



### Minutes, Falmouth Democratic Town Committee Meeting, May 20, 2015

**Lou Turner** introduced our speaker, **Captain Ray Kane**, a fisherman for more than 20 years who is a senior member of the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance. The organization was founded in 1991 by the local fishing fleet in Chatham. It is now a nationally recognized nonprofit organization and a leading voice for commercial fishermen on Cape Cod. **Captain Kane** was accompanied by **Amanda Eisnor**, Events Manager for the Association. The meeting was enlivened by the presence of **Russell Brown**, from the NOAA Fishery Service who commented on numerous points during the evening. **Captain Kane** illustrated his talk with a power point presentation which included photos of many different kinds of fishing procedures and gear, graphs, and photos of types of fish.

The big take away for the local fish consumer is that our traditional fish are overfished and disappearing. We used to eat cod, haddock, swordfish, shrimp, etc. Now we need to change our palate to build an appetite for different kinds of fish which are still abundant such as dogfish, skate, and monkfish. All of these latter fish can be tasty and are caught in Cape waters, as are scallops and lobsters, whereas much of the traditional fish we now eat comes from other parts of the



Captain Ray Kane



Bluefish



country or from overseas. It was noted that almost 94 percent of our fish nationwide is now imported. We are urged to buy and eat new sustainable fish and to ask for local fish at the market and patronize restaurants which cook local fish.

The motto of the Association is that fishermen should "take just enough

but leave enough for tomorrow." The number of fishing boats in New England has declined from 1800 active boats to around 400

at this point. However, the Association wants to bring decision making about fishing back to fishermen and build a better future for the fish that do exist. Members work to improve fishing regulations, create research programs, conduct educational outreach, and run economic development projects in our communities.



The organization advocates an ecosystem approach to fishing which means that fishing should ensure that all types of fish are preserved by sector management. Every sector gets an allocation each year of different kinds of fish to be caught. Consumers must ask if fish are locally caught when they buy. The organization has events to publicize local fishermen, such as asking chefs to cook local fish ( “Dish the Fish”), events to “Meet the Fleet,” and the annual “Hooker’s Ball” which raises \$250,000 to assist local fishermen. The Association has an agreement with local food pantries on the Cap and has donated hundreds of pounds of fish a year to the pantries. Essentially the organization tries to work with, rather than against, the government in creating a sustainable fish population so we can continue to eat fish.

Some foreign governments, such as China, now have depleted their coastal fisheries and are fishing world wide, particularly off the coast of Africa. The Chinese government pays African countries for the right to fish in their waters. Some methods of fishing can quickly deplete the fish stock.

**Lou Turner** read a letter to the editor from the New York Times which was on the topic of how to get our fish stocks back. The letter ended, “Having discovered this (the community supported fishery model) to be a surefire route back to a ‘prewar’ fishing culture in this country, we know that now is the time to seek support to scale the dock-to-dish concept. The war is over: it is time for a Pax Romana in American fisheries. Know your fisherman.”



Chatham Harbor

Submitted by Kirstin Moritz and photos by the Fishermen’s Alliance. For more information, check the website: [www.capecodfishermen.org](http://www.capecodfishermen.org).

**Calendar:** Next monthly meeting is June 17, 2015. We hope to present a movie and discussion of drug use on the Cape titled, “ What Happened Here.” There will be a discussion after the film with the local producer of the film. The venue will be the Hermann room of the Falmouth Public Library. Stay tuned for further information and please bring goods for the Falmouth Service Center donation.

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**Please note that membership dues should now be submitted. Thank you.**

**Annual Membership Fiscal Year: April 1 to March 31, 2016**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Precinct:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address and Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Elected Committee Member (\$25 a year)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Associate Member (\$15 a year)** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Newsletter by U.S. Mail is \$10 extra a year** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Donation: \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Send check to FDTG, P.O. Box 312, Falmouth, MA 02541**