It also reminded us that despite our victories, our work to preserve and protect fish and fishing for future generations on Cape Cod continues. Last year, we worked with fishermen on matters they care about, such as building new markets for their fish and finding ways to collaborate with scientists and managers. What doesn’t mean to “work together with fishermen”? Let’s take a look.

Cape Cod fishermen pursue different species at different times of the year. They diversify their fishing portfolios, much as we diversify our investments. And this is important in the face of fluctuating fish populations, complex states and federal regulations and changing market conditions.

Working in the summer and fall, fishermen leave the dock before dawn and unload at the pier in the early afternoon. They call this period the 100-day marathon, as they will work every day as long as the season lasts. In the winter and spring, the trips are fewer as they wait for a window when the wind of blowing too hard, but the trips last 36 hours because they steam to waters south of Nantucket. Either way, it’s a grueling pace.

And in their “spare time,” they work closely with us; here’s a glimpse of action Cape Cod fishermen have taken to advance our shared goals:

• Our new Pier to Plate program will launch the summer and offer local state and dogfish to Cape Cod restaurants. It is a product of a fishermen marketing team that meets monthly and works together to introduce these lesser known fish to chefs and distributors both on Cape and off.

• Fishermen have met with Congressional Bill Keating and attended fishery management meetings across New England, where they successfully advocated for revised rules that kept school boats in business and restricted limited monitoring funds to support groundfish fishermen.

• State fishermen participated in a study on harbormaster scales, collecting data that the government used to inform population assessments.

Fishermen also provide the seafood they catch for Kosher Ball every August! It just goes to show how much work is involved to help change fishing for the better. Fishermen in our community see the heart of the work we do every day at the Fishermen’s Alliance. Their knowledge, their innovative approaches and solutions to the water are critical to Cape Cod communities being able to fish.

And we couldn’t support these fishing families without people like you.

Our big ideas are put in to action because of your continued support. Stay on this journey with us as we navigate another 25 years together. Thank you.

The following individuals, foundations, businesses and organizations supported the Fishermen’s Alliance in 2016. Their generosity and shared vision aimed at protecting fish and fishing for future generations have made our work possible. Thank you.
The Fishermen’s Alliance in 2016

With support from you, our donors and funders, we have provided opportunities for the family fishermen of Cape Cod to advocate for their businesses, develop new markets and protect ocean resources. In addition to these highlights, you can read more about the work we are doing because of your support at www.capecodfishermen.org/our-work.

STUDYING SCALLOPS

In May, New England’s small-boat scallop fleet gained access to the Nantucket Lightship Access Area. Previously closed since 2014, the area is near Cape Cod fishing ports and provides an opportunity for Cape Cod scallopers to catch scallops and still make it home each night. The New England Fishery Management Council chose to open the Lightship after a concerted campaign by the Fishermen’s Alliance and the local scallop fleet supported by scientists.

“Not only were they able to fish from their home ports, but they used this opportunity to work with UMass Dartmouth’s School for Marine Science and Technology and the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries to conduct research aimed at improving the available science and fishing practices,” said Linda Bartciak, the Fishermen’s Alliance Director of Government Affairs. “This research collaboration is a win for the fishermen and our fishery.”

485 trips to the Lightship made a big difference to small-boat scallopers in New England.

485 trips

DOGGISH AND PONY SHOW

The Fishermen’s Alliance connected fishermen with chefs and large-scale fish distributors to get their catch onto local dinner plates and promote less familiar but abundant species.

In 2016, we saw dogfish gaining popularity. The Fishermen’s Alliance helped Cape Cod fisherman build a domestic market for dogfish and other local species. Most of the six million pounds of dogfish landed by the Cape Cod fleet annually is exported to Europe and Asia, but through our partnerships and work, that is starting to change.

13,000 pounds of seafood, including scallops, statke, dogfish and shrimp, served by local fishermen were distributed to families in need from Provincetown to Falmouth.

SPOTLIGHT ON CAMERAS

Local fishermen have been at the forefront of a several-year pilot project with NOAA Fisheries Service to allow fishermen to use video cameras rather than human to document their catch at sea. Accountability is an essential component to sustainable fishing. This type of collaborative effort between fishermen and government takes time. But it’s the only way to develop cost-effective electronic monitoring systems that produce the data that scientists need while allowing fishermen to focus on fishing.

Four Cape Cod vessels were outfitted with these electronic monitoring systems. This means a safer, more accurate and less expensive way to provide data to fishery scientists and managers. Your support over the last decade helped us finally make this a reality in 2016.

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

Investments and strong board leadership by the Fishermen’s Alliance has helped give Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) new life. Our local shellfish hatchery successfully produced shellfish seed to the Cape after a winter rebuild.

The hatchery supports 1,400+ regional jobs in commercial shellfishing and the seafood industry

35,000+ pounds of dogfish sold to U.S. restaurants, seafood companies and colleges in 2016, up from 2,000 pounds in 2014

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

We are a nationally recognized nonprofit organization and a leading voice for Cape Cod’s small-boat commercial fishermen. If you share our belief that healthy fisheries support healthy fishing communities, we invite you to be a part of our work.

Advocate

The Fishermen’s Alliance is dedicated to building lasting solutions to protect our ecosystem and the future of our fishing businesses. Join the Fishermen’s Alliance online community at www.capecodfishermen.org/get-involved and engage with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram at @FishyPictures.

Donate

Your donation makes a real difference in helping us build a better future for fish and fishing.

Make a tax-deductible contribution online today at www.capecodfishermen.org/donate. The Fishermen’s Alliance also accepts gifts in the form of stock or securities and bequests.

Fisherman Membership

We are an organization run by fishermen, for fishermen. We are guided by our fishermen members to create the organization’s policy positions. If you fish for a living, become an industry member today.

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

Investments and strong board leadership by the Fishermen’s Alliance has helped give Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) new life. Our local shellfish hatchery successfully produced shellfish seed to the Cape after a winter rebuild.

The hatchery supports 1,400+ regional jobs in commercial shellfishing and the seafood industry

35,000+ pounds of dogfish sold to U.S. restaurants, seafood companies and colleges in 2016, up from 2,000 pounds in 2014

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

We are a nationally recognized nonprofit organization and a leading voice for Cape Cod’s small-boat commercial fishermen. If you share our belief that healthy fisheries support healthy fishing communities, we invite you to be a part of our work.

Advocate

The Fishermen’s Alliance is dedicated to building lasting solutions to protect our ecosystem and the future of our fishing businesses. Join the Fishermen’s Alliance online community at www.capecodfishermen.org/get-involved and engage with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram at @FishyPictures.

Donate

Your donation makes a real difference in helping us build a better future for fish and fishing.

Make a tax-deductible contribution online today at www.capecodfishermen.org/donate. The Fishermen’s Alliance also accepts gifts in the form of stock or securities and bequests.

Fisherman Membership

We are an organization run by fishermen, for fishermen. We are guided by our fishermen members to create the organization’s policy positions. If you fish for a living, become an industry member today.

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

Investments and strong board leadership by the Fishermen’s Alliance has helped give Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) new life. Our local shellfish hatchery successfully produced shellfish seed to the Cape after a winter rebuild.

The hatchery supports 1,400+ regional jobs in commercial shellfishing and the seafood industry

35,000+ pounds of dogfish sold to U.S. restaurants, seafood companies and colleges in 2016, up from 2,000 pounds in 2014

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

We are a nationally recognized nonprofit organization and a leading voice for Cape Cod’s small-boat commercial fishermen. If you share our belief that healthy fisheries support healthy fishing communities, we invite you to be a part of our work.

Advocate

The Fishermen’s Alliance is dedicated to building lasting solutions to protect our ecosystem and the future of our fishing businesses. Join the Fishermen’s Alliance online community at www.capecodfishermen.org/get-involved and engage with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram at @FishyPictures.

Donate

Your donation makes a real difference in helping us build a better future for fish and fishing.

Make a tax-deductible contribution online today at www.capecodfishermen.org/donate. The Fishermen’s Alliance also accepts gifts in the form of stock or securities and bequests.

Fisherman Membership

We are an organization run by fishermen, for fishermen. We are guided by our fishermen members to create the organization’s policy positions. If you fish for a living, become an industry member today.

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

In June, the Fishermen’s Alliance received the 2016 Nonprofit Excellence Award in Advocacy from the Massachusetts Nonprofit Network. We were recognized for advocating for more than 300 family fishermen in 2015. Our campaign educated the community about how the Cape Cod fleet was being left out of the statewide distribution plan for federal disaster funds.

Thank you to the campaign; the disaster fund distribution plan was revised to include 100 percent of Cape Cod’s eligible vessels.

Did You Know?

Investments and strong board leadership by the Fishermen’s Alliance has helped give Aquacultural Research Corporation (ARC) new life. Our local shellfish hatchery successfully produced shellfish seed to the Cape after a winter rebuild.

The hatchery supports 1,400+ regional jobs in commercial shellfishing and the seafood industry

35,000+ pounds of dogfish sold to U.S. restaurants, seafood companies and colleges in 2016, up from 2,000 pounds in 2014

How You Can Support the Fishermen’s Alliance

We are a nationally recognized nonprofit organization and a leading voice for Cape Cod’s small-boat commercial fishermen. If you share our belief that healthy fisheries support healthy fishing communities, we invite you to be a part of our work.

Advocate

The Fishermen’s Alliance is dedicated to building lasting solutions to protect our ecosystem and the future of our fishing businesses. Join the Fishermen’s Alliance online community at www.capecodfishermen.org/get-involved and engage with us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram at @FishyPictures.

Donate

Your donation makes a real difference in helping us build a better future for fish and fishing.

Make a tax-deductible contribution online today at www.capecodfishermen.org/donate. The Fishermen’s Alliance also accepts gifts in the form of stock or securities and bequests.

Fisherman Membership

We are an organization run by fishermen, for fishermen. We are guided by our fishermen members to create the organization’s policy positions. If you fish for a living, become an industry member today.