



P.O. Box 96  
Menemsha, MA 02552

2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

# MARTHA'S VINEYARD FISHERMEN'S PRESERVATION TRUST



Photo by Albert Fischer

# DEAR FRIEND,

This year life returned to a more normal seasonal rhythm here on Martha's Vineyard and every aspect of our work and mission grew to meet it. It was great to see many of you in person at Meet the Fleet as we celebrated our working waterfronts on the docks of Menemsha. Your generous donations made it possible for us to continue to stabilize and support our local fishermen and to expand our efforts in many ways. We thank you.

The MV Seafood Collaborative was up and running for its second season working to get more locally caught and grown fresh seafood to our island markets, restaurants, caterers, and ultimately your plate. We hope you had a chance to enjoy some of the amazing fish and shellfish pulled right from our surrounding waters and felt good about helping to maintain our island's authentic working waterfront.

Over the course of this year, we continued to donate seafood to many of our local organizations that fight food insecurity. Our black sea bass stew/chowder and delicious seafood meals made by Island Grown Initiative and Slough Farm offered ready-to-eat seafood options

throughout the year. We look forward to continuing this work and finding more ways to provide fresh seafood to the community.

We hope that you will continue to support our mission to preserve our island's authentic fishing fleet, working waterfront, and sustainable local seafood industry. Market forces are still in play that encourage consolidation, corporatization, and the redistribution of local fishing permits and local water access to off-island competitors. Your generous donations help us give our local fishermen a fighting chance at staying here and successfully supporting their families.

Finally, we hope you will always try to ask for and buy local seafood when you are on the island. It's the most delicious way to help!

Thank you again for your continued support.



John Keene  
MVFPT President



Shelley Edmundson  
MVFPT Executive Director



Photo by Elizabeth Cecil



Photo by Brooke Bartletta

## Board of Directors

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*Safeguarding Martha's Vineyard's fishing heritage and future by supporting the island's small-boat, owner-operated fishing fleets and their sustainably harvested catch*

# Meet the Fleet Returns!

On a beautiful, hot day in August we held our 5th annual Meet the Fleet in Menemsha. It was great to see everyone in person after two years of virtual events, and it was our most successful Meet the Fleet yet! We raised over \$64,000 from our Meet the Fleet sponsors, auction items, raw bar, merchandise sales, and individual donors. These funds will be used to help our mission of supporting the island's commercial fishing fleets. Thank you to all who came out for fish printing, crab races, and wonderful tours of our local Coast Guard, Environmental Police, and fishing fleets!

Highlights included a visit from *F/V Tradition* of Stonington, CT, whose Captain Aaron Williams won the net-mending contest. Otto Osmer and Curt Robinson split the winnings of the sea scallop shucking contest. Everyone was cheered on by an excited and supportive dock crowd who were happy to get sprinkled with a bit of scallop guts!

Music from The Dock Dance, Wolf Trap, Mark Allen Lovewell, and Molly Connell, a delicious local raw bar powered by the Clambulance, fillet demonstrations, and a silent auction featuring original artwork and once-in-a-lifetime experiences made for a great event.

We look forward to seeing you next August!



Fishermen deftly compete in a scallop shucking contest at Meet the Fleet 2022.



Friends reconnect along the dock at Meet the Fleet 2022. Photo by Albert Fischer

## A Big Shout Out to our Meet the Fleet Sponsors!

### Big Tuna



John Keene Excavation  
Little Wooden Boat Productions  
Love, Tito's  
The Morgenthau Family  
MV Bank Charitable Foundation

### Fluke



Cronig's Market  
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Martha Rose Fisheries  
Stanley Startzell and Debbi Zetterberg

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Doug Bardwell<sup>1</sup>  
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Bob Avakian Photography  
Circuit Arts  
Susan Dickler and Sigmund Van Raan  
Fish Snax Lures  
Morgan Hodgson and Bill Lake  
The Homeport  
The Kerns Family  
M.E. Pratt Bookbinder  
Joan Nathan<sup>2</sup>  
Jane Neumann<sup>3</sup>  
Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard  
Sail MV  
Studio CPG

<sup>1</sup>in memory of Will Holtham

<sup>2</sup>in honor of the Zetterberg/Startzell family

<sup>3</sup>in memory of Conrad Neumann



Photo by Brooke Bartletta

# MV SEAFOOD COLLABORATIVE

## Our Success and Our Future

This was our second season running the Martha's Vineyard Seafood Collaborative, the wholesale seafood market in Menemsha that your support in 2021 helped us purchase, renovate, and re-open. This year our Seafood Collaborative purchased \$395,000 of locally caught, locally landed fresh seafood from 54 individual fishing businesses. By providing a market for our small boat fishing fleet and the infrastructure to catch, unload, and store seafood on the waterfront, we fulfill our mission to help our local commercial fishing businesses and to keep our waterfront working. The top five species we purchased this year were: quahogs (193,168 count), oysters (81,286 count, wild and farmed), black sea bass (35,055 lbs), summer flounder (9,905 lbs), and sea scallops (7,024 lbs).

We then turned around and sold that product to 47 local restaurants, caterers, and markets, providing community members and visitors more options to enjoy fresh, high quality and locally landed seafood. Helping consumers access local catch supports the men and women who work hard to harvest and grow it.

Over the course of this season, we made over 250,000 lbs of ice from our new 5-ton ice machine, generously funded by the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation. This flaked ice was essential in keeping our fishermen's harvests fresh and ready for your plates. Thank you MV Bank Charitable Foundation!

As we look to next year, one of our main goals is to find the right business model and programs to stabilize this wholesale seafood business, allowing it to further its mission of supporting, promoting, and prioritizing our local seafood businesses. The positive economics of landing fish locally is under constant threat, and we see the Collaborative as a potential bulwark against losing our thriving and authentic island fishing operations and the essential infrastructure needed to keep our waterfronts running. We look forward to expanding the services of this program and its positive impact on the community.



Photo by Meg Higgins

**MERLIN**  
MENEMSHA MA

# Community Engagement



Oysters, waiting to be devoured, at our oyster and eelgrass presentation at the West Tisbury Library.

As part of our continuing outreach to bring local fishermen and product directly to the people of the island, we participated in several educational and enriching events this year.

At the West Tisbury Library, we joined forces with the MV Shellfish Group (MVSG) and Cottage City Oysters for a talk and demonstration on growing oysters and eelgrass, and the importance of both.

Emma Green Beach, MVSG Executive Director, and Alley McConnell, MVSG Restoration and Communications Director, described how they restore sustainable oyster fisheries and the ecological balance of the island's Great Ponds with their oyster and eel grass work. While shucking their fresh Cottage City Oysters, Dan and Greg Martino talked about everything that goes into running an oyster farm. Everyone got to sample oysters throughout the discussion and bring iced oysters home.

We were guests of the Edgartown Library for their Saltwater Wednesdays program and dove into how to prepare and cook black sea bass and channeled whelk. Also at the library, we fish-printed scup and black sea bass with a group of very fun and artistic kids! It was great to participate in-person again and get people excited about our local marine species.

## Seasonal Seafood Guide

Our Chef's Seafood Guide is finished! Drawn from consultations with island chefs, this binder aims to encourage and facilitate use of local seafood species. Each sustainable fish or shellfish has its own page and features information about habitat, diet, season, harvest techniques, and suggested methods of preparation. We plan to publish and distribute the guide in the spring when chefs have more time to consider how they might integrate it into their own operations. All chefs said the binder would be useful both for kitchen and front-of-house staff. We also plan to make the pages available on our website, so home cooks or seafood enthusiasts can have access to the information we collected. The guide is illustrated with beautiful pictures of each species, artfully designed by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF). We've also created accompanying shorter cards to include with each species delivery as a faster and more direct method of educating staff and, in turn, customers. This project was a collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group and funded by a DMF Seafood Marketing Grant. We hope it will help to drive local seafood consumption and knowledge!



Photo by Will Diamond

# Fishery Science and Research

Part of our mission is to help our local fishermen fish sustainably. To that end, we have engaged in several research efforts in cooperation with local fishermen, other non-profits, and universities.

In continuation of last year's work, and in partnership with the University of New Hampshire (UNH), we led the field research arm of a study funded by a Saltonstall-Kennedy grant. After months of testing bait recipes and whelk interactions in the lab, UNH master's student Mary Kate Munley was ready with new bait for us to test in the field. The overall goal of this project is to find an effective alternative bait that utilizes less, or no, horseshoe crab, and is lower in cost, reduces environmental impact, and uses sustainable ingredients like waste products and invasive species. Using the Whelk TV, an underwater camera system mounted over a typical conch pot and designed to capture more than 24 hours of day and night footage, we were able to assess which baits were more effective in attracting whelks.

So far, we have tested baits that rely on invasive green crabs and wastes from the clam-processing industry (clam bits and bellies). The numbers have not yet been crunched, but we will continue to modify the recipe and are hopeful it will eventually eliminate or lessen the use of horseshoe crabs as bait.

We are grateful for the help on this project of local conch fisherman Capt. Jason Gale of *F/V Redemption*, and for our summer interns Pierce Aymond and Valeriia Vakhitova for their assistance with over 30 Whelk TV boat trips and hours of trap-video watching! Next summer we will be adding whelk escape-vent research to this project in an effort to hopefully reduce undersized catch.

In continuation of our project last year, we worked with the Commercial Fisheries Research Foundation and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management on the formation of a Whelk Research Fleet. This summer, eight fishermen from MA and RI were given tablets with a specially designed app to collect whelk biological data while fishing. The tablets allowed fishermen to record shell measurements and upload photos of observations. We hope this type of technology can help expand fisheries-dependent whelk data and our understanding of whelk size distribution and the overall health of this fishery.



Pierce Aymond securing the battery housing on the Whelk TV.



Photo by Brooke Bartletta



Pierce Aymond, Shelley Edmundson, and Valeriia Vakhitova work aboard *F/V Redemption*, preparing the camera and measuring their catch.

Captured whelks waiting to be counted and measured.

Anonymous (3)  
 Bob Avakian  
 Bruce Aydelotte  
 Donald Barrett  
 Ben and Maria Batsch  
 Beal Family Charitable Fund  
 Suzan Bellincampi and Jean-Marc Dupon  
 Richard Bennett  
 Steve and Constance Bernier  
 Emily Bramhall  
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 Doug Leavens and Judy David  
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 Little Wooden Boat Productions  
 Clem and Diana Littleton  
 David Loges  
 Frank and Judith LoRusso  
 Gregory Lott  
 M.E. Pratt Bookbinder  
 The Mangerson Family  
 Peter McGhee

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 The Morgenthau Family  
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 Doug West and Irene Ziebarth  
 Nathaniel Wice  
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 Warren Woessner and Iris Freeman  
 Bernard Wojnowski  
 Seth Woods, The Homeport  
 Benjamin and Thorunn Zimmermann

Donations received from 12/1/21 - 11/30/22

### Gifts Made to MVFPT "In Memory Of"

Doug Bardwell, in memory of Will Holtham  
 Bonnie and Merle Berger, in memory of June Manning  
 Dave Damroth and Barbara Lee, in memory of Geoff Coddling  
 Joan and Charles Davis, in memory of June Manning  
 Joan and Charles Davis, in memory of Conrad Neumann  
 Shelley Edmundson, in memory of John Callagy  
 Andrew and Ellen Jacknain, in memory of Everett Poole  
 Margaret Maida, in memory of Will Holtham  
 Margaret Maida, in memory of Everett Poole  
 Jane Neumann, in memory of Conrad Neumann  
 Gage Woodard, in memory of Gray Mattern

## In Memoriam



John Callagy<sup>1</sup>



Geoffrey Coddling<sup>1</sup>



Will Holtham<sup>1</sup>



June Manning<sup>2</sup>



Gray Mattern<sup>1</sup>

Our mission connects us with a myriad of individuals in the community who share our vision and our love for our small seaside community. We would like to take a moment to remember these special friends who have passed. We appreciate the donations that friends and family have made to our organization in their names. We are honored to continue our work in their memory.



Conrad Neumann<sup>3</sup>



Everett Poole<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Photos courtesy of the Callagy, Coddling, Holtham and Mattern families

<sup>2</sup>Photo courtesy of *The Vineyard Gazette*

<sup>3</sup>Photo by Albert Fischer, courtesy of *The MV Times*

<sup>4</sup>Photo by Jeanna Shepard, courtesy of *The Vineyard Gazette*



# NEXT ON THE HORIZON!

In the coming year, we plan to expand our fishing permit opportunities, engage in collaborative research studies, shore up our working waterfront infrastructure, boost our local seafood marketing efforts, increase our food security seafood donations, and strengthen our community partnerships.

In addition, we will look for creative strategies to stabilize our Seafood Collaborative market. These efforts will allow us to continue to buy seafood from local fishing businesses and maintain and expand the needed infrastructure to land seafood safely and efficiently.

We are looking forward to welcoming back the Fishing Partnership, an organization that offers support services to commercial fishermen, to teach their Safety At Sea training and CPR courses on the island this spring. The skills taught in these courses are essential and lifesaving. Anyone who spends time on the water is eligible to take this free 1-day course. Email [mvfishermen@gmail.com](mailto:mvfishermen@gmail.com) to sign up.

We also hope to increase our ability to connect fishing permits to local men and women who are ready to grow their operations on the water. We will reach out as these opportunities develop.

## THANK YOU, JOHN CALLAGY

This year we lost an amazing advocate and friend of the MVFPT, John Callagy. Since our formation, John and his colleagues at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP have donated their legal services and skills to create sound foundations for our organization's programs and services. John was not only our go-to legal guy, but he was an important sounding board who helped us build the vision of what we are today. We are grateful for his help and friendship. Fair seas, John.

## MVFPT MERCHANDISE FOR SALE!

We have hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, notecards, posters, car magnets, and stickers for sale!

Order online at:

<https://www.mvfishermenspreservationtrust.org>

## THANK YOU FOR MAKING OUR PROGRAMS POSSIBLE!



Our work would not be possible without our generous donors! Please consider making a contribution to help these programs succeed. All donations are tax deductible. EIN:45-3546941. Donations can be made by:

### Mailing a check:

MVFPT  
P.O. Box 96  
Menemsha, MA 02552

### Scanning the QR Code (above)

### Visiting our website:

[MVFishermensPreservationTrust.org/donate](https://www.mvfishermenspreservationtrust.org/donate)

### QCD Donation:

If you are 70½ or older you might consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the MVFPT. Call us for details!



## OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

We are always in need of extra hands. If you are interested in volunteering or interning with the MVFPT or MVSC, please reach out to us at [mvfishermen@gmail.com](mailto:mvfishermen@gmail.com) or 508-687-0344.