The Fishermen’s Alliance had many successes in 2015. But, as always, there is more we can achieve with our fishermen members. As we navigate through the years ahead, please continue to support our important work. Together, we will build a better future for the fish and fishermen of Cape Cod.

Staff

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Fisheries Campaign Coordinator

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Equal Justice Works Fellow, sponsored by ALM

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John Pappalardo
Chief Executive Officer

Paul Parker
Director, Cape Cod Fisheries Trust

Melissa Sanderson
Chief Operating Officer

This page: Captain John Tuttle, F/V Cuda, pulling dogfish off a longline.

Cover: Crewman Steve Storey aboard F/V Midnight Our shucking scallops.

Back Cover: Father-son duo Teddy and William Ligenza are one of many family fishermen in our fleet.

PHOTO: DAVID HILLS, WWW.FISHYPICTURES.COM
A group of Cape Cod hook fishermen, sporting their well-worn Grundens, headed up to Boston in the 1990’s to fight for recognition and respect. Little did they know that 25 years later, their grassroots organization would be a leader in New England fisheries policy.

“I recall John [Pappalardo] standing on a box with a bullhorn in front of Faneuil Hall,” said Greg Walinski, a fisherman member of, what then was called, the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen’s Association. At that time, the Cape’s fleet was under-represented at the New England Fishery Management Council, a governing body that makes all fishery regulatory decisions. Without a seat at the table, Cape Cod’s fishing heritage would be in trouble.

“About 30 of us banded together to make a difference,” said Eric Hesse, another fisherman member from the beginning. With Pappalardo at the helm of the organization and the council, we have become a nationally-recognized, advocacy powerhouse representing 150 small-boat fishing businesses on Cape Cod.

“Our scope has broadened to include not only the original hook fishermen but now gillnetters, scallopers and shellfishermen,” said Pappalardo, “and we are proud of our accomplishments.”

Over the last 25 years, these accomplishments include:

- Investing in fisheries science and permits for future generations of fishermen
- Educating the fishermen and the community about the Cape’s fishing industry
- Collaborating with other small-boat fishing communities to make a bigger impact on policies

Pappalardo concluded, “Anyone who fishes commercially on Cape Cod can turn to the Fishermen’s Alliance for help navigating through their unique issues on the water.”

Since 1991, the Fishermen’s Alliance has been guided by the energy and innovation of our fishermen members and the issues important to their businesses. We strive to build accountability for industrial fishing fleets, obtain real-time data to make informed decisions and develop markets for locally-caught seafood to ensure there will be future generations of Cape Cod fishermen.

Looking forward, we have our sights set high for another 25 years. With an ever-changing ecosystem, we may not know which crisis our fishermen members will face next. What we do know is that we will continue to empower the next wave of Cape Cod fishermen.

“I’m proud of the work we’ve accomplished over the last 25 years. And because the fishing industry never knows what challenges we face next on the water, I feel confident that we can continue to be an industry leader for the next 25 years,” said Nick Muto, chairman of the Board of Directors.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will read about the important work we accomplished because of support from our donors. If you have questions or want to learn more, please contact us at 508.945.2432 or info@capecodfishermen.org.
January
CEO, John Pappalardo, was appointed to fill an at-large seat on the New England Fishery Management Council. Having a seat on this council ensures the voices of Cape Cod’s small-boat fishermen will be heard at the national level.

“Having John support our issues at the Council has really helped the scallop fleet this year. We worked together to get access to fishing grounds that are close to home in 2016. He also helped us plan and prep for a workshop for the big boats and little boats to work together on improving the fishery.”

BOB KEESE, F/V BEGGARS BANQUET

February
We filled the Chatham community center with close to 100 guests to listen to scientists and fishermen discuss their perspectives on Chatham’s new mascot, the great white shark. This was one of nine Meet the Fleet events throughout the year that educated the community about life on the water and the Cape’s fishing heritage.

Read more about our Meet the Fleet events at www.capecodfishermen.org/meet-the-fleet

March
Local fishermen attended the Seafood Expo North America to better understand the realities behind finding a sustainable market for dogfish, also known as Cape Shark, both domestically and internationally.

“I walked away from the Expo on a mission to help find a better market for dogfish. Since then, I’ve been in communication with a processor overseas to help not only me, but all the guys who depend on dogfish for a living.”

DOUG FEENEY, F/V NOAH
April
The Cape Cod Fisheries Trust hosted the first National Permit Bank Workshop in Boston. Close to 70 attendees from 26 fishing communities, foundations and other organizations banded together to create a support structure for permit bank work in small fishing communities from Alaska to Maine.

“Across the whole country, there is significant interest in ensuring coastal communities stay vibrant through all the changes in fisheries... permit banks may be a way to help achieve this.”
JOSH MILLER, WORKSHOP ATTENDEE AND FISHERMAN WITH PENOBSCOT EAST RESOURCE CENTER

May
The Pier Hosts returned to their post on the observation deck at the Chatham Fish Pier. These seasoned fishermen educated tourists and Cape residents about the intricacies of commercial fishing on Cape Cod.

Read more about the Pier Host program at www.capecodfishermen.org/pier-program

June
Five thousand pounds of sea clams, sourced by fisherman Scott Nolan, were distributed to five food pantries from Provincetown to Falmouth through the Cape Cod Hunger Network and our partnership with The Family Pantry of Cape Cod. During 2015, the Fish for Families program also supplied skate wings and dogfish to the pantries, totaling more than 12,000 pounds distributed to families in need.

“I got the sea clams and made clam chowder and pasta with clam sauce. Delicious. Thank you!”
A CLIENT OF THE FAMILY PANTRY OF CAPE COD
July
The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was voted in as a member of the George’s Bank Fixed Gear Sector. Because of this collaboration, some of our fishermen members were able to sell their groundfish permits to TNC and keep the quota in the local sector instead of it migrating out of the Cape Cod economy.

“The Nature Conservancy has stepped up solidly for New England small-boat fishermen by giving those of us that are aging out of the fishery a chance to sell our permits reasonably, while preserving those permits in our community. This program leverages the sector management system in a positive way for the Cape’s fishermen.”

ERIC HESSE, F/V TENACIOUS II

August
To ensure a thriving shellfishing future on Cape Cod, we invested in one of the country’s most important shellfish hatchery, The Aquacultural Research Corporation in Dennis, Mass. The ARC hatchery provides 80% of shellfish seed harvested in the state of Massachusetts.

September
We partnered with U.S. Congressman Keating, Governor Baker, Senator Wolf, Representative Peake and the Cape and Islands delegation to encourage the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries, to make a more inclusive distribution plan for $6.7 million in federal disaster aid to the state’s groundfish fleet. After revising the plan, aid was distributed to 19% more vessels, including 22 vessels in the Cape’s groundfish fleet.

“These funds were greatly needed. Most of us used the money to reinvest in our boats and keep steady operations while we wait for groundfish to recover.”

JOHN OUR, F/V MISS FITZ

Read more about this success story at www.capecodfishermen.org/recent-news
October
We traveled to Washington D.C. with our partners in the Fishing Communities Coalition to highlight important issues facing all small-boat fishing communities from Alaska to Maine. Representing more than 1,000 independent fishermen, the group met with elected officials to discuss the current state of our fisheries and ways to improve management for the future, including bycatch reduction, at-sea monitoring and a strong Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization bill.

“Even though we are spread across the country, we share commons goals and face similar obstacles in all of our small-boat fishing communities. Forming a coalition strengthens that voice to ensure that we were heard on a national level.”
ERIC BRAZER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GULF OF MEXICO REEF FISH SHAREHOLDERS’ ALLIANCE

November
We hosted a dogfish tasting event to analyze and compare the quality and taste of dogfish when handled differently. Chef John Pontius of Finely JP’s Restaurant in Wellfleet lightly seasoned the dogfish fillets with salt and baked them in the oven so the taste test could focus solely on how the fish was handled. Results varied but it was ultimately an important step in developing familiarity and understanding consumer preferences for a fish species that is so important to the Cape’s fishing fleet.

See pictures from the event on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fishermensalliance

December
Skate fishermen traveled to Portland, Maine to urge the New England Fishery Management Council to adopt regulations exempting skate boats from groundfish at-sea monitoring requirements. Their voices were heard when the council voted to grant the exemption, allowing skate boats to stay in business.

“After we made the shift to fishing for skates and dogfish, we realized the regulations were outdated and needed to change. By educating decision-makers about the issues, we were able to secure a monitoring exemption unique to our fishery so we can keep fishing next year.”
JIM NASH, F/V ANN MARIE
Supporting the Fishermen’s Alliance benefits everyone in our community.

“Fish for Families”
Our fishermen members distributed 12,000 pounds of seafood to more than 7,000 families in need through our Fish for Families Program.

Meet the Fleet
We educated 719 people about fishing on Cape Cod through our Meet the Fleet and Dish on Fish events.

Fresh Seafood
The Fixed Gear Sector delivered fresh seafood to your plate throughout the year.

Real Savings
Cape Cod fishermen saved $552,000 in leasing fees to fish for scallops, groundfish and sea clams.

Economy Boost
We added $2.7 million to the Cape Cod economy in seafood landings, under the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust program.

Advocacy for the Fleet
Fishermen encouraged the state to distribute federal disaster aid funds to more of the state’s groundfish fleet including 90 crew members and at least 22 fishing businesses on Cape Cod.
Nick Muto started his fishing career as a crewman in 2001. Fifteen years later, he owns two vessels, F/V Lost and F/V Dawn T, while operating a clambake company, Backside Bakes. Nick has proven to be innovative and resilient in the face of uncertainty and that’s exactly the leadership the Fishermen’s Alliance needs in the chairman of the Board of Directors.
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Their guidance fuels our work to build a better future for fish and fishing on Cape Cod.

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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 to the right represent a summary of the Fishermen’s Alliance 2015 financial performance. The 2015 financial statements will be audited by Sanders, Walsh & Eaton, LLP, Certified Public Accountants.

The excess revenues generated from the 2015 financial performance of the Fishermen’s Alliance are not available to provide general operations nor programming support. These excess revenues are restricted by the Fishermen’s Alliance Board of Directors for the purposes of debt repayment or investment in the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust program. Fishermen’s Alliance is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Revenues: $2,325,760

- Net Leases from Permits: $446,314 (19%)
- Special Events: $340,946 (15%)
- Membership and Donations: $89,433 (4%)
- Other: $28,920 (1%)
- Grants: $1,420,147 (61%)

Expenses: $1,704,448

- Program: $1,221,541 (72%)
- Administrative: $271,911 (16%)
- Fundraising: $210,996 (12%)
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