



**COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**  
CENTER OF RHODE ISLAND

WINTER 2023

# NEWSLETTER

## Director's Message

The East Farm Commercial Fisheries Center Board of Directors and Executive Director, Fred Mattera are acknowledging the promotion of Shayelagh Rooney to Co-Executive Director from her current position of Assistant Executive Director along with Fred Mattera Commencing on January 1, 2024.

I have had the unique pleasure to work day to day with Shaye since March of 2018, as the Executive Director of EFCFCRI. Shaye has been my assistant and extremely instrumental in representing the commercial fishermen on many fronts; fisheries regulation, safety concerns, apprenticeship program, bookkeeping, drafting newsletter, seafood donation program, and most notably offshore wind development.

Shaye is diligent in her research, engaged and dedicated in her relationship with industry members. Shaye is revered and respected by her peers in the industry.

Shaye possesses a cordial and amiable personality allowing her to easily gain the trust of skeptical fishermen. Shaye is reliable and dependable, with excellent work ethics and skills. Shaye is savvy and exceptionally accomplished. Thank you for this opportunity, there is no doubt in my mind that Shaye will be a tremendous asset to EFCFCRI.

- Frederick J Mattera  
*Co-Executive Director*



*Shayelagh Rooney, EFCFCRI Co-Executive Director*

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

There has been a lot going on in the world of fisheries and it has been a while since we have put out a newsletter. This newsletter outlines some of the programs that CFCRI has been involved in, but we really want to gather more feedback from the RI fishing community about how we can work to better support the industry and fishing community. We will continue to keep you updated throughout the year.

The Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island proudly represents:

**Ocean State Fisherman's Association | RI Commercial Fisherman's Association | RI Lobstermen's Association | RI Shellfishermen's Association | RI Monkfishermen's Association | Point Judith Fishermen Memorial Foundation | RI Party & Charter Boat Association | Eastern New England Scallop Association | Pt. Judith Scholarship Foundation**

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## SEAFOOD DONATION PROGRAMS

### GIVING THANKS FOR HIGHER GROUNDS

Community Partner, Higher Ground International, through its on-site drive-through distributions, was able to provide Thanksgiving Blessings of Fresh Fish, Mussels, and other Culturally Appropriate Ingredients to 550 Families in Providence to help them enjoy a traditional West African Thanksgiving Dinner!



*Co-Executive Directors Fred and Shaye load donated seafood at Higher Grounds Intl's Thanksgiving donation drive*

### SEAFOOD, FRESH AS IT GETS

With weekly deliveries of donated seafood trucking full speed ahead, operations at Farm Fresh in Providence stay steady thanks to cooperation and donations toward an on site cooler. After a full year with onsite cooler storage, product quality and quantity remain strong. Storage has also eased the burden on behalf of our community partners by eliminating their need to separately rent trucks to retrieve donated seafood. We enjoy seeing community partners progress as the chain of seafood supply approaches streamlined status.

*We at Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island would like to thank Atsa Zah (right), for his stellar delivery performance and wish him well in future endeavors.*



*Fixed refrigeration unit @ Farm Fresh*





## FISHERY FRIENDLY CLIMATE AGENDA

As increased and ongoing efforts to reach carbon and emissions goals develop, new fishery friendly technology and policies emerge.

Facing a Rhode Island State goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, the fishing industry gains an actionable ally freshly landed on our shores:

Flux Marine (Bristol, RI) currently offers fully electric outboard engines up to 100HP with ranges extendable to 38 miles.

We would like to know your opinions as Captains, under what conditions, if any, would you consider electric or hybridized propulsion?

- Could a quieter engine help in any instances? Could it lead to a better charter environment?
- What thresholds of Horsepower and Range would need to be met for implementation on a trial basis?
- Would a Photo-voltaic cell or small wind powerplant be welcomed onboard to increase range?

There is not, nor will be a singular solution for fishermen to gain an edge as the looming climate changes; many approaches should be considered. Viability and interest can only be gauged through dialogue so we encourage you to visit our memo, among others, defining policy criteria and motives that could be considered Fishery Friendly at <https://www.fisheryfriendlyclimateaction.org/statements> and let us know any thoughts you have about climate-oriented fisheries by emailing [nicholas.chartier@cfcri.org](mailto:nicholas.chartier@cfcri.org)

Any questions about this campaign can be directed to Sarah Schumann at [shiningseaconsulting@gmail.com](mailto:shiningseaconsulting@gmail.com)  
To subscribe to Fishery Friendly Climate Updates, send a blank email to [fisheryfriendlyclimateaction@fisheryfriendlyclimateaction.groups.io](mailto:fisheryfriendlyclimateaction@fisheryfriendlyclimateaction.groups.io)

## Recipe Contest!

Share what you're made of!

In partnership with Eating with the Ecosystem, we would like to know how you prepare your fresh catch. Email a favorite local catch recipe to [nicholas.chartier@cfcri.org](mailto:nicholas.chartier@cfcri.org) or message CFCRI on

Instagram





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## WIND UPDATES

There have been many updates the past year in regard to offshore wind development. Firstly, offshore construction began this Spring with South Fork Wind and Vineyard Wind. Through this process there have been quite a few lessons learned, as well as new concerns with development. Please see Mariner updates pages (bold) from each developer for more information: **Ørsted**, **Equinor**, **Southcoast**, **Avangrid**, **Vineyard Offshore**.

### **Vineyard Compensation Information**

Vineyard Wind 1 LLC is constructing an 800 MW offshore wind project located in federal Lease Area OCS-A-0501 approximately 15 miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. The lease area (also referred to as the Wind Development Area of WDA) is approximately 63,000 acres where 62 wind energy turbines and one electrical platform will be installed in a grid pattern spaced one nautical mile apart in a north/south/east/west direction.

Vineyard Wind has created a fisheries compensatory mitigation program with a primary objective to provide fair, equitable compensation to commercial fishermen for economic losses attributable to Vineyard Wind 1's construction, operations, and decommissioning activities.

Three escrow funds have been established to compensate affected fishermen in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Other States (Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York). Compensation may also be available to fishing businesses (i.e., shoreside businesses) in Massachusetts.

For commercial fishermen, the first phase of the program will be the eligibility phase, which will require commercial fishing vessel owners to qualify for compensation payments based on defined eligibility criteria. Once qualified, a commercial vessel owner may elect to participate in either an expedited claims process or a regular claims process, both of which are based on a commercial fishing vessel owner's historic revenue dependence on the WDA but require different levels of documentary proof. Fishermen will not need to demonstrate economic impacts from Vineyard Wind 1 in order to qualify for the program or receive compensation payments.

The Vineyard Wind 1 Fisheries Compensatory Mitigation Program is scheduled to be launched in January 2024. Information about the third-party administrator, the program, and how to apply will be available on the program's website: [www.vw1fisheriescomp.com](http://www.vw1fisheriescomp.com). Once the program launches, commercial fishermen will be able to apply to the program to establish eligibility. The program's eligibility criteria for commercial fishing vessel owners is provided on the following page.



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## COMPENSATION CRITERIA

- Commercial fishing vessel owners/operators homeported in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, or New York
- Valid 2023 commercial fishing permit from NOAA Fisheries
- Current government-issued vessel registration showing ownership, or a vessel lease agreement
- Documented fishing activities within the WDA in at least three of the last seven years of the baseline period (2016-2022). Fishing activities can be established by submitting information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - o Vessel Trip Reports
  - o Vessel Monitoring System information
  - o AIS information
  - o Fishery observer or At-Sea Monitor information
  - o NOAA Cooperative Research Study Fleet information
  - o Chart plotter data/images
  - o Logbooks
  - o Other trip level reporting information that establishes fishing activity in the WDA
- Documented annual revenue from fishing activities in the corresponding three years. Annual revenues can be established by submitting information that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - o Internal Revenue Service Form 1099 and/or other tax documents that include reported income
  - o Sales receipts
  - o Dealer slips
  - o Dealer compilation reports
  - o Other income information that establishes income from fishing activities



## IN SUMMARY

### SEAFOOD DONATION

Through the Seafood Donation Program, CFCRI has been able to donate over **400,000lbs** of locally caught seafood to Rhode Islanders experiencing food insecurity since Fall of 2020. This work has primarily been funded through grant work, which has allowed us to purchase a variety of local species at market or above market price to fishermen. In addition to providing increased access to Rhode Island seafood, another aim of this program is to build upon new market channels for Rhode Island seafood and work to increase the market value of under-appreciated species. The demand for affordable and healthy protein has been increasing among community partners with new families signing on weekly to receive culturally appropriate seafood for their families. CFCRI is also exploring options of getting local seafood into Rhode Island K-12 cafeterias. We have sampled a monkfish slider made by Tony's Seafood at Gallagher Middle School in Smithfield to gather feedback from the schools with great success. You can learn more about this program here: <https://www.cfcri.org/seafood-donation-program.html>

### Wind

CFCRI has been working with a tech company to promote a new phone app called WATERFRONT, designed to assist fishermen working in areas undergoing offshore wind development by informing of development activities relevant to the area, facilitate communication between fishermen and developers, and to provide a platform to file gear claims. An additional and critical function of this app will be to allow the user to record fishing effort data, giving the user ownership of this data, to either keep it confidential or to share it to use for gear claims or to prove fishing activity in lease areas. CFCRI is working with the WATERFRONT team to get fishermen that work in the RI/MA lease areas to begin testing the functionality of the app and provide feedback to improve it. If you are interested in testing this app, please reach out to us.

## CFCRI Board of Directors

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Lanny Dellinger

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Mike Marchetti

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