

MCFA

93 Pleasant Street
Brunswick, ME 04011



Merch

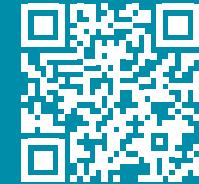
There's more than one way to catch a fish! No events? We found new ways to share our mission through merchandise and community partners. MCFA's long-time friend, Loyal Citizen Clothing, helped us design our best-selling item yet - the One Fathom Away t-shirts and sweatshirts, which were donned by more than 2,000 people across the country and modeled by fisherman Steve Train on CBS This Morning.



Credit: Atlantic Sea Farms

Fisherman Steve Train

FPO



MCFA

2020/2021 Annual Report

In a year when many dropped anchor and stayed put, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association steamed ahead and developed new ways to fulfill our mission to protect the fisheries of the Gulf of Maine and support Maine's fishing communities. Although we couldn't be together physically, we came together and we persevered. We adapted, we overcame, and we accomplished more than we ever could have imagined even after our world shut down. This was only possible because of your support and partnership.

MCFA achieved meaningful, impactful successes despite the challenges of 2020. Together, we protected access for fishermen to harvest scallops in the Northern Gulf of Maine. We created the Fishermen Feeding Mainers program to buy seafood directly from fishermen and donated over 200,000 meals to local schools and food banks. We honored Joe Nickerson, our board chairman who tragically passed away when his fishing boat capsized at sea, by creating our Fishermen Wellness program, which provides safety equipment for fishermen and mental health support within our fishing community. And, we didn't lose sight of the future as we worked with partners in DC to help craft and pass the Young Fishermen's Development Act, which creates training programs throughout the nation for the next generation of fishermen.

2020 was not only a year of action, but it was also a year of reflection, change, and growth. We redesigned our award-winning logo to better represent the fishing community in Maine and the people who make our working waterfront work. Additionally, we purchased and renovated what is now our new office space off of Route 1 in Brunswick where we look forward to gathering our fishermen and community.

In a year when we couldn't be together physically, our community rallied and I am humbled by your continued trust in and support for us. Thank you!

Together, we persevere.

The signature of Alex Todd, MCFA Board President.

Alex Todd
MCFA Board President

The signature of Ben Martens, MCFA Executive Director.

Ben Martens
MCFA Executive Director



MCFA
2020/2021
Annual Report



Together we...

Expanded Access For Fishermen

For decades, the scallop fishery had been absent from the federal waters of the Gulf of Maine. When the fishery began to show signs of rebuilding in 2010, access for Maine's small-boat fleet was in question. MCFA worked together with Maine fishermen and businesses to ensure access for Maine boats.



“Being able to fish for scallops is a new opportunity for Maine fishermen that helps us make a living. MCFA fought hard for us to gain access to the healthy scallop resource in the Northern Gulf of Maine.”

Josh Todd
11th generation Chebeague Island fisherman and son of Board Chair Alex Todd

Supported the Next Generation

MCFA worked with our partners at the Fishing Community Coalition to craft the Young Fishermen's Development Act, which was signed into law this year. It creates a fund to support education and training for the next generation of fishermen.

“Working on the water is what I love. The opportunity to catch lobster as part of my future on the coast of Maine is very special. MCFA is working to make sure that future isn't lost while making a difference for our community.”

Lexi Saxton
Fisherman & recent high school graduate headed to Maine Maritime Academy

“One woman told me that she cried when she was able to serve it to her family who had not been able to afford any fish for a very long time. I hear over and over what a ‘treat’ fresh haddock is for my families. We would not be able to give them such a beautiful product without you and your funding!”

Kimberly Gates,
Bath Area Food Bank
Executive Director

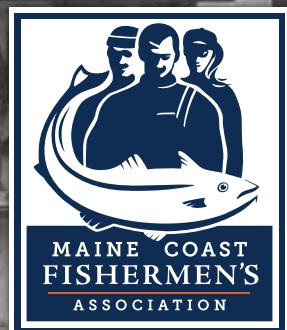
Honored a Legacy

In January of 2020, MCFA lost Joe Nickerson, the chairman of our board, when his boat capsized at sea. Joe's daughter, Hayley, worked with MCFA to find ways to remember and honor her father. She collaborated with Sea Bags to design and sell over 250 tote bags to support Maine's fishing communities. She has also helped to develop MCFA's Fishermen Wellness Program that provides lifeboats to fishermen and supports mental health and wellness in the fishing community.

“Losing my father was incredibly difficult and I am glad to honor him by supporting MCFA and the work they are doing to improve safety and well being for Maine fishermen.”

Hayley Nickerson

As part of MCFA's Fishermen Wellness Program, we have three life rafts and safety suits available for fishermen to borrow when needed.



Provided Fresh Fish to Fight Hunger

With the onset of COVID-19 and the economic fallout that followed, fishermen were struggling to support their businesses, families, and communities. At the same time, Maine was experiencing an unprecedented level of food insecurity. In response, MCFA built a new program looking to support local fishermen by buying local fish and donating the product to those in need.

50+ Schools & Service Groups

Over 50 schools and afterschool service groups have received seafood donations from Fishermen Feeding Mainers.

145,000 Pounds Of Fish Landed

MCFA has purchased 145,000 pounds of fish like pollock, hake, monkfish, and haddock directly from Maine fishermen.

30+ Businesses Supported

MCFA has been able to directly support over 30 seafood businesses on the working waterfront and indirectly support close to 100 businesses throughout Maine.

90 Fishermen & Fish Workers

Ninety fishermen and fish workers were kept fishing or working with support from this program.



200,000+ Meals to those in need

Through our partners at Good Shepherd Food Bank and community groups throughout the state, we have donated 200,000 meals (so far).

400+ Donors

Over 400 individuals, foundations, and businesses have donated to support Fishermen Feeding Mainers. We need your help to continue this important and impactful program.



Together, We Persevere.

And that includes YOU. Support us at:
MaineCoastFishermen.org



HAYLEY ANN