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.

Alex Todd
MCFA Board President

Ben Martens
MCFA Executive Director
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.

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.

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.

Together, We Persevere.

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