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Maine Center for
COASTAL FISHERIES



ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Mission

SECURE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR FISHERIES AND FISHING
COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN MAINE AND BEYOND

Paul Anderson *Steering the Course*



PAUL ANDERSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are blessed to live and work in this special place. It's craggy and hard, charming and beautiful. It changes with the seasons and it changes every day. If we are to ensure that there are fish forever in our coastal waters, we need to pay attention. It's complicated and no single person or institution can achieve the sustainability we envision for these coastal communities. We must work in partnership and listen to each other's perspectives and learn from each other's observations and experiences.

Our actions need to be driven by collective wisdom, innovation, and creativity because yesterday's solutions might not be the right fit for tomorrow's problems.

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries is committed to building partnerships and bringing people together to collaborate and learn from each other. This report of our work in 2018 demonstrates some of what we are accomplishing and foretells the path we will continue to pursue. It is a hopeful path. We are optimistic that, if we focus on long-term common goals, we can secure a future for the coast of Maine that we will be proud to hand to the next generation. The alternative is unacceptable.

Thank you for taking a look at this annual summary of our work. It's impossible to tell the whole story, so we'd much prefer to meet with you and hear what you have to say.

Thank you to the generous donors who support MCCF. If you are new to "*Fish Forever*," please consider making a financial gift. To learn more about ways to get involved, please call, visit our office or send an email to info@coastalfisheries.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PA', written on a white background.

2018 Achievements

Research partnership with University of Maine builds key connections and opportunities in industry.

PAGE 4

Three towns working together to manage an iconic fishery on the Bagaduce River.

PAGE 5

Eastern Maine Skippers Program students use technology to study fisheries.

PAGE 6

Cutting-edge technology introduced to the Discovery Wharf.

PAGE 7

5,000 square miles of ocean surveyed for cod and other groundfish.

PAGE 8

Northeast Coastal Communities Sector lands 170,000 lbs of fish.

PAGE 9



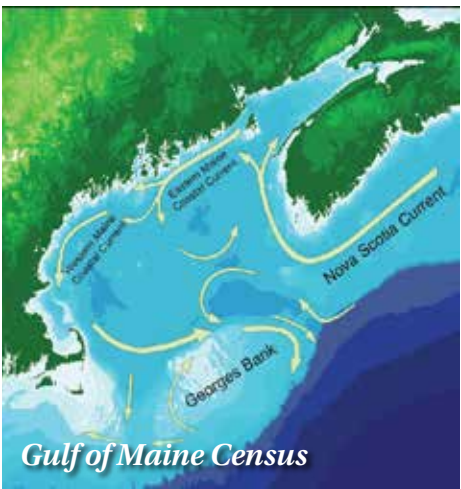
Photo: New England Fish Mangers

"THE COMPLEXITY OF FISHERIES ISSUES SHOULD NOT INHIBIT OUR WILLINGNESS TO LISTEN TO, LEARN FROM, AND COLLABORATE WITH ONE ANOTHER. FOR IN THE END, THE COMMON GOAL OF ENSURING SUSTAINABLE FISHING COMMUNITIES IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINE'S PROSPERITY."

PAUL ANDERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eastern Maine Coastal Current Collaborative (EM3C)

In 2017, MCCF executed a 5-year agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Maine Department of Marine Resources to develop a research framework for ecosystem-based fisheries management in the region of the Gulf of Maine defined by the oceanographic feature called the Eastern Maine Coastal Current (see map). This bioregion provides the “place” for exploring a wide range of biological, physical, and sociological information that, when considered holistically, can provide the basis for more effective management of the fisheries and other near-shore activities.



Map of dominant currents in the Gulf of Maine. The Eastern Maine Coastal Current runs southwestward from the Bay of Fundy to Penobscot Bay.

This is a unique opportunity to bring together various stakeholders, including, scientific disciplines, local knowledge and fisheries partners. Together, we will ask and answer complex questions about how to best manage resources, not as individual species, but as an ecological system.

MCCF is building this collaborative process to better understand existing data across these disciplines. The outcomes will identify what we actually know about the system and will define what information is missing or is needed to inform how the system will be affected by changing conditions.

Research Partnership

In 2017, MCCF entered an agreement with the University of Maine to co-fund a faculty position in marine science. Josh Stoll, Ph.D. was selected for this five-year position as an Assistant Research Professor in the UMaine School of Marine Science. This partnership helps to connect MCCF staff and programs with faculty and students, and helps to provide connections that the University

can explore in coastal fishing communities. Dr. Stoll is working on a wide range of relevant research projects related to seafood systems, the role of local ecological knowledge in fisheries management, and the integration of marine aquaculture into Maine’s working waterfront.



“The University of Maine sees this partnership with MCCF as a unique opportunity for Dr. Josh Stoll and other students and faculty to connect to real world problems on our coast.”

James S. Ward IV, Vice President, Innovation and Economic Development, University of Maine



Frost Pond, Sedgwick

Alewives

“We are shooting for “Billions of Fish.” It’s a big number, but it’s no joke when you think of the combined number of juveniles and adults that make up a huge resource of forage foods for countless species that see alewives as food.”

Bailey Bowden, Chairman, Penobscot Shellfish Conservation Committee and Alewife Committee in Penobscot



Alewives (river herring) in Maine represent one of two species where municipal governments and the state co-manage a local resource. MCCF supports the Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and three towns along the Bagaduce River to build upon these relationships needed for successful restoration and management of Bagaduce alewives. Already in year three

of a long-term project, we are seeing big successes and generating collaborative momentum.

In 2018, alewife co-management efforts in towns along the Bagaduce River resulted in positive outcomes. Towns counted and took samples that helped document half a million fish in all three ponds that currently have alewife runs. This data is necessary for communities to manage their own fisheries.

MCCF and the towns of Penobscot, Brooksville and Sedgwick coordinated volunteer efforts to stock alewife into

Frost and Parker ponds, which used to be home to native alewife runs.

Juveniles from these stocked adults left the ponds this fall, marking the first year in decades where all historic alewife systems in the region had fish moving out to sea to start the next stage of their lives.

Local involvement, facilitated by MCCF, is critical for Maine DMR and other partners to create the networks and policies that will result in effective management and will continue to incentivize similar work in other communities.

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

500+ volunteer hours: community members counting/sampling alewives and attending meetings

Nearly **half a million** adult alewives returned to the Bagaduce in 2018.

7 partners collaborating: Alewife Harvesters of Maine
Blue Hill Heritage Trust
Downeast Salmon Federation
Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
Maine DMR, Maine Rivers

Part of a statewide effort in Maine that boasts the **largest** runs and best chances for restoration of river herring on the coast.



Eastern Maine Skippers Program

The Eastern Maine Skippers Program (EMSP) is a collaborative education program that supports alternative experiences for students, with focus on hands-on activity and curriculum relevant to regional fisheries. The intent is to engage students, who actively commercial fish, so that they complete high school while building skills critical within the fishing industry. Over the past 5 years, EMSP has grown to include 75% of the coastal high schools in Hancock and Washington Counties, representing communities in state Lobster Zones A, B, and C. MCCF, along with the Rural Aspirations Project, has demonstrated that formal secondary education can be delivered with real time, real world context while promoting and exemplifying core industry and academic content standards.

EMSP focuses on student centered

“The Skippers Program teaches valuable lessons in navigation, fishing rules and practices, dealing with the Legislature, handling money and environmental issues. But, most importantly, how to get along with each other!”

John R. Williams, F/V Khristy Michelle

activities and industry involvement. This year’s overarching project theme is *“How can technology contribute to a safe, healthy, and sustainable fishing industry?”*

We continue to provide intensive training and experiential learning in the *“On the Water,” “At the Table,”* and *“In the Office”* core curriculum. This design offers students opportunity to learn not only operational and marine knowledge, but also advocacy, policy, financial and business skills.

The goal for the 2019/20 school year, is to add three additional Washington County schools as full participants, resulting in 100%

inclusion, extending from Penobscot Bay to the Canadian border.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

Total number of students: **100.**

8 schools participated in final presentations at the Grand Theater in Ellsworth.

20 graduating seniors.

13 going directly into commercial fishing.

7 pursued further post-secondary education.

9 participating schools:
Deer Isle-Stonington High School
Ellsworth High School
George Stevens Academy
Jonesport-Beals High School
Mount Desert Island High School
Narraguagus High School
North Haven Community School
Sumner Memorial High School
Vinalhaven School

Discovery Wharf

Fishing comes alive in our Discovery Wharf education center; where the public can immerse themselves in all things fisheries through exciting and interactive learning exhibits. In 2018, we introduced new technology through a partnership with Island Institute, The Yarn Corporation, and Big Room Studios, to bring virtual reality experiences to visitors in Stonington. Guests can explore the deck of a working lobster boat, venture inside a lobster trap, take in the scenery aboard a Lifeflight Helicopter, and so much more through the experience of virtual reality.

Throughout the summer, staff and college interns engage the public in Maine’s marine ecosystem and commercial fishing culture along our coast. Our staff work closely with local fishermen to bring in unique marine animals for our touch tank. Specimens range from lobsters and sea urchins, to lumpfish and even a sea mouse. Guests can also explore some of Maine’s most picturesque fishing communities and view video footage of fishermen at work

with a simple touch on our interactive wall display. Discovery Wharf is open Memorial Day through Columbus Day.

Add us to your coastal expedition and come explore with us!

“I enjoyed my visit to Discovery Wharf this summer, where I saw a blue lobster for the first time and learned about the fascinating work of Maine fishermen and the lobster industry.”

Miriam S., Georgia

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

More than **7,000** guests visited in 2018, including, visitors to the area, local families, educational groups and more!

The marine animals you see in our touch tank are fed **frozen squid** weekly.

The farthest visitor traveled from **Australia.**

Since its initial opening in 2011, Discovery Wharf has offered a **free** experience to guests each year.

The rare **blue lobster** is the star of our marine touch tank.

Touch tank animals are rotated on a **bi-weekly basis** and released directly to the ocean.

Explore seven **360** degree virtual reality experiences.





Sentinel Survey

The Eastern Gulf of Maine Sentinel Survey is a collaborative research project designed to gather information about groundfish populations in eastern Maine waters. Each year since 2010, we have partnered with commercial fishermen to deploy hookgear to survey groundfish and gather samples from 5,000 square miles of ocean from Penobscot Bay to Canada. In 2018, Captains Bobby Jones on the F/V High Hopes and Mattie Thomson on the F/V Fairwind fished in 80 locations along Maine’s eastern shore. Graduate students from the University of Maine accompanied every trip, collecting environmental and biological data. The program is a collaboration between MCCF, UMaine, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center, The Nature Conservancy, six partnering scientists and two commercial fishermen. Hundreds of samples are being analyzed by our partners to test hypotheses of groundfish recovery and localized stock structure.

“In order to manage this fishery effectively, we have to learn as much as we can about the stocks and how they’re changing. This survey provides the opportunity to do that.”

Mattie Thomson, F/V Fairwind

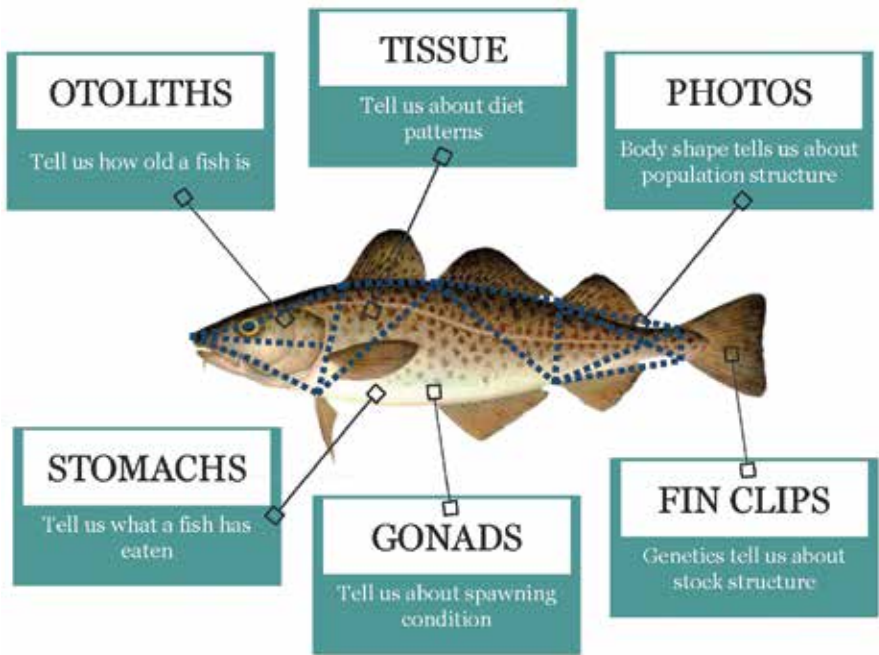
PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

750+ sites sampled since 2010.

5,000 square miles of ocean covered.

11 partners collaborating:

- Bobby Jones, F/V High Hopes
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
- Gulf of Maine Research Institute
- Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries | Maine DMR
- Mattie Thomson, F/V Fairwind
- The Nature Conservancy | Northeast Fisheries Science Center
- University of Maine | University of New Hampshire
- Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute



Northeast Coastal Communities Sector

The Northeast Coastal Communities Sector (NCCS) and MCCF work together to achieve sustainable groundfish resources and community based management. This partnership provides resources to support 28 fishermen who hold permits for the northeast multispecies fishery. NCCS is one of 18 sectors in New England’s catch share program, and the only sector focused on small-scale, owner-operator fishermen. The Sector was largely inactive until 2017.

In 2018, NCCS supported two full time vessels catching groundfish in the Gulf of Maine. Captain Ben Plohr of the 36’ F/V Finlander targeted groundfish by rod and reel. The vessel was one of 23 progressive fishing businesses across New England participating in an Electronic Monitoring program led by The Nature Conservancy and the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance. Electronic Monitoring uses cameras to validate the reported catch on every trip, filling a critical data need for sustainable fisheries management.

Tim Rider of Saco, ME captained F/V Finlander II – a 47’ dragger targeting flounders in the summer and scallops in the winter. Both vessels are part of New England Fishmongers, a rapidly growing startup owned by Rider, and are dedicated to harvesting and landing the highest

quality seafood and distributing to the local community through restaurants and farmer’s markets. The Sector provided fishing opportunities, enabling the business to grow to two vessels and over 50 clients in four New England states at present.



PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

170,000 lbs total landed in 2018 from two vessels.

70,000 lbs marketed to local communities through New England Fishmongers and Whole Foods grocery stores.

Over **300** people attended community dinners to learn about local seafood.

2,100 lbs seafood donated by Sector vessels to local food banks and soup kitchens.

Catch Shares is a system of fishery management where each participating fisherman is awarded a percentage of the annual harvest allocation, based on their history in the fishery. Fishermen organize into sectors to share allocation and strengthen their voice in management decisions.



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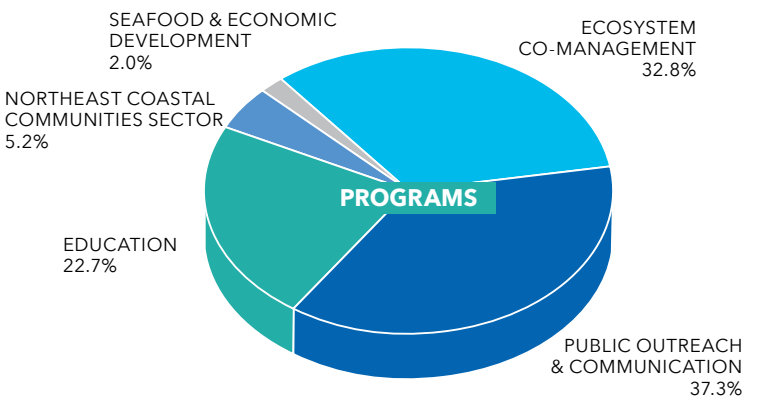
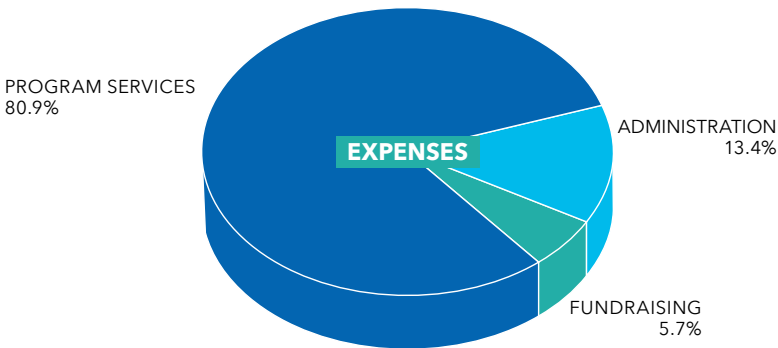
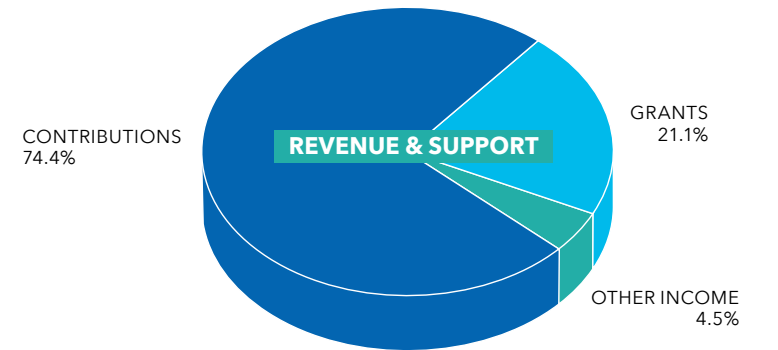
Finances

Audited Statement of Activities 2017

Operating Revenues & Support	
Contributed Income and Grants	2,018,437
Other Income	94,732
Total Operating Revenues & Support	2,113,169
Operating Expenses	
Program Services	1,364,185
Supporting Services.	322,874
Total Operating Expenses	1,687,059
Change in Net Assets from Operations	426,110
Non-operating Revenues & Expenses.	9,239
Total Change in Net Assets	435,349

Statement of Financial Position 2017

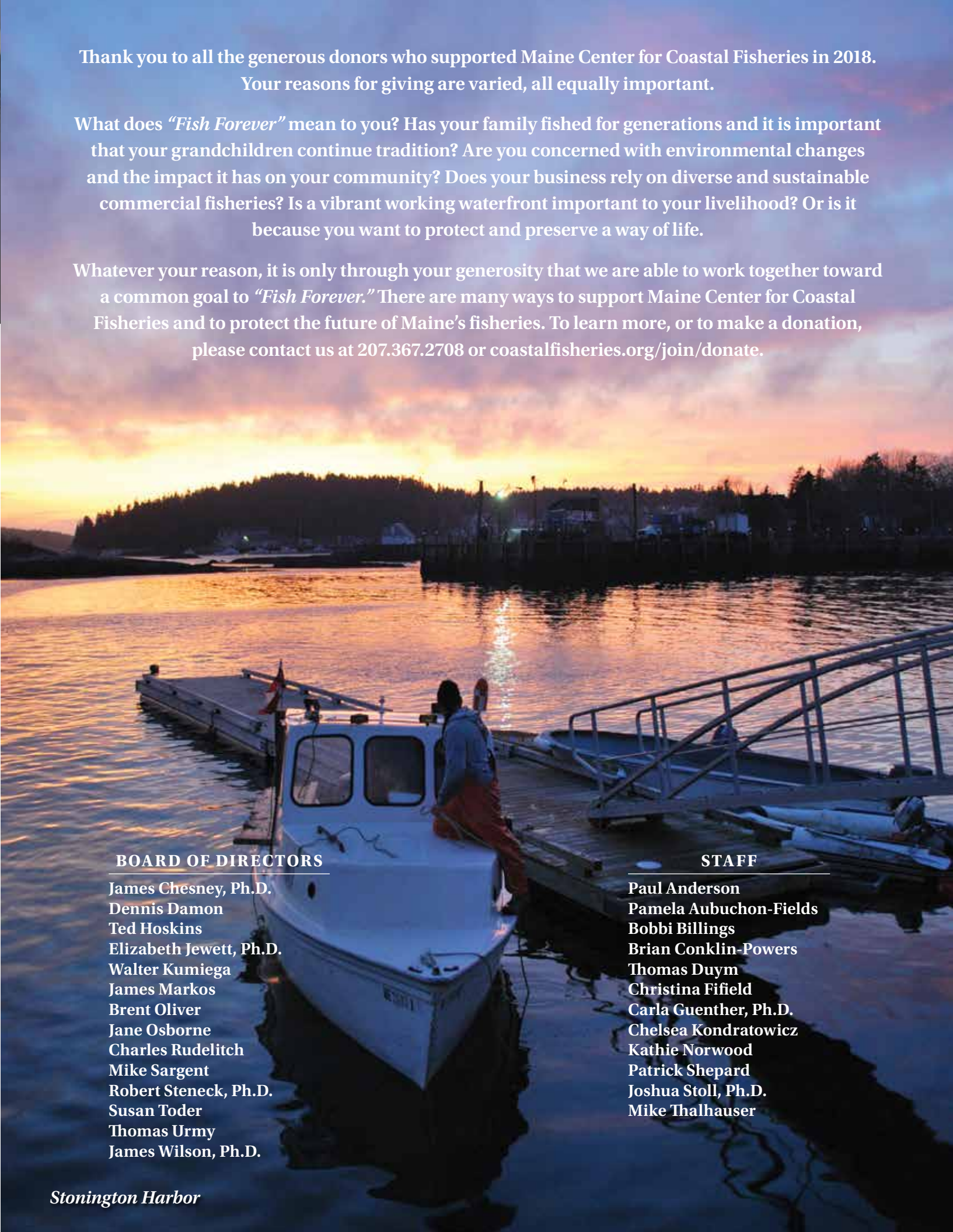
Assets	
Current Assets	1,390,623
Other Assets.	260,868
Property, Plant & Equipment (net).	1,440,531
Total Assets.	3,092,022
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	114,610
Non-current Liabilities.	270,778
Total Liabilities	385,388
Net Assets	
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,684,789
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets.	911,845
Permanently Restricted Net Assets	110,000
Total Net Assets	2,706,634
Total Liabilities & Net Assets.	3,092,022



Thank you to all the generous donors who supported Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries in 2018. Your reasons for giving are varied, all equally important.

What does “Fish Forever” mean to you? Has your family fished for generations and it is important that your grandchildren continue tradition? Are you concerned with environmental changes and the impact it has on your community? Does your business rely on diverse and sustainable commercial fisheries? Is a vibrant working waterfront important to your livelihood? Or is it because you want to protect and preserve a way of life.

Whatever your reason, it is only through your generosity that we are able to work together toward a common goal to “Fish Forever.” There are many ways to support Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries and to protect the future of Maine’s fisheries. To learn more, or to make a donation, please contact us at 207.367.2708 or coastalfisheries.org/join/donate.



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Maine Center for
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PO Box 27 | 13 Atlantic Avenue
Stonington, ME 04681

coastalfisheries.org | 207.367.2708 | info@coastalfisheries.org

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