



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*

April 25, 2019

Fish Tales

Santoro hopes science will protect his business plan

Domenic Santoro, like many in Chatham, dug for clams off Monomoy from the moment he was old enough and has bounced around from fishery to fishery since.



"I feel like I have to reinvent myself every five years," he says.

He's been fluke fishing, dredging for quahogs, surf clamming. But there has been a constant; early in his career he started musseling, with a boat and a small dredge that he and his brother Frank put together.

"I like musseling," says Santoro. "The consistency is hard to beat and it's close to home."

Unfortunately, big sets have not been consistent; they've happened a handful of times in the last few decades and Santoro has learned to build a business plan around them.

He has a boat that will ply inshore waters around Pleasant Bay and Stage Harbor and another that heads into Cape Cod Bay. Santoro has done reconnaissance and research, finding secondary mussel beds when storms wipe others out, exploring the idea of a mussel farm, starting Chatham Light Seafood to help market his product.

"I'm kind of all in," he says.

On the Horizon

We have lots of exciting stuff happening.



*Cape &
Plymouth
Business*

magazine announced their 40 under 40 awards, recognizing "top young business leaders (who) excel in their industry and show dynamic leadership characteristics." No surprise to us that our Director of Philanthropy Christa Danilowicz was among those recognized. Apart from her invaluable work here, Christa is co-chairing this year's Philanthropy Day on Cape Cod, the annual conference that shares best practices in fundraising and celebrates charitable giving on Cape Cod and the Islands. A strong believer that culture enriches communities and empowers new creative generations, she is also a member of the Sandwich Cultural Council. Christa is in good company, with representatives from many of our 2019 sponsors – *The Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, The Black Dog, Gibson Sotheby's International Realty, The Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod, Shepley Wood Products* and *UBS Wealth*

The story continues here ...

Plumbing the Depths

Temperature readings can tell many tales

“When I first started fishing, I didn’t realize how important water temperature could be,” says Greg Walinski, “but obviously it plays a big role in everything we do.”



Walinski’s Cape Cod-based vessel *Alicia Ann* is one of 28 boats from Maine to Rhode Island outfitted with temperature sensors as part of an ongoing program from NOAA’s Northeast Fisheries Science Center Oceanography Branch.

Originally created to monitor the Gulf of Maine and the Southern New England shelf using lobster traps, the Environmental Monitors on Lobster Traps (eMOLT) project began in 2001 and has netted five million hourly records of temperature, as well as thousands of records of salinity and current velocity.

“We have nearly two decades of historical data from the lobster traps, which were pulled once a year, but we didn’t have real time data,” says project leader Jim Manning, a NOAA oceanographer based in Woods Hole. “So five years ago, we began to develop a system that was robust enough to work on other gear types and could give us daily records in real time.

“While our main objective is to collect data to adjust and validate numerical models that attempt to estimate water temperature changes, another priority is to ensure the fishermen see the data on board.” When a fisherman hauls the probe, he can see his observation compared to what historically it should be based on climatology projections.

The story continues here...

Aids to Navigation

Fish For Families continues to serve

This year, the Family Pantry of Cape Cod expects to serve 10,000 clients and distribute 100,000 bags of groceries valued at \$4.2 million.

“We call ourselves a sustaining pantry,” said Christine Menard, the dynamic director of the Harwich facility, meaning that the pantry’s clients do

Management making the list. Kudos!



One of our favorite days of the year is coming up:

Hookers Ball! *Hookers Ball XVIII*, “Just for the Halibut,” will be Saturday, August 3, per usual under the Big White Tent at the Chatham VFW. The ball is an event known around the world so stay tuned for details on how you can get tickets.



We were happy to be part of *Cape Cod Young*

Professional’s “Shape Your Cape” summit earlier this month. Cape Cod’s hospitality, fishing, and landscaping/trades industries make up a significant part of our local economy and a large percentage of the Cape’s career and job opportunities. In that spirit, Captain Sam Linnell of Mary Alice Fisheries joined the “Redefining the Cape Cod Professional” panel, where representatives in these industries talked about how they are advancing professionalism, “making a mark on the Cape’s long-term economic vibrancy in the process.”



If this month’s Boston Marathon has

inspired you to run, then the Fishermen’s Alliance wants YOU on our 2019 New Balance Falmouth Road Race charity team Sunday, Aug. 18. Runners each raise \$1,500 or more and run the iconic 7-mile seaside course in support of the Fishermen’s Alliance. Charity runners receive a personal online fundraising page, an official Fishermen’s Alliance runner singlet, waived registration fee, coaching, individualized

not fit a stereotype of people in total collapse. "They are landscapers, fishermen, certified nursing assistants ... You'll recognize people here from your neighborhood, your schools."

The \$200 clients save in groceries every two weeks goes toward covering other bills, such as housing.

Menard was giving visitor Beau Gribbin, a lifelong fisherman from Provincetown, a brief overview of the headquarters on Queen Anne Road, which serves the entire Cape, in advance of a distribution on Thursday, April 18.

Gribbin, who had a hardscrabble upbringing in Provincetown, could relate. "I come from the corner of broke and poverty," he said with a smile.

Menard also talked about how in recent years, the pantry's food focus has changed. Instead of inexpensive calories, now the focus is on good produce, high-quality protein.

"It is all about nutrition," she said.

The story continues here...

Charting the Past

When "Tiny's" fishnet was all the fashion

"Mackerel rejoice. Sardines fling their shining scales in the air. There is joy in the pools where minnows swim. Fish-net, their oldest and deadliest enemy, has become a fashion. Women - to the astonishment of the fish - are actually wrapping themselves up in the stuff. Deliberately."

- From an article in "Picture Post," a leading international magazine of the era, May 3, 1939



The reason for this whimsical, ersatz fish celebration was the success of a remarkable Cape Cod business that linked our fishing community to the world in a unique way - using fish net as fabric to create high women's fashion. It lasted for decades, created scores of jobs, and was the manifestation of one amazing woman's imagination, and energy.

Ada Elizabeth Worthington was her name, born in Buenos Aires in 1899, an ambulance driver in World War One,



training plan, fundraising support to help you achieve your personal best, and more. We have a limited number of charity bibs, so reach out to team coach **Caroline Lane** if you want to join us.



We are looking for an

experienced, enthusiastic, articulate, detail-oriented team player to join our Philanthropy Team as a Development Coordinator. The Development Coordinator is responsible for all administrative aspects of development activities while providing direct support to Director of Philanthropy Christa Danilowicz. Primary responsibilities include database management, all fundraising activities including donor and public relations, direct mail appeals, sponsorships and special events. If you think you are good match for this part-time position, e-mail **Christa**.

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?



Picture a fancy gown worn by a top model, sold in the late 1930s at one of the most famous luxury department stores of the time. A handwritten note on the page, signed by

trained as an actress and nurse, six feet tall in her size 10 combat boots. Her accepted nickname was one of those meant to be the opposite of her true persona: "Tiny."

Tiny met her husband-to-be, John Worthington, soon after the war. John was a piece of work himself: a pilot in the earliest days of aviation, Marine, an adventurer who rode rails to the West, worked in mines and Mexican oilfields. John also had deep Cape Cod roots; as a young teenager as early as 1912, he summered in Truro and worked fish weirs, hauling and harvesting thousands of pounds of fish. The weirs, and way of life, got in his blood.

The story continues here...

Photo courtesy Diana Worthington and The Highland House Museum in Truro

Alliance alumni

Catching up with Azure

One wonderful result of having longevity in this fisheries world is that over time, many talented and committed people have made their way to our doorstep, accomplished a great deal while here, and then used those experiences to springboard into other fascinating jobs and positions within the broader fishing community.



We thought it would be fun to visit and revisit some of our friends and former colleagues, to find out what they've been up to since, well, you might say "graduation" from the Fishermen's Alliance. Here is the second in a series of profiles that will appear here in the e-magazine on a regular basis.

Azure Cygler (formerly Westwood), who worked with us close to 20 years ago, is our next profile. Read her story [here](#).

Over the Bar

A box of ocean called 537

Of all things on this big old planet that could be divided and put into boxes, the ocean is the least likely.

Yet people find ways to box off and subdivide even the waves, and once

Bergdorf Goodman, reads: "lovely, new and strange." Strange indeed, the gown was created out of real fishnet, produced at a company known across the globe, headquartered in North Truro. Cape Cod Fish Net Industries started in 1935, and at its height employed close to 50 women who turned cloth net into the height of fashion. You can read about this remarkable company and piece of Cape Cod history in our Charting the Past section. [Click here](#) to see a photo gallery of the style that emanated from one woman's creative blend of fashion and fishnet.

On the Shore

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



A number of fishermen have stopped

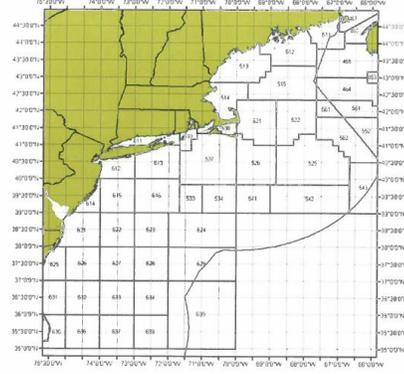
by to talk about how Rosemarie and Bob Denn, former owners of Cape Fishermen's Supply, were like family. The couple supported many in good and bad times, and when times were really bad they extended credit, extended it again, and then again. We were thinking about the couple, and the enduring power of community, when we heard about Rosemarie's passing late last month. She will be sorely missed. Donations in Rosemarie's name may be made to the [Women of Fishing Families](#), PO Box 134, Chatham, 02633.



We partner with the Family Pantry of Cape Cod in our Fish for Families

you push past holistic and romantic objections, there are reasons for it:

We are at a point in our relationship to the world where (like it or not) we need management, we need to understand our impacts and where to focus and avoid. In order to do that we need to know where we are, latitudes and longitudes, and those crisscrossing lines are what make boxes, on land or water.



The chart you see here is published by federal fisheries managers to define the imperfect boxes we've agreed to use as we talk about fishing and stocks, spawning and recruitment, open or closed areas. For the uninitiated, these public conversations can sound like a complicated math equation, people conversing in numbers more often than words.

Lately, three numbers have been on a lot of people's minds: 537.

You'll see that 537 is just south of the Cape, not a clean rectangle because areas along the Massachusetts/Rhode Island/Connecticut coast need separate attention, but a big important block. A lot of our fishermen work down there at certain times catching monkfish, others work on lobster. There are major shipping routes coursing through 537, and that makes sense given heavy Boston/New York traffic.

537, or some parts anyway, also attracts whales to feed and congregate. So right now there is a lot of focus on it, conversations about how to protect endangered mammals while respecting the historic effort of fishermen.

Cape Cod fishermen have worked for many years to reduce potential interactions with whales, laying fewer and weaker lines in the water to avoid contact or harm, stopping fishing entirely in large areas during months whales are around, obeying speed limits and offering wide berth. To our knowledge there has not been a single proven, documented case of a whale entangling with our local gear for a very long time, though there definitely have been ship strikes in our region and entanglements in Canada.

But North Atlantic Right Whales are now so few in number that many believe every single one must be protected at pretty much any cost. And that means there is discussion about shutting down the entire big area 537 to fishing activity for long stretches.

We stand ready to work with anyone and everyone to make good public policy. We sit with them too, at meeting after meeting, in committee after committee. And we will be as constructive as possible to get good results, though

program, which delivers local seafood to local families in need. (See our [story](#) in this issue.) We also believe

the non-profit is essential to the health of the community. So we want people to know about the pantry's 8th Annual Summer Gala at Wychmere Beach Club, overlooking Nantucket Sound and Wychmere Harbor on Snow Inn Road, Sunday, June 9 from 5 to 8 p.m. Click [here](#) for more.



For those who want to keep celebrating

Earth Day, the Harwich Conservation Trust is holding the 5th Annual Tour de Trash in conjunction with the Harwich Conservation Department, AmeriCorps Cape Cod, and the Tour de Trash Committee. The town-wide cleanup will take place on Sat., April 27, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., beginning and ending at the Harwich Community Center. Need more info? E-mail [Tyler](#) or call the HCT office at 508-432-3997.

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.



Perhaps we'll soon be in the same spot as the West Coast is now: groundfish have come back after decades of scarcity, but consumer demand hasn't caught up. "They've been off the menu for 15 to 20 years, and there are young people who

we have a lot of frustration because unlike most situations, when the government moves so slowly it's hard to see progress, this time the proposed shutdowns have not been offered with enough time for affected people to really participate in the debate.

Our fishermen are in danger of being scapegoated. Not only is that wrong, it won't bring back the whales because at this point we are far from the sole cause of this crisis. Bluntly and broadly shutting down 537 would not accomplish the common goal, but might well have the unintended consequence of creating yet another endangered species, called The North Atlantic Cape Cod Fisherman.

Boxes are necessary, but that doesn't mean getting boxed out.



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

have never eaten or heard of groundfish," said Jana Hennig, executive director of Positively Groundfish, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting the West Coast groundfish fishery. Read more [here](#).



This *piece* is a different take on the

Boston Seafood Convention some of us recently visited. The writer reminds us how lucky we are to be so close to so many great fish. It's a good reminder, an interesting sensibility.



Another *story* from the West Coast, this one is focuses on

how removing sea lions has had a direct benefit on endangered fish populations.

