



Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

PRESS RELEASE: DECEMBER 4, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CAPE COD FISHERIES TRUST

CAPE COD FISHERIES TRUST GAINS SUPPORT OF WALTON FAMILY FOUNDATION

*Innovative permit bank program seen as model for
revitalizing other ports
and fishing communities across the country*

North Chatham, MA: [The Walton Family Foundation](#) recently recognized the [Cape Cod Fisheries Trust](#) as a leading model for community ownership of fisheries access. With a vision for delivering this promising model to other New England and U.S. fishing communities, the Walton Foundation has made a two-year grant of \$500,000 to the [Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association](#) to help with the permit bank's design, implementation and evaluation.

"The Walton Family Foundation's recognition of the Fisheries Trust shows that our home-grown idea to help revitalize local fishing communities through permit banking is now making waves across the country," said [Paul Parker, Director of the Trust](#).

The Walton Family Foundation's Environment Program is focused on creating cleaner, healthier rivers and oceans; ensuring access to an abundant supply of clean water and healthy seafood; and supporting the millions of people in America and around the world whose lives and livelihoods depend on fishing.

"We've been impressed with the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust's track record to date, and we want to encourage its further development," said Scott Burns, Director of the Foundation's Environment Program. "We think it's important the Sectors process in New England move forward in a manner that takes into account small-scale fishermen and their communities."

Established in 2008 by the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association, the Fisheries Trust is working to ensure a future for fishing communities on Cape Cod by purchasing and leasing commercial fishing permits. The Trust buys groundfish and scallop permits and leases them to qualifying local fisherman at affordable rates. The lease agreements include binding covenants designed to protect local jobs, fishing heritage and the environment.

"No one has enough fishing opportunities on their own," said Chatham fisherman Tye Vecchione. "Without the ability to lease from the Fisheries Trust, my business would probably be scaled back and some people wouldn't have enough days to fish at all."

Since its inception, the Trust has raised over \$2 million; has purchased thousands of pounds of scallop quota and numerous groundfish permits; and has already begun leasing these valuable fishing opportunities to local fishermen. Parker aims to raise a total of \$10 million by 2011 to acquire permits and manage the program.

"Without the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust, local fishermen would have limited access to the fishing opportunities they need to stay in business," said Susan Nickerson, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association. "We don't want to see Cape Cod lose an essential food source and a traditional way of life. The Fisheries Trust is a way to ensure the future of fishing in our community."

To learn more about the Cape Cod Fisheries Trust or to donate, go to: www.ccchfa.org/trust/

###

For press inquiries, please contact:
Anna Haigh, Communications Coordinator
Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association
210-E Orleans Road, North Chatham, MA 02650

anna@ccchfa.org - Office: (503) 945-2432 - Cell: (603) 440-9006
[Website](#) - [Twitter](#) - [Facebook](#)

Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association

The Cape Cod Commercial Hook Fishermen's Association is a nationally recognized, non-profit organization that aligns protection of the oceans with the economic interests of our historic fishing community. We support stewardship of coastal ecosystems through education, research, and policy programs. Started in 1991 by the local fishing fleet, the Hook Association is now the leading community fisheries organization in the region. We are taking action now to make sure there are fish for future generations.

- Protecting a Resource, a Tradition, and a Way of Life ~
www.ccchfa.org