

GFWA PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JUNE 2008 - JUNE 2009

The Gloucester Fishermen's Wives' office, on Parker St. in Gloucester, was closed on January 31, 2009. The new location is 2 Blackburn Center, Gloucester, MA 01930, at the office of the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership (MFP)

Education: developing programs for the continuing education of fishermen and education the general public around fishing and the environment

- Captain's License Renewal Program.
- Participant on two panels at the Waterfront Festival, New Bedford, Mass.
- Planned and participated with the USCG on a safety workshop in Gloucester for active fishermen
- Displayed GFWA Quilt at *Keepers of Tradition: Art and Folk Heritage in Massachusetts*, May 18, 2008 — April 31, 2009, National Heritage Museum, Lexington, Mass.
- Continue to meet with the Mayor of Gloucester to keep her informed about the issues being confronted by the fishing industry.
- Host the Japanese children and educate them on the Gloucester culture and the fishing industry.
- Spoke at Shore Country Day School on the work of the GFWA.
- Made presentations on the history and status of the Gloucester fishing industry to groups of senior citizens that come from all over the country as part of the Ipswich Elder Hostel Program.
- Assisted college students with their theses on the commercial fishing industry.
- Assisted fishermen in writing letters to Judge on the State litigation with NOAA
- Met with Governor Patrick to discuss the socio-economic effects of Amendment 16 to the Massachusetts fishing industry.
- Performed cooking demonstration at the Gloucester Farmers' Market to promote local fish and to educate the public about how to use a whole fish

Environment: addressing the socio-economic impacts of government regulations and raising public awareness around the fisheries and marine habitat.

- Continued to distribute copies of the brochure developed for public education on the issue of LNG terminals.
- Arranged several meetings between fishermen and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on the issue of Massachusetts Ocean Management.
- Continued to monitor the reauthorization of the Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary and testified at public hearings on the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.
- Continued to be in contact with Senators Kennedy and Kerry and Representative John Tierney on MA fishing and environmental issues.
- Worked on MA Ocean Act.
- Testified at public hearings and continued to work on stopping the placement of windmills in Cape Cod waters.
- Attended and monitored the NE Fisheries Management Council on fishing regulations.
- Responded to requests for interviews on environmental and fishing issues from local, out of town, and national newspapers and reporters.

Economic & Business Development:

- Marketed the new cookbook, *Gloucester Fishermen's Wives Cookbook: Stories and Recipes*, through mailings, the internet, and book signing events in North Shore communities.
- Collaborated with the League of Women Voters on marketing *The Taste of Gloucester* cookbook.
- Worked with State officials, Senators Kennedy and Kerry, and Representative John Tierney on the economic relief funds for the groundfish industry.
- Established, with the assistance of NAMA and the MIT Sea Grant Program, Cape Ann Fresh Catch, a Community Supported Fishery (CSF), which has over 725 shareholders for its first session (as of June 17, 2009)

- Attended weekly meeting with Citizens for Gloucester Harbor, which is working to preserve Gloucester Harbor as a Designated Port Area (DPA)
- In cooperation with the Gloucester House Restaurant starting the “A New Fish Festival”
- Contracted with the State to distribute disaster relief funds to groundfish fishermen in the North Shore area
- Assisted a New Bedford fishermen in setting up a fund to help needy people within the New Bedford community. The funding will come from F/V donating so much fish per week.

Fundraising Activities:

- Worked with MA Senator Bruce Tarr to secure State funds in order to keep the office at 11-15 Parker Street opened so that the GFWA could continue to serve the needs of the fishing community. (Received State funds July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2010). The funding was cut by 50% in October because of state funding cuts due to the downturn in the economy
- Fees for services
- Gave cooking classes at Northeastern University and the Waterfront Festival
- Fundraising to the general public to continue GFWA services

Publicity and Media:

- New Bedford radio show.
- Gloucester Daily Times, the Boston Globe and Today’s News (on all fisheries issues).
- Cape Ann Cable Television Programs.
- Worked with David Boeri from WBUR in doing a story about the future of the fishing industry.

Board Memberships on:

- Northeast Seafood Coalition.
- Massachusetts Fishermen’s Partnership
- Commercial Fishermen of America.
- Fishing Partnership Health Plan.
- Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund
- Gloucester Coalition for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

Widow and Orphan Fund

- Supported the families of the F/V Patriot and communicated with the community about the sinking of the Patriot.
- Established the “Children of Matt Russo Fund”

Other Activities

- Prepared meals for Cape Ann Open Door, an organization dedicated to feeding the poor and low-income people.
- Held the Annual Membership Meeting.
- Attended the Change of Command, USCG.
- Meeting with new members of the USCG as they become officers of the USCG First District operation.
- Wrote a Letter of Support for the Marine Railways’ grant request to the US Dept. of Transportation
- Wrote grant for the South Shore Commercial Fishermen’s Organization to help in the setting up a sector for groundfish fishery

Administration:

- Meetings (e.g., accountant and bookkeeper)
- Budget development
- Ordering Supplies
- Answering phone
- Responding to snail mail and email
- Filling orders

- Website update
 - Talking with students and media
 - Database development and entry (cookbook and mailing list)
 - Bill paying
 - Archive update (e.g., organizing newspaper articles)
 - Preparation for meetings and events, e.g., Board meetings, Annual Meeting, etc.
- Ongoing management of the GFWARC, GFWDP, GFWA
Moving the GFWA Office and establishing a smaller office within the MFP office.