



Hooked On Cod

Protecting a resource, a tradition, and a way of life. ● Fall 2009

Local sector membership nearly doubles

Sectors continued to be the talk of the region this summer, as most of New England's groundfish fishermen worked to develop their business strategies for the upcoming fishing year. At its June meeting, the New England Fishery Management Council voted overwhelmingly to authorize 19 sectors for operation in 2010, based largely in part on the campaign started by Hook Association fishermen in 2003. Next year, these sectors will receive allocations of cod, haddock, pollock, redfish, hake, and flounders; will have the ability to trade allocations between sectors; will have a federal data collector on 30% of their trips; and will have to track and report the amount of fish they catch on a weekly basis.

Following the June vote, the Hook Association held five public meetings to address issues and concerns raised by fishermen and start planning for 2010. One major decision that fishermen made was to merge the existing Hook Sector with the existing Fixed Gear Sector. Other decisions were made regarding quotas, fees, regulations, and operations. On September 1, after extensive work drafting documents necessary to operate the new, consolidated

Fixed Gear sector, we submitted a draft Operations Plan to the National Marine Fisheries Service for review.

The Hook Association is happy to report that 88 fishing permits have been enrolled in the Fixed Gear Sector for the 2010 fishing year—a nearly 90% increase over the 47 permits enrolled in the Sectors in 2009. This surge in sector interest was mirrored throughout New England as 50% (approximately 750) of the available groundfish permits are currently signed into one of the 17 sectors that met the September 1 deadline. These permits represent over 90% of what's allowed to be caught throughout New England in 2010. The Hook Association looks forward to working with the Fixed Gear sector fishermen through the fall and winter to continue to address outstanding issues and questions, and to assist in the business planning for a profitable, sustainable, and all-around successful sector in 2010.



In other good news, the Hook Association helped spearhead an effort to secure over \$15 million dollars in congressional funding to offset sector start-up costs and pay for the mandatory sector monitoring programs. Without these funds, a robust sector monitoring program would be nearly impossible to develop and would threaten the viability of the sector in years to come.

Annual Appeal

Soon, you will be receiving the Hook Association's request for your year-end gift. Your support is critical to the operations of the Hook Association. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you!!

Board of Directors

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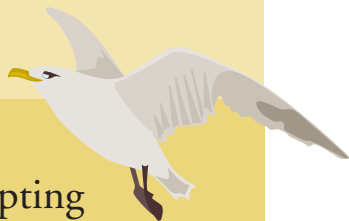
Elliott Carr

William Martin

Phil Marshall

Bob St. Pierre

Greg Walinski



Now Accepting Nominations!

There are three open seats on the Hook Association's Board of Directors.

To nominate a community member who is interested in helping protect fish, fishermen, and fishing communities, please contact our office at (508)945-2432 or email info@ccchfa.org.



Sue's Note

After a busy summer, I am pleased to report the progress we have made this year both with our fisheries policy efforts and with our project to establish a new headquarters in West Chatham.

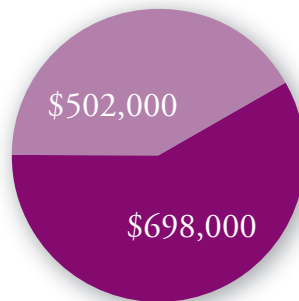
Here are a few highlights from the past couple of months at the Hook Association:

- Now that fishing cooperatives, known as "sectors," have been established in New England, the next step is to ensure that fishing operations are well-monitored at sea. Monitoring allows accurate catch records to be gathered, resulting in more sensible limits on annual catch and better science. The Hook Association led the way this summer in ensuring that substantial federal funds would pay for at-sea and dockside monitoring, without which the new catch-based management system would have been hamstrung from the start.
- While the new catch share system can be beneficial to fish stocks if properly designed, it can also cause permits to aggregate in the hands of a few large companies, effectively putting fishermen out of business and wiping out small day boat fishing ports like Chatham. The Cape Cod Fisheries Trust recently made headway in its quest to keep permits in the community with the closing of a \$1 million Ford Foundation loan. The Fisheries Trust has acquired a total of 18 groundfish and scallop permits that can now be leased to local fishermen.
- Many of you already know about the vote by Chatham residents in late September to provide funds for the renovation of the historic Captain Nathan Harding House, our future headquarters. But you may not know the full history of the sea-faring Harding family in West Chatham, which is detailed on page 4. Building on the success of the Special Town Meeting, we are working to raise the full \$1.2 million to make this project a success.

Your help is needed above and beyond the crucial operating support you provide us—donations to the Captain Harding House capital campaign can be made by contacting the office at (508)945-2432 or emailing info@ccchfa.org

Sue Nickerson

SUE NICKERSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Fundraising statistics for Captain Harding House capital campaign as of October 20, 2009

- Raised: \$502,000
- Need: \$698,000

Goal: \$1,200,000



Captain Harding House under renovation.

Work on Captain Harding House Moves Forward

In a late September Special Town Meeting, Chatham voters overwhelmingly approved \$185,136 of Community Preservation Act funds to restore the Captain Nathan Harding House. The action ensured that plans to make this historic home the Hook Association's new headquarters can move forward. With a purchase and sale agreement in place with current owners David and Gail Oppenheim, and fundraising efforts well underway, the Hook Association looks forward to closing on the West Chatham property after renovations are complete next summer. Although the community preservation funds will be used strictly for the exterior renovation of the main house, the town grant enables other funds to now be directed toward the rest of the property, guaranteeing that a barn will be built to replace the original that stood on the property. The town will also hold a permanent easement on the façade of the house, ensuring that it remains historically appropriate.

Over the next eight months, we will work to raise a total of \$1.2 million for the purchase of the house and other associated expenses, such as completion of the interior of the barn, office equipment and furniture, and a maintenance fund for the property. We look forward to establishing a permanent home for the Hook Association and further, to investing the \$45,000 we will save each year in rent and utilities in programs that serve our community's fishermen.

To make a donation to this exciting project and help provide the Hook Association with a new home, please contact our office by calling (508)945-2432, emailing info@ccchfa.org or visiting our website at www.ccchfa.org.

Fishing Report

As of September 30

- Fixed Gear Sector fishermen logged over 570 fishing trips and caught 67% (750,000 pounds) of the sector's 1.1 million pound annual cod quota. Fishermen in the Hook Sector sailed nearly 140 trips and caught 17% (127,000 pounds) of the sector's 772,000 pound annual cod quota.
- Since May 1, member fishermen sailed nearly 50 trips into the newly-expanded haddock Special Access Program, and caught over 80,000 pounds of haddock while actively avoiding catching codfish (2,000 pounds). 2009 is the first year that fishermen had access to this area during this time period—a direct result of a successful Hook Association campaign to increase the size and amount of time hook fishermen can fish in this area (see page 4 of *Hooked On Cod*, Summer 2009).
- Pollock fishing was strong from mid-July through mid-August, when Fixed Gear Sector members caught over 233,000 pounds. In addition to large numbers of pollock appearing on the fishing grounds, many Fixed Gear Sector fishermen chose to target pollock instead of codfish so that they wouldn't run out of their cod allocations this early into the fishing year.
- The Fixed Gear Sector fishermen who chose to target codfish were rewarded with large catches: between September 13 and October 2, more than 165,000 pounds of codfish were landed; 24,500 pounds of cod were landed on September 22 alone.



The Cape Cod Fisheries Trust, a program of the Hook Association, was created to stem the loss of fishing businesses from our ports through the purchase of increasingly expensive commercial fishing permits and the subsequent leasing of those permits to qualified local fishermen at affordable rates. In September, the Trust received dozens of lease applications from local fishermen, all looking to take advantage of additional fishing opportunities provided by the Trust during the upcoming fishing year.

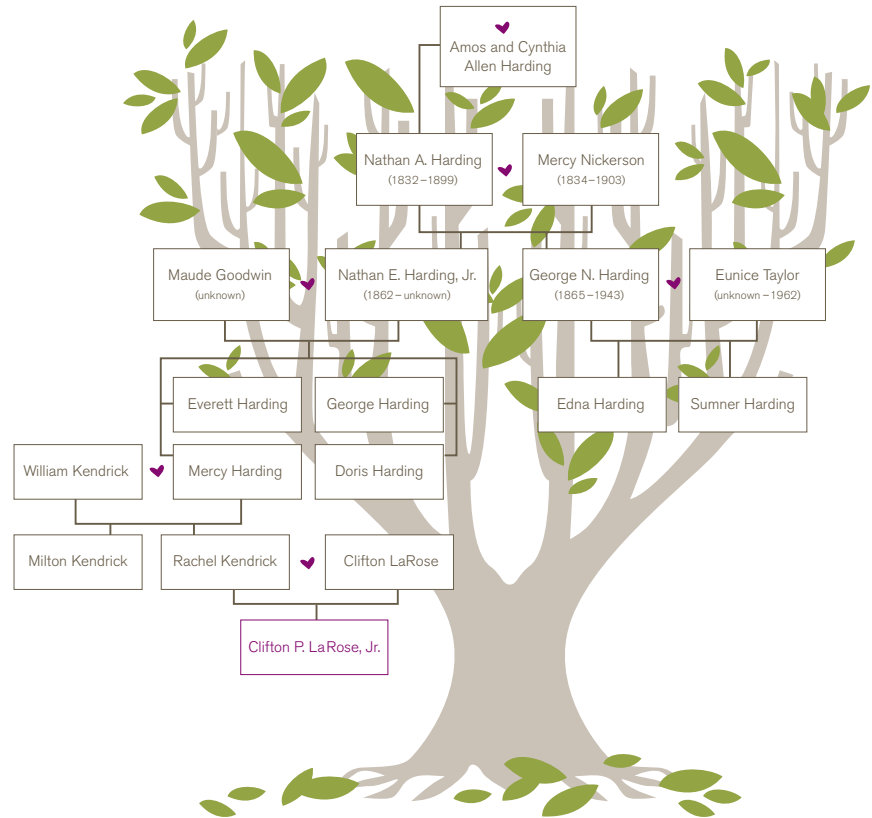
Fishermen who have recently struggled with increasingly limited chances to make a living have applied to lease groundfish (cod, haddock, flounder, etc.) and scallop quota from the Trust. Many hope that these leases will allow their businesses to remain viable during these difficult economic times.

“We’ve seen a great response to the Fisheries Trust application announcements,” Hook Association policy analyst Tom Dempsey said. “Fishermen from ports all over the Cape have filled out their applications and are looking forward to being able to fish a portion of the Trust’s quota next year.”

Now that applications have been submitted, Cape Cod Fisheries Trust Director, Paul Parker, will work with the Community Development Partnership to distribute the Trust’s quota among qualified applicants. This upcoming fishing year will mark a crucial step in the development of the Trust and in the protection of the Cape fishermen this program serves.

A Brief History

Captain Nathan E. Harding House



Harding Family Tree

Based on records of the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The history of the Captain Harding House begins in the late 19th century with Nathan A. Harding, the father of the man who built the house that sits on the property today. Nathan Sr., a sea captain, had two sons: George and Nathan E. Harding, who both followed in their father’s footsteps. Nathan E. Harding grew up sailing a steamer called the “Henry L. Peckham” out of Kennebunkport, and George was also a seafarer.

The junior Nathan Harding built the house that currently stands at 1566 Main Street in West Chatham after his retirement from life on the sea in 1905. Harding had four children—Mercy, Everett, George and Doris—with wife Maude Goodwin. The house was passed down from Harding’s children to grandchildren Rachel LaRose (married to Clifton LaRose) and Milton Kendrick, who had ownership of the house in the early 1990s. Clifton P. LaRose Jr. inherited the property, which was then purchased by the Oppenheim family in 2008.



PHOTO: DAVID HILLS

Fisherman Greg Walinski offloads a day's dogfish catch.

Fisherman threatened by rebounding spiny dogfish populations

Spiny dogfish sharks continue to plague local fishermen and policymakers in their efforts to harvest and manage this controversial species. Scientists report that the dogfish population is so healthy that it will increase from an estimated 1.32 billion pounds today to over 3.74 billion pounds in the near future.

Policy makers are concerned that the dogfish management plan is on track to put more dogfish in the ocean than have ever been recorded; however, with no "stopping point" the dogfish population is likely to grow indefinitely. Fishermen worry that this voracious predator is consuming vast amounts of the cod and haddock that they harvest, disrupting traditional cod and haddock spawning grounds, and also that scientists have yet to study the impact that an ever-increasing dogfish population will have on groundfish stocks in the future.

In early September, fishermen turned out in force to submit new ideas for revising the dogfish management plan. Locally, over a dozen comments were written from hook fishermen, gillnet fishermen, tuna fishermen, seafood buyers, crew members, the Hook Association, and the Hook and Fixed Gear Sectors. There was overwhelming support for agreement on a biomass target, allowing fishermen to land more

dogfish each day, a longer season, more cooperative research between scientists and fishermen and a state quota to protect Massachusetts fishermen.

Also in September, fishermen voiced their concerns against an international proposal to restrict the trade of dogfish. Fishermen noted that over 90 percent of the dogfish caught in the U.S. are shipped to various countries for food (most notably, dogfish are the "fish" in fish and chips in England) and that restricting trade would destroy the local fishery. They also pointed out that proper management plans, not trade restrictions, are the best way to ensure a sustainable population and fishery. Local fishermen were joined by seafood buyers, crew members, and state politicians in opposing this restriction. On the water, the Massachusetts statewaters fishery opened on September 1, 2009 with a 2,000 pound daily limit, allowing fishermen more than a threefold increase in their summer landing limit of 600 pounds of dogfish. Many local fishermen jumped on the opportunity to participate, often regularly catching their limit with no difficulty. However, after being open for only 27 days, the regional quota was reached and the fishery shut down. Fishermen are now prohibited from landing any dogfish until a new season starts on November 1, 2009.

Latest herring assessment cause for concern

Atlantic herring are a crucial food source for many of the species Cape fishermen target. After years of warnings about industrial trawlers exerting excessive and poorly monitored fishing effort on herring, there is now a growing consensus among scientists that significant reductions in herring catch are needed immediately. Currently, the New England Fishery Management Council is working to set catch limits for the herring fishery for the next three years.

A new assessment shows that herring populations are currently estimated at 600 thousand metric tons—compared to over 1.2 million metric tons in 2002. Independent scientists, tasked by Federal law, have identified significant uncertainty in herring population estimates and concluded that a 40% reduction in the catch is needed to make up for the uncertainty in the data. Uncertainty, however, should not be confused with poor science: there is an unmistakable and troubling trend in the data that indicates estimates of herring populations have been consistently too optimistic. The best available cutting edge analyses have begun to reveal our reliance on poor data, and that those flaws were masking serious trouble with the resource. A contributor to the poor data is likely the insufficient catch monitoring system in the fishery—highlighting the need to overhaul the monitoring system.

The Hook Association supports science-based catch limits, and while we recognize that adjusting to catch reductions is difficult, it is critical to follow the advice of science. The clear warnings from the best scientists in New England reinforce what CCCHFA fishermen have seen in local waters for years—a troubling lack of herring. The Hook Association will continue to support and advocate for increased rates of monitoring and accountability within the herring industry.



Nantucket Soundkeeper Program Underway

In its first summer as part of the Hook Association, the Nantucket Soundkeeper program made important strides, accomplishing water quality sampling, regular patrols of the Sound's waters, printing and distribution of a free boater's guide to Nantucket Sound, and advocacy for a No Discharge Area designation of the Sound for boat sewage.

To help the program move beyond its start-up phase, the Hook Association has submitted several grant proposals to foundations and is actively seeking donations from supporters concerned about the future of Nantucket Sound.

The Hook Association is also pursuing partnerships with peer organizations to broaden the scope and impact of the Nantucket Soundkeeper program. For example, the Hook Association has forged a collaboration with Three Bays Preservation, a non-profit organization committed to the protection of Barnstable's three bays estuary system. The partnership seeks funding for several initiatives including: water quality studies, oyster cultivation pilot projects, and eco-tour programs to provide educational experiences. The Hook Association is also interested in addressing the mung problem in

Nantucket Sound. Over the past several years, increasing amounts of filamentous brown algae referred to locally as 'mung' has been fouling weir nets used in the Sound. The cause of the problem has yet to be identified but excess nitrogen loading is suspected.

With your help, these initiatives and others can take place in 2010 and beyond! To make a donation to the Nantucket Soundkeeper program, please call our office (508)945-2432, email info@ccchfa.org or visit our website at www.ccchfa.org/donate.



FEATURED FISHERMAN

Eric Hesse

FISHING VESSEL

Tenacious II

HOMETOWN

West Barnstable, MA

EXPERIENCE

25 years as a commercial fisherman

GEAR

Hooks (groundfish)
Harpoon (bluefin tuna)

Eric Hesse has long been an advocate for promoting fish caught by local fishermen, and is now one of the leaders in shaping a Hook Association campaign for marketing and “branding” fish caught by local fishermen using sustainable methods. One idea, initially discussed by CCCHFA five years ago, would be to seek a “sustainable certification” by the Marine Stewardship Council. MSC is the world's leading certification and eco-labeling program for sustainable seafood, and has certified 56 fisheries throughout the world, but not one yet in New England. Many wholesalers and retailers, including Whole Foods and Wal-Mart, have embraced MSC certification as a way to ensure that consumers can make sustainable seafood choices. “I think we are extremely well positioned to take advantage of something like that,” Hesse says. “All across the market, people want to source sustainable fish and that's our specialty.”

However, Hesse notes, there are many roadblocks to certifications including high costs, ensuring a steady product supply, and certification of the processing and distribution of the product. While CCCHFA continues to develop opportunities to explore MSC certification in New England, other opportunities are starting to appear at the local level. Hesse has also been involved in recent discussions about the development of a local Community Supported Fishery. CSFs, similar to Community Supported Agriculture, offer consumers the opportunity to purchase shares of fresh-caught seafood, which are delivered to a drop-off location on a weekly basis. Fishermen can cut out the middleman to receive a higher price for their catch, and community members are rewarded with fresh, locally-caught seafood. CSFs have successfully sprung up in 9 New England locations, including Port Clyde, ME (the site of the original CSF) and Cape Ann, MA (the largest CSF).

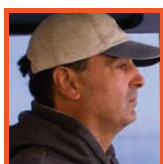
No matter what tool is used, Hesse is constantly looking for innovative solutions that allow fishermen to brand and market their catch, ensuring fishermen receive a fair price for providing consumers with the highest-quality, sustainably-caught and locally harvested seafood.

Meet Our New Board Members!



Elliott G. Carr

Elliott Carr, the former President of Cape Cod Five Cents Saving Bank, is now retired. Carr is the co-chairman of the Cape Cod Business Roundtable and is also the Vice President of the Brewster Community Preservation Committee. A resident of Brewster, he is also interested in writing and photography.



Greg Walinski

Greg, of Harwichport, has been fishing for more than 30 years as Captain of the *Alicia Ann* and primarily fishes for codfish and haddock using tubtrawls. Part of the Hook Sector, he also fishes for dogfish and bluefin tuna.



William C. Martin

A second-generation lobsterman, William grew up in Belcher-town, Massachusetts and now resides in Harwich. He is part of the next generation of Cape Cod fishermen who will be working over the next few decades. William also enjoys hockey and hunting.



Phil Marshall

Phil Marshall was a lifelong visitor to Cape Cod before becoming a permanent resident of Orleans in 1998. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Phil is a retired independent insurance agent. Phil is a longtime recreational fisherman, fishing for bass, bluefish, trout and freshwater bass, and previously served as the President of the Cape Cod chapter of Trout Unlimited.



Bob St. Pierre

Bob, of West Yarmouth, has spent more than 20 years fishing for codfish, haddock, bluefin tuna, striped bass, redfish, and pollock. He joined the Georges Bank Cod Fixed Gear Sector in 2007. Bob was one of only two local fishermen to take part in a Hook Association cooperative research study, with his fishing vessel *Rug Rats*, that looked at how effective video cameras were at monitoring fishing trips.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Marty Stiles



Our volunteers are critical to the success of the Hook Association. Marty Stiles, a resident in Chatham, has been helping the Hook tirelessly since 2006. Marty's family has long been connected to the sea—her grandfather, John Harding Jr. and her great grandfather, John Harding, were successful fishermen out of Wareham and New Bedford. Her parents lived in Chatham part-time for thirty years before her love for coastal living brought her here permanently in 2003. Marty wanted to give back to the community she loved so she jumped on board with the Hookers Ball Auction Committee and worked hard for a very successful Hookers Ball 2007. Since then she has contributed much of her time to helping out with mailings and events to keep the Hook Association running. Throughout the year, you can find Marty at the office ready to go with a new project. Thank you Marty!

Seafood Recipe

Mediterranean Baked Haddock

With the holidays fast approaching, here is a great seafood recipe that will help you support local fishermen while serving up a delicious dish for your guests.

INGREDIENTS/SERVES 4

1½ lbs. fresh, local haddock
 2 roma tomatoes, diced
 1 Tbsp. garlic, minced
 1 lemon, juiced
 ¼ cup white wine
 1½ cups fennel, thinly sliced
 3 Tbsp. olives, sliced
 2 oz. pine nuts
 1 Tbsp. fresh basil, thinly sliced
 2 Tbsp. parsley
 ¼ cup parmesan cheese, shredded
 1 tsp. lemon zest
 Olive oil as needed
 Salt and pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350°. Divide the fish into 4 pieces. Heat some oil in a pan. Sauté the fennel until soft. Add half of the tomatoes and garlic and toss. Remove from heat. In a bowl combine the rest of the tomatoes, garlic, lemon juice and zest, olives, pine nuts and herbs. Combine well. In a baking pan place 4 mounds of the fennel mixture. Spread out a little to match the size of the fish. Place the fish over the fennel and drizzle with wine. Spread the tomato mixture over the fish. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese and place in the oven. Bake 15-20 minutes or until the fish is cooked. Remove from the oven. Using a spatula remove the fish from the pan by sliding it under the fish and fennel. Place on a plate and serve.

This recipe is provided courtesy of Chef Don Fallon, the resident Chef at Ring Bros. Marketplace, in South Dennis. For more of Chef Don's fantastic recipes, go to www.ringbrosmarketplace.com.



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In memory of Roger W. Horne

Last month, the Hook Association lost one of its founding members and a dear friend. Roger W. Horne, 56, passed away peacefully at his home in Chatham on October 5. He was born and raised in Chatham, and graduated from Chatham High School in 1971. A fisherman for almost 40 years, Roger was a dedicated member of the Hook Association. He cherished his time on the water and his family and friends on shore. A memorial gathering was held in Chatham on October 16 and was attended by many local fishermen and community members. The Hook Association's deepest condolences go out to Roger's wife, sons, daughter-in-law, and many extended family members.

Smooth seas Roger.



Let us know what you think.

Let us know what you think about *Hooked on Cod*. Contact the editor, Anna Haigh, with comments about the Fall Newsletter or to send news items for the next quarterly edition: anna@ccchfa.org.

www.ccchfa.org

