



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*

January 25, 2018

Fish Tales

The Backshore is Beau Gribbin's backyard

Centuries ago, Puritanical settlers thought Provincetown was only good for cod, heathens, pirates and fishermen. The outcasts created their own community on the Backshore, which was called Helltown. That long history of the town being a refuge and home for fishermen is not far from Beau Gribbin's mind when he is on the water, sometimes on his fishing vessel Helltown, sometimes on the F/V Glutton. When he's lobstering on the Backshore he can always see the tall monument; it's a reminder of the town's tradition.



The story continues here...

Plumbing the Depths

Halibut research relies on fishermen

Chris McGuire had been hearing anecdotal accounts from local fishermen of greater numbers of halibut, a highly regulated and valuable fish.



"The federal trawl survey wasn't catching them," says McGuire, Marine Program Director for Massachusetts at The Nature Conservancy, "and the stock assessment is based on that survey."

So he proposed a new assessment model for this "data poor" species, in hopes it would give a clearer understanding of how

On the Horizon

We have lots of exciting stuff happening.

 Join us in our inaugural debut for Rally the Alleys, co-hosted by Habitat for Humanity of Cape Cod and ALS Family Charities! This one night of bowling happens on Friday, March 23 at Ryan Family Amusements, South Yarmouth. It's a win-win! No bowling experience required.

For more information and to sign up, please [click here](#).

 Save the date: August 19, 2018 – The 46th running of the New Balance Falmouth Road Race. We have the chance to have eight runners in the race this year!

Interested in learning more? Please [email](#) Molly Ogren or 508-945-2432 ext. 107.

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?

Beau Gribbin, of

many fish are out there – and give regulators solid information to allow fishermen to catch more of this historically important fish.

The new model has fishermen at its heart.

The story continues here...

Aids to Navigation

We are Cape Cod, but we easily could have been Cape Herring

A narrow dirt road through the Brewster woods is dark as pitch, but shiny minivans, SUVs, and compact cars line the way to a lighted house at the end.



Inside, close to 20 people are gathered around a table flanked by enormous windows that reveal the inky forest up the hill from the storied herring run at Stony Brook. The brook that leads to Cape Cod Bay was made famous by the man who lived in this home in the woods and wrote about this peninsula's intimate connection with the alewives that travel to and from the sea.

The story continues here...

Charting the Past

Mapping the coast, deciphering the tides

Two things happened around 1850 that had ripple effects which touch the lives of people drawn to the Cape's waters today. The first was that a talented fisherman by the name of George Eldridge fell out of the rigging of his coastal schooner in a gale and was seriously hurt. The second was that a storm tore open a new inlet in Nauset Beach in 1851, creating new shoals that were hazardous to mariners.



With fishing in his blood, Eldridge decided to become a chart maker and took to his dory to start mapping the coast.

The story continues here...



Provincetown, talks about how his boat got its name – and admits that sometimes he can be a glutton for punishment when it comes to fishing.

Watch the video!

On the Shore

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



Save the date!

Mass Audubon's Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary's super informative Cape Cod Natural History Conference will take place at Cape Cod Community College on Sat., March 17. The 23rd annual conference will cover everything from humpback whale entanglements to using citizen science and field surveys to catalogue wayward tropical fish. To find out more, [click here](#).



Exciting new partnership!

The Fishermen's Alliance will be working with the award-winning *Cape Cod Broadcasting* family to produce a new weekly radio segment that showcases the peninsula's vital commercial fishing industry. Stay tuned for more details.



2017 great for open space!

Just wanted to give a shout out to the conservation trusts on Cape who hit a milestone in 2017.

The *Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts* ran the

Over the Bar

Finding words and stories, for what's important

By John Pappalardo

If you're reading these words, then you've found your way to the kick-off edition of a new monthly e-magazine published here at the



Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, dedicated to sharing everything and anything we find interesting about our fishing community. People and history, issues and events, science and policy, funny stories and great recipes, tales told by words written and spoken, via photos and video— it's all open season and it's all on the plate.

We're taking it on because we believe in this community of ours. We believe that the more people understand who we are, what we care about, how we fish but also how we think about the oceans around us, the better we will be. We don't mean "better" in a narrow sense, that we alone will benefit. We mean "better" in the broadest, highest way, for all of us who live on or near the water – regardless of our livelihoods - who understand (even if it's down deep, not something expressed every day) that who we are, from the very beginning, has been defined by how we relate to the sea.

That ambitious enough?

This first edition, which replaces our e-newsletter, begins to put form to those big ideas swirling around our small boats. The mix of stories and info ranges from sunrise on a lobsterman's deck to how the famous Eldridge tide chart came to be, from a rallying cry to protect ocean and river herring to hands-on science to understand whether halibut are making a comeback, from upcoming events around the peninsula to interesting fishy comment from sources around the region. And then some.

Each story stands alone. Each links to the others in ways obvious and subtle, which makes the issues fun to brainstorm and produce— hopefully fun to experience, too.

My role, as we roll along, will be to take a big step back and try to offer some insight into what matters most, what this patchwork we stitch together every month really intends to cover. I think the exercise will likely help me more than you, because it'll require me to create the time, space and reason to think bigger, connect the dots, and find words for what's important beyond the immediate.

So that's why we came to the title for this regular little coda, "Over the Bar." It works in a handful of ways: Over the bar, as in being good enough to elevate, to be valuable and worth your time.

numbers and \$7.2 million was collected by the land trusts to purchase 14 properties. Mark Robinson, the Compact's executive director, said that's a combined record for the non-profit land trusts in one year.



Blue economy

One could say that salt water runs through our veins; it is certainly the lifeblood of the peninsula. The Blue Economy Project, of which we are true-blue supporters, has released a new video. [Check it out.](#)

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.



Is the decision to open up formerly protected waters off the East Coast to drilling a bad idea? [Read more.](#)



Lower Cape TV plans to stick with the story of how the Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative is going to bring together thousands of voices to help develop a blueprint for bivalves.

[Watch the video.](#)



The idea of a no-rope ocean was at first dismissed as nonsensical, but now seems to be developing traction. Folks who make their living at sea say it would put them out of business. [Read more.](#)



Influential regional administrator John

Over the bar, as in ready to share thoughts and perspectives at a local watering hole should the occasion arise.

But most of all over the bar, as in recognizing where most of the real work gets done on the water, and how that dangerous commute should never be taken for granted.

And now I look forward to your comments and feedback as we launch this new vessel. Here's hoping you like her lines.



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

Bullard is retiring. His replacement is Michael Pentony. [Read more.](#)

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