On August 21, 2020, Robin Kerber, the Maine Child Nutrition Farm and Sea to School Coordinator, notified school nutrition programs in Maine of a unique opportunity to receive fresh fish for school lunch programs. Prior to this eventful day, school nutrition fish was limited to regionally available fish sticks and canned tuna provided through the national USDA foods program. The school nutrition staff at RSU 12 in Whitefield, Maine jumped at the chance to serve local fish. On September 22nd, 2020 the nutrition program scheduled transportation of the initial fish allocation and began a production plan for the district menus.

At the start, many school community members were in disbelief that the children would try the menued fish. To date at RSU 12, we have successfully served over 3,626 pounds of Maine fish provided by the Fishermen Feeding Mainers (FFM) program. Total servings of fish served since the first day of service has exceeded 14,250 portions. Students are asking for it to be offered on the menu. Teachers are partnering with kitchen managers asking “… when will the fish be served?” Faculty and staff are ordering the fish and teachers have added lesson plans...
MCFA Monkfish Stew

Working with local company Hurricane Premium Soups and Chowders, MCFA developed and successfully launched Maine Coast Monkfish Stew. The Stew is made with sustainably harvested Maine monkfish and comes in a frozen 16 oz. heat and serve pouch that is currently for sale at more than two dozen locations statewide. All proceeds benefit the Fishermen Feeding Mainers program.

Fishermen Feeding Mainers

A year and a half since its launch, MCFA’s Fishermen Feeding Mainers program has provided over 400,000 meals to Mainers struggling with food insecurity by purchasing over 260,000 pounds of fish from local fishermen and donating it to schools, food banks and community groups. The program supports local processors and helps over 15 ground fishing boats keep fishing by providing a fair price for their catch.

Sea Grant Education Project

In collaboration with the Maine Department of Education and Maine Sea Grant, MCFA created educational tools, including posters of participating fishermen and recipe cards translated into six languages to help food staff and students learn more about where the fish they receive through the FFM program comes from and how to prepare it.
NIKKI STROUT
MCFA Board Member

My husband is a commercial fisherman, my uncle is a commercial fisherman, and my father-in-law is a lobsterman. I have grown up with fishing being part of my world and now my husband, Taylor, and I have three young boys who are growing up with fishing in their lives.

Taylor and I started Rugged Seas, a company that recycles worn-out fishing bibs and turns them into bags and apparel, as a way to highlight what it is like living as a fishing family and the struggles fishermen and the industry are facing today. That’s why we decided to donate a portion of our sales to MCFA. When I was asked to join the MCFA board, it was an honor. Being a fishing wife, mother, and business owner gets very busy, but joining the MCFA board has helped me to keep pushing forward to advocate for such a hardworking industry and community.

– Nikki Strout

MCFA Cookbook
In addition to MCFA’s array of apparel and products, we celebrated Maine seafood by creating “Catch: A Maine Seafood Cookbook” that features recipes from a wide range of local chefs and seafood lovers.

Fishermen Wellness
Nikki was one of two board members, along with MCFA’s Relay Team “Flying Fish,” who raced in the Maine Marathon this fall to raise money for MCFA’s Fishermen Wellness program. Together, they raised over $11,000 to support mental and physical health support for coastal fishermen.

Product Partner Highlights
- Slack Tide Maine’s “Fishermen’s Blend Lemon Dill Sea Salt” is a co-branded product that provides $1 per jar towards MCFA’s Fishermen Feeding Mainers program.
- Loyal Citizen Clothing has provided in-kind printing services to produce several pieces of MCFA merch, including our newest “Fishes of MCFA” t-shirt.

Giving Options
- To donate online please visit: www.mainecoastfishermen.org
- Or make checks payable to: Maine Coast Fishermen’s Association and mail it to: 93 Pleasant Street; Brunswick, ME 04011
- To give via wire, securities or other types of gifts please email us at: ben@mainecoastfishermen.org
I grew up with many people in my life fishing. I started lobster fishing when I was a teenager with a little boat my father helped me build. Now, my wife and two boys work with me to fish my traps during the summer. Fishing with my family has been a great way to teach my two boys the value of hard work along with all the details that go into fishing.

In November of 2020, I bought a boat to focus on the lobster and scallop fisheries on a bigger scale. I’ve spent many years attending meetings to ensure that the scallop fishery is managed in a fair and sustainable way, and that it supports the fisherman. MCFA has helped us to build and improve a scallop fishery in the Northern Gulf of Maine. I know that MCFA will be there to help fight for sustainable fisheries to support my kids and future generations in this industry.

– Mike Murphy

MIKE MURPHY
Fisherman

Electronic Monitoring
MCFA has worked with partners to ensure that Electronic Monitoring (EM) is a viable option for our boats. These camera systems fulfill monitoring requirements in the fleet by collecting discard data that are important to fisheries management. For most of our small boats, EM is a preferred alternative to having human observers aboard, as it cuts down on costs, coordination, and safety risks.

Working Waterfront
MCFA organized Working Waterfront panel discussions in Harpswell bringing together several local organizations to share information and to facilitate discussions about living and working in a coastal waterfront community.

Young Fishermen’s Development Act
Together with other community partners, MCFA participated in a project to interview people involved in waterfront and fishing businesses to identify the needs of the next generation of fishermen and those pursuing careers in the fishing industry.

"What will I be doing in ten years? I’ll be fishing – that much I’m sure, but I know I have to be able to adapt when things change. The hard part is not knowing how to plan for the future. But I’ll be fishing, and I’ll be happy, absolutely."

– John Jordan, Jr., 20 years old
Over the last five years, MCFA has increased its number of individual donors from just over 50 to nearly 600! The majority of our annual budget goes to programmatic work, which accounts for 85% of our expenses.

Support from individuals, businesses, and foundations has allowed MCFA to continue to grow and expand our reach and impact.

Thank you for being a part of our community!

2021 MCFA Donor List

Fisherman’s Knot $10k+
- Bristol Seafood, LLC.
- Broad Reach Foundation
- Builders Initiative
- Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance
- Catch Together
- The David & Lucille Packard Foundation
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation
- Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- John T. Gorman Foundation
- Maine Community Foundation
- Maine Coast Community Sector
- Nathaniel & Jennifer Reed Family Charitable Fund

Reef Knot $5k - $9,999
- Camden National Bank
- Sally Keelan
- Oak Foundation
- Nancy & Daniel Paduano
- Pam Berry & Doug Warren
- Slow Money Maine
- Bangor Savings Bank
- Hayley Brown
- Lois & Chris Buschmann
- Edward Cady
- Canna Claus
- Joe Faber
- Farm Credit East Cares
- First National Bank
- Harriette & Peter Griffin
- Hamilton Marine

Sheets Bend Knot $1k - $4,999
- Carol & Dale Hudson
- Margaret Jealous
- Ginny Kern
- Kevin Lipson
- MaineHealth
- Suzanne McGinn
- Vicki & Craig McKenna
- Rusty Parmenter
- Michelle & James Rines
- Stephen Schley
- Loribeth & David Schwartz
- Sea Bags Maine
- Reed Stockman
- Rugged Seas
- Tax Bracket
- Alex Todd
- Alan Tracy
- Vessel & Vine
- Lorene Waresmith
- Scott Weller

Grants & Foundations $1.4M
- Donations $203K
- Product Sales $63K
- Building Rental Income $13K
- Miscellaneous Income $2.8K

INCOME $1.6M

EXPENSES $1.2M

Fishermen Feeding Mainers $407K
- Special Programs $379K
- Staff $305K
- Fundraising $70K
- Travel & Outreach $27K
- Operations $20K

56, 88, 246, 242, 506, 588
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To donate please visit www.MaineCoastFishermen.org