

Change is the Only Constant: The Past, Present and Future of the Cape's Fisheries

Managing Municipal Infrastructure to Meet
the Needs of a Changing Fishing Industry
Rex McKinsey, Provincetown Harbormaster

Fishing industry needs space beyond the boats.

The cyclical nature of the industry (and weather) can wreak havoc on marine infrastructure.



Commercial Fishing Infrastructure

- In addition to berths, we need room to work
- Unloading and fueling areas
- Parking for trucks
- Room for gear work and gear changes
- Support services; Cranes & Ice
- And Dredging
- *We are messy, noisy, loud and sometimes we smell*



Our Platforms Have Adapted



As regulations and availability have changed,
our fleets have responded

Over time our fleet has moved away from
larger draggers, with large crews

Our Fleet has turned a Corner



- Over time, larger boats were replaced with smaller boats using less fuel and crew, more viable with today's catch limits.
- Quick gear changes allow the same vessel to participate in multiple fisheries
- Product is handled more carefully to get the highest rate of return
- Even aquaculture, once separated, is now a component of some fishers "making a days pay"

The Real Tell.

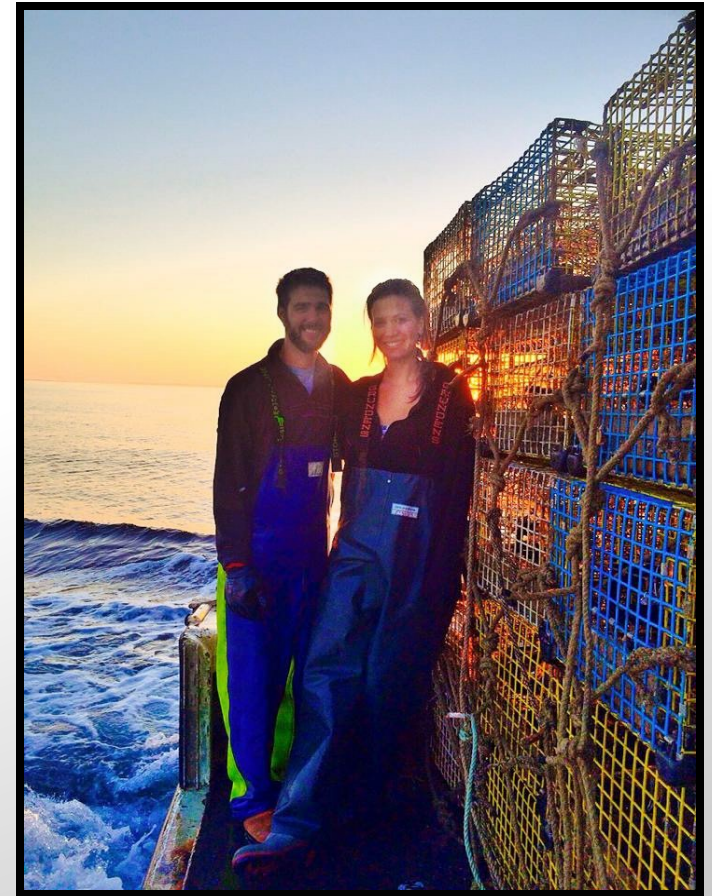
Younger men & women
have put in their time on
deck and have started
buying boats and permits
to get into the industry

We have passed the bottom

Provincetown Landings:

2012= \$5 Million

2015=\$9 Million



Our Next Steps for Support Services

- Since installing an ice plant in 2005
 - Provincetown fish prices rose at auction
 - With new Vibrio controls, we need greater volume
 - Due to our tenant pricing, a modest income stream
 - Upgrades will be for salt-water ice for limit mortality
- Replacing our old upweller with a new, larger downweller for clam & oyster nursery to support improving aquaculture

Municipal Harbor Planning or How do we get there?

Public Process builds consensus and understanding

All are competing
businesses, they need
level playing field
Nancy Bloom Photography



301 CMR 23 and Working Waterfronts

Harbor plans serve to inform and guide EOEA agency actions affecting the implementation of waterway management programs at the local level.

Specifically, approved plans are of direct assistance to DEP in making regulatory decisions that are responsive to municipal objectives and priorities, harbor-specific conditions.

They are great tools for grant funding requests as well!

A Municipal Harbor Plan. . .

- Provides a framework for public process
- Has a matrix to guide implementation
- Required renewal ensures the plan gets reviewed and updated
- Helps protect working waterfronts
- Rebuilding MacMillan Pier was a cornerstone of our Plan.

Other commercial uses can help support infrastructure O&M costs

Ferries, Excursions
and Attractions
add interest and \$\$\$



Rec Boating is
most difficult
to blend

What is next?

Few Cape Towns have a blank slate to work with

- Take stock of what you have
- Encourage the community discussion of commercial fishing and the mix of benefits and challenges we face with working waterfronts
- Blue Economy approach promotes sustainable growth
- If considering a Harbor Plan, get help!

A stylized, brown-toned graphic of Provincetown Harbor. It features a white silhouette of a lighthouse on the left, a white sailboat in the center, and a white sail on the right. The background is a solid brown color with a white outline of the harbor's shape.

Thank you for your interest

I am happy to answer questions

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