



CAPE COD COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN'S ALLIANCE

Small Boats. Big Ideas.

*An e-magazine about our fishing community –
who we are, how we fish and our connection to the sea*

July 2018

Fish Tales

**Electronic monitoring, first seen as a pariah,
converts more fishermen**

When the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance piloted an electronic monitoring (EM) program in New England in 2005, moving to replace human observers with cameras on fishing boats, there was a lot of distrust (and disgust) about the program.



The Fishermen's Alliance knew the drawbacks – how it seemed like Big Brother, plus concerns about what the data would be used for or who it might be used against. But then came the positives:

Having cameras on the boats would improve the science, which in turn would improve management. The cameras would also give fishermen what they often want: validation that what they see on the water is not simply “anecdotal,” as some scientists refer to fishermen's observations with a whiff of condescension.

There was also the thought that the government's human observer program was expensive and a logistical nightmare on small, already cramped boats.

Initially it didn't go well.

The story continues here...

Plumbing the Depths

Where and how to bring wind power to shore

When grant holders in Lewis Bay

On the Horizon

We have lots of exciting stuff happening.



Join us in cheering on our charity runners, Jim Nelson of West Hartford and Chatham, Lizzie Lane of Newton and Chatham, Francesca Derteano of Medford and Barnstable, Christopher Ruez of Houston and Chatham, and Christa Danilowicz, philanthropic officer at the Fishermen's Alliance, of Sandwich. These dedicated individuals have taken on the challenge of representing us (Fishermen's Alliance) in our inaugural debut at the 2018 New Balance Falmouth Road Race. Want to join them? We have three bibs left! Please contact Team Captain Caroline Lane, volunteer and donor at the Fishermen's Alliance, bringing her experience in managing a Boston Marathon Charity team since 2013. We are grateful for her commitment! *Email* her or call her at 508-259-3594.



Get your tickets for our 17th annual *Hookers Ball* on Saturday, August 4 under the Big White Tent at

sat down with representatives of Vineyard Wind to discuss a project that may install a transmission line through their world, they had one big concern.

According to Ed Janiunas, the main thing all the grant holders brought up at the Vineyard Wind meeting was silt. "How is Vineyard Wind going to remediate some of the silt getting to the oyster itself?" he asks. "Or because there is so much new silt, and silt moves around, maybe these ones won't die but maybe next year's will?"

The fisheries liaison team at Vineyard Wind, that includes Nate Mayo and Crista Bank, are cognizant of the worries that oyster farmers have.

"These folks rely on the bay for their livelihood, and we can never forget that," says Mayo, a native Cape Codder and Provincetown resident, who has both an environmental background and generations of fishermen in his family. "More than just a source of income – it's part of our heritage on the Cape."

The story continues here...



Aids to Navigation

A farmers' market brings on the lobster

Tyler Daley, a Brewster native, thought about selling his lobsters at his hometown farmer's market, and its organizers were supportive from the get-go.

"When you come to the farmer's market you can shake the hand of the person who grew your tomatoes, raised the chickens that hatched your eggs, and baked your cinnamon bun," said Ellie Leaning, the market's manager. "On Cape Cod, a logical next step in the local food movement is seafood."

Getting permits and approvals was not the easiest process though.

"It's time-consuming," said Daley. "Just figuring out what I needed to do and all that."

The story continues here...



Charting the Past

When bird dung, aka guano, powered Falmouth's economy

the Chatham VFW before they're sold out! We hope you'll join us for our most important fundraiser of the year and best summer social on the Cape.



The generous support of our sponsors help make our community programs and events possible. This month we want to especially thank **Nauset Disposal! Hookers Ball** is not possible without their continued support.

On the Water

Ever wonder how a boat, or a fish, got its name? Want the word on what people are catching --- or how to cook it?



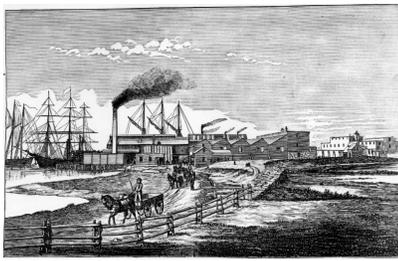
Since Tom Smith, an Orleans native, learned how to catch bluefish down in Florida, it made sense that when he made a career of it he bought his boat down there – the Sea Wolf. Now, more than three decades and three boats later, he hasn't changed the name it came with. Actually he has two boats, both named the Sea Wolf. He isn't superstitious, he insists, but he heard it was bad luck to change the name of the boat so he erred on the side of caution.

Oh yes, and he does remember that when he put both boats in the water on Friday, April 13, neither started.

"I won't do that again," he said with laugh.

He is OK with bananas on the Sea Wolf though, despite lore from the 1700s that says that bananas are bad luck on vessels. That superstition has a logical explanation: Wooden sailing

There is a common refrain among Cape Cod locals that (during the summer months at least) no one wants to have to drive “over the bridge.” So it is all the more impressive to realize that 160 years ago, local ship captains typically ventured to the far side of the globe. Sometimes their mission was, in retrospect, surprising, even bizarre — for example, to mine bird dung and bring it back to Woods Hole.



The Quechuan word for bird dung is guano, and it is naturally high in nitrogen, phosphate and potassium, making it a very effective plant fertilizer. Given that Cape Cod in the nineteenth century was both an agricultural and a shipping powerhouse, these two industries melded into The Pacific Guano Company, founded in Woods Hole in 1859.

The story continues here...

Over the Bar

Shipshape language

Living on the Cape and Islands, we know we are surrounded by water even if sometimes we take that blessing for granted. But the experiences of people who live and work on the sea influence and define a much broader world, far beyond shoreline communities. And there’s no better way to realize and appreciate how influential seafaring life is to our whole culture than by turning to words themselves, the amazing tools that make humans unique, that we use to define how we see ourselves.



Are you **onboard** with this idea? Maybe if I **bear down**, get my **bearings** and **navigate** the argument, you might come to agree that this **position** surely **holds water**. In the meantime, all I ask is that you **cut me a little slack**, a little **leeway** to make my case.

It’s no accident that pretty much everything we talk about has nautical language **standing by to make the point**. Are we getting started? Sure, we’re **shoving off** and **underway**. Do we see problems ahead? Looks like we might face **choppy seas** and some **headwind**. Are we going to **cut and run**? Of course not, we’ll **stay the course** and it’s **full steam ahead** to the **bitter end**. If we **batten down the hatches** and **know the ropes**, it won’t really matter if sometimes we feel like we’re **over our heads**. We won’t let anyone **take the wind out of our sails**. Sooner or later we’re sure to make a **windfall**.

Then again, sometimes you need to be **on the lookout**,

boats had to move quickly to deliver bananas before they spoiled, and fishermen had a hard time trolling for fish on such fast-moving boats.

Smith has proof that this is bunk: On one of his best days tuna fishing, catching the limit right away, his crewman took a break.

“He opened his lunch box and peeled a banana.”

On the Shore

This community thrives in large part because of a constellation of non-profit organizations and engaged businesses.



Our friends at **Wellfleet SPAT**

(which stands for Shellfish Promotion and Tasting, whose main claim to fame is that they organize and run the **Wellfleet Oyster Fest**), are offering a unique, fun opportunity throughout the summer: Tour a working shellfish farm. People will wade out to an aquaculture site and learn how shellfish are grown. Tours are \$10 per person, children under 12 free. Attendance is limited to 25 people per trip so advance registration is required. To sign up [click here](#).



The Cape’s Blue Economy machine has

highlighted some neat events at Waquoit Bay Estuarine Research Reserve, but we thought we would highlight one presentation near and dear to our heart: “Can Oysters Save the Bay?” [Here’s the full calendar](#).

This August, the

especially when it comes to **cutting deals to make headway**. We all know there are **pirates** out there who might like to **bait and switch**, not to mention **sharks**, and all the **scuttlebutt** in the world won't change that. Best to keep a **wide berth** around these **fly-by-nights**. Being a **swashbuckler** is one thing, **swearing like a drunken sailor** or even **getting three sheets to the wind** once in a while is no disqualifier, but if you don't like **the cut of someone's jib**, better to **steer clear**.

That said, all of us get **under the weather** sometimes, at **loggerheads** with life, feel like we need an emotional **overhaul**. My experience has been that keeping a **steady hand on the tiller**, not **going overboard** one way or another, **toeing the line** when necessary, all help keep me **afloat**. I try not to **tack** from one position to another, or spend too much time checking my **wake** – although I suppose I have been known to **make waves** occasionally. **Steady as she goes** might be my motto.

Why does all this lingo matter? It speaks to how deeply embedded mariners and fishermen are in our psyches. It evokes historic connections without ever actually pointing them out. It reinforces the understanding that celebrating and supporting the people who invented this language, whose daily lives inspired everyone to adopt it for their own, who still practice its literal meanings, is important and worthwhile.

It's one more way to remind everyone, from public policy managers to neighbors on the pier, that despite all the controversies these **salty dogs** might **dredge up**, and the **crosscurrents** they can roil, without them all of us are in danger, big picture, of **going down with the ship**.



(John Pappalardo is the CEO of the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance)



Chatham Marconi
Maritime Center
Summer Speaker

Series will focus on how citizens of Chatham came to acquire and preserve the former Marconi/RCA sites. Talks include, "Capturing History Part I" with Norman Pacun on Aug. 2, and "Capturing History Part II" with Maraide Sullivan on Aug. 9. The speaker series is free to CMMC members, general admission for each non-member is \$5, for children age 12 and under \$3. Each week's program at the education building across from Ryder's Cove will begin at 5:30 p.m. Reservations are not required.

On the Hook

We do a lot of reading, searching through the wide world of fisheries, and often find intriguing pieces to share. In the old days, you might call this your clipping service.



A lot of people have expressed reluctance about buying local dogfish and skate that is frozen. Maybe *this* article from the Washington Post will change perspectives.



The Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative is gaining momentum, *read* about how and why it got its start in the Cape Cod Chronicle and find out how you can get involved.



Allegations in the Associated Press (AP) against a company claiming to sell and distribute fish in accountable and sustainable ways has prompted Massachusetts

Senator Markey to call for
an investigation; more from
National Fisherman.



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