperative Extension and Wellfleet SPAT, we explored initiatives that would benefit the wild shellfishery and aquaculture, including a marketing plan for the promotion of New England Butter Clams and investigating local shucked oysters.

At the heart of our mission is sharing information about our local fisheries with the public. In 2019, we participated in over 40 events that spanned from job fairs to farmers markets reaching thousands of residents and visitors to Cape Cod. Some highlights included Brewster Conservation Day, Eat Local Day at Whole Foods in Hyannis, Seafood Day at the State House in Boston, teaching a course on the changing fisheries at Eldredge Public Library, and offering a dogfish dissection program at the Pleasant Bay Community Boating after school program.

**3rd Graders Pilot New Curriculum to Learn About Shellfish**

Fishermen’s Alliance developed a new third grade shellfish curriculum and 145 students from Chatham and Harwich tried it out. The 100-page curriculum includes 17 lessons that range from identifying different types and ages of shellfish, to what shellfish need to grow, and where you can harvest them.

The curriculum was used as a gateway to discuss food, ecosystem health, ecology, clean water, and even Cape Cod history. The experience culminated in a visit to A.R.C. Hatchery and the students became official “Shellfish Ambassadors.”

“Our new elementary school curriculum is meant to instill the importance and fragility of the Cape’s blue water economy and the role of shellfish in cleaning our waters and feeding our community.”

- Melissa Sanderson, COO, Fishermen’s Alliance

**The Impact of Your Giving 2019**

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Fundraising Activities

We work to raise funding that supports fishermen, the ocean environment, and our local Blue Economy.

Hookers Ball XVIII

On August 3, we held our 18th annual Hookers Ball “Just for the Halibut” and raised more than $300,000 under the big white tent. We entertained 525 guests, sold 65 auction packages, served 700 pounds of fish, shucked 3,700 pieces of shellfish and danced the night away. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who attended, to our sponsors for stepping up, and to all who participated in the auction and fund-a-need. This one of a kind event brings together community members, summer visitors and the fishing industry to celebrate and support the tradition of small-boat fishing on Cape Cod.
Running for Fish and Fishermen

We were proud to participate for the second consecutive year in the 2019 New Balance Falmouth Road Race on August 16. A huge congratulations to our stellar team on their amazing accomplishment of crossing the finish line after a hot and humid 7-mile race from Woods Hole to Falmouth Heights and raising $23,375 to support our mission! Thank you to all of our race supporters and a special shout out to our top fundraiser (for the second year in a row), Lizzie Lane, and to Abby Farrell, our youngest and fastest runner, placing 3rd in her age division, and our volunteer team coach Caroline Lane for all of her cheerleading and support. A successful collaborative effort by all!

The 2019 #fishrunfalmouth Team

Melissa Alden
Christa Danilowicz
Abby Farrell
Abigail Frazier
Christine Johnson
Lizzie Lane
Kurt Martin
Jim Nelson
Brendon Parker
Amanda Rice
Rob Rice
Christopher Ruez
Lara Slifka

Meet the Fleet

Matching Grant Raises $10,902 in Just Two Weeks

The Fishermen’s Alliance was the recipient of an environmental grant from Patagonia clothing company. As part of their commitment to support nonprofit groups around the globe, they led a match campaign at the end of the year and we raised $10,920.

For eight years, this well-loved event has been bringing together community members, fishermen, and chefs for a special evening highlighting local seafood. In 2019, we hosted four events and over 250 guests were able to taste local seafood, hear from fishermen about their passion for working on the water, and pick up recipes from some of the finest local chefs around.

Fishermen and local experts discussed a variety of topics like shellfish management, harvesting scallops, lobstering and how a three-generation fishing family has adapted over time. Chefs from The Pheasant, Apt Cape Cod, The Red Nun, and Mahoney’s Bar and Grill shared their commitment to sourcing local seafood along with preparing delicious seafood samples.
We are Grateful
to our
Partners & Supporters
2019

The following individuals, foundations, businesses, organizations, and collaborators supported the Fishermen’s Alliance in 2019.

We gratefully acknowledge our partners and supporters whose gifts help to uphold the heritage of commercial fishing, protect our ecosystem, and create a better future for Cape Cod.

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<tr>
<th>The Highliner Society</th>
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<td>Lifetime Giving Society honoring our most impactful supporters who have a life time cumulative giving history of $100,000 or more.</td>
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*Deceased

+Denotes a member of The Fishermen Friends Society, a monthly giving program with automatic, recurring contributions.
The Captain Harding Society
– Continued
Recognizing donors who gave $1,000 or more in 2019.

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Recognizing those who donated between $100-$999 in 2019.

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Recognizing those who donated between $100-$999 in 2019.

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