



Newport, OR docks

Spring 2021 Newsletter

A Note from our Executive Director...

I hope this finds you and yours staying healthy and enjoying the warmer weather. As we begin to emerge from the pandemic, I want to take a moment to reflect on the adaptability, determination, and perseverance of the commercial fishing industry over the past 16 months. Fishermen around the country supported their communities through seafood food bank donations, set up innovative direct-to-consumer sales models to keep seafood on dinner plates, and continued operations under strict quarantine and testing requirements to safely keep a steady supply of product moving into grocery stores. Their resolve through the Covid-19 pandemic has been truly inspiring.

While fishermen were busy adapting to an ever-changing landscape, Harvesters continued to educate Congress on the challenges facing the industry and advocate for their needs. I am proud to count a number of successes over the past year that have helped our members and the seafood industry. We look forward to building off these successes and continuing to ensure that nutritious seafood remains sustainable and accessible.

Calm seas,
Leigh

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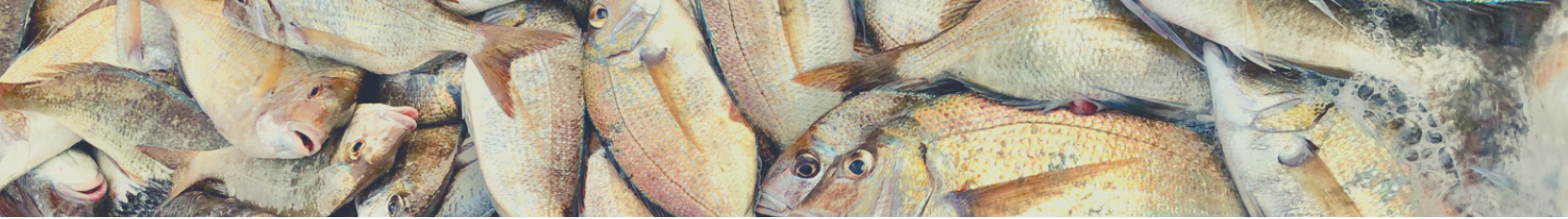
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Weathering the Impacts of Covid-19: Harvesters Advocate for Fisheries Assistance, PPP Eligibility, and USDA Seafood Purchases

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, Harvesters have been tireless advocates for the needs of the commercial fishing industry, securing relief funds, Paycheck Protection Program amendments, and USDA purchases to address the drop in seafood demand.

When the pandemic first hit the U.S., Harvesters worked with industry partners and Congress to secure an initial \$300 million in much-needed direct aid to the fishing industry as part of the CARES Act. Harvesters were also strong supporters of the second bucket of \$300 million in direct fisheries assistance authorized at the end of 2020. With the quick and severe economic fallout from the pandemic, this funding will go a long way to help the industry recover.

Harvesters also joined forces with industry allies to advocate for changes to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) that made the program more accessible to commercial fishermen. By expanding the PPP's eligibility requirements, many more fishing industry participants received these critical funds and were able to weather the significant reduction in seafood demand and costly changes to vessel operations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) recent announcement of its largest seafood purchase in history is another big win for Harvesters and the seafood industry. Over the last year, Harvesters has been pushing USDA to



Photo source: fao.gov

purchase domestic seafood as part of its food assistance programs in order to stabilize markets and address supply chain disruptions. On May 13, the USDA announced it would purchase \$70.9 million worth of domestically harvested seafood from the Gulf of Mexico, Pacific, and North Pacific regions. Harvesters applaud this purchase that will go a long way to help our fishing businesses and coastal communities recover from the pandemic. Looking ahead, Harvesters will continue to work with USDA to expand seafood purchases to ensure that all Americans are able to enjoy fresh, nutritious, and sustainable seafood.

You can find our statements, comment letters, and letters to Congressional leadership on our website under the [News section](#).



30x30: A Global Initiative Comes to U.S. Waters

The 30x30 Initiative, a global initiative that aims to protect 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030, is gaining momentum in Washington, DC and throughout the world.

On January 27, 2021, President Biden's Executive Order 14008 called upon the Department of Interior (DOI), along with other federal agencies, to develop recommendations for implementing 30x30 in the U.S. In the wake of this E.O., Harvesters worked with congressional offices and the Biden-Harris Administration to highlight the ongoing work of the Regional Fishery Management Councils (Councils) to conserve our marine resources and environment. Their work has helped to position the U.S. as a global leader in seafood sustainability. Harvesters, along with other fishing industry allies, submitted comments to DOI and Department of Commerce highlighting these successes and outlining recommendations for implementing 30x30 while also supporting the commercial fishing industry.

Front page of the DOI report. Click [here](#) to access the report.

On May 6, 2021, DOI, along with other federal agencies, released their Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report that outlines a vision for a national 10-year effort that is locally led and voluntary to restore and conserve America’s lands, waters, and wildlife. We were pleased to see the report embrace conservation and the sustainable use of our waters and lands, ensuring American’s access to sustainable seafood.

The report also calls for establishing an interagency working group led by the U.S. Geological Survey, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and NOAA in partnership with other federal agencies to measure and track progress towards the 30 percent conservation goal. This working group is charged with developing the American Conservation and Stewardship Atlas, which will reflect the contributions of stakeholders, including Councils, towards this goal. We look forward to working closely with NOAA and other federal agencies as the Atlas is developed and 30x30 implementation continues in the coming years.

Click [here](#) to read our joint statement with the At-Sea Processors Association about the release of the "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful" report.

Harvesters Partners with the Independent Restaurant Coalition for Emergency Relief Funds

As part of Harvesters' advocacy work on Covid-19 relief, we partnered with the Independent Restaurant Coalition (IRC) member chefs to pen op-eds throughout the country advocating for funding for both restaurants and the seafood industry.

Nearly 70 percent of the seafood consumed in the U.S. occurs at restaurants, cafeterias, and other food service establishments so when the restaurant business ground to a halt, fishermen suffered, too. We worked together to highlight this interdependency and the need to support workers in both industries.

Harvesters' commitment to expanding industry support beyond our traditional allies was a win-win for everyone. We are thrilled that additional funding was provided to both industries: the fishing industry received a total of \$600 million in CARES Act fisheries assistance and Congress established the Restaurant Revitalization Fund to provide emergency relief for restaurants.

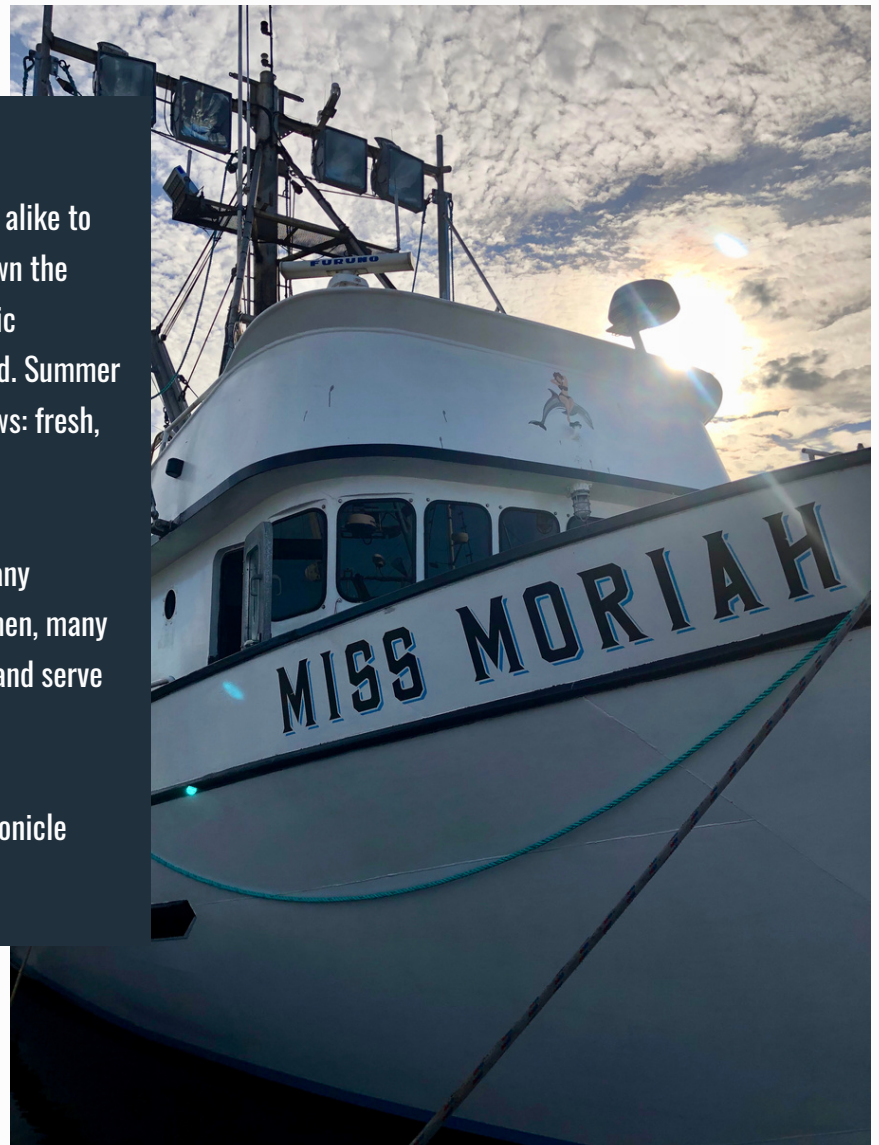
You can read our op-eds here: [The San Francisco Chronicle](#), [Anchorage Daily News](#), [Portland Press Herald](#), and [amNY](#).



Fresh seafood draws tourists and Californians alike to restaurants throughout the state. As restaurants up and down the coast struggle to survive in the midst of the pandemic, iconic restaurants and local watering holes risk shuttering for good. Summer travel along the California coast will lose one of its key draws: fresh, sustainable seafood caught just offshore.

The connection couldn't be clearer: Without restaurants, many fishermen have nowhere to sell their catch. Without fishermen, many restaurants lose their main appeal. We're proud to harvest and serve the best-managed, most sustainable seafood in the world.

- Leigh Habegger + Adam Tortosa for The San Francisco Chronicle





Engaging on Magnuson-Stevens Act Reauthorization Efforts

After a year and a half of listening sessions throughout the country, Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) circulated a discussion draft this spring to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA). Harvesters' members participated in these listening sessions in each fishery management council region and provided feedback to the Congressman about the MSA's implementation and the needs in the fishing industry.

Harvesters continue to work closely with Rep. Huffman and his staff to provide feedback as he develops a reauthorization bill. We look forward to ongoing dialogue with Rep. Huffman, the House Natural Resources' Water, Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee, and other Members of Congress as the bill is introduced and works its way through the legislative process.

International Women's Day Celebration

To celebrate International Women's Day, Harvesters interviewed women throughout the commercial fishing industry to provide them a platform to tell their stories about what the fishing industry means to them. It was a pleasure speaking with these women about their experiences fishing, what the future holds for the seafood industry, and how we can best support U.S. fishermen.

"If we want sustainable seafood in the United States, we have to elevate the role of the fishermen in the food system to make it more sustainable. We have to put the fishermen at the heart of that conversation and include young fishermen in those conversations because they're the ones that are going to be there in 10 years doing the work."

- Monique Coombs, Director of Community Programs, Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

We posted these interviews throughout the month of March and you can find them on our Youtube channel [here](#).

"One of my favorite things about being a fisherman is that we have a really important role of being ambassadors to the wild ecosystem, to the ocean, to this incredible marine environment that many, many people don't ever really get to experience."

- Hannah Heimbuch, Kodiak set net fisherman



Hannah Heimbuch, one of our International Women's Day interviewees, in the wheelhouse



President Biden’s Nominations Move Through the Confirmation Process

On March 2, the Senate confirmed Gov. Gina Raimondo (D-RI) to be the next Secretary of Commerce. As the former Governor of Rhode Island, a state where commercial fishing is a large economic driver, Secretary Raimondo is keenly aware of the challenges facing the commercial fishing industry, including balancing offshore wind interests with the needs of the fishing industry. We look forward to a collaborative and productive working relationship with Secretary Raimondo.



Secretary Gina Raimondo



NOAA Administrator nominee,
Dr. Rick Spinrad

On April 22, President Biden nominated Dr. Rick Spinrad, an experienced oceanographer, to lead NOAA, and Monica Medina was nominated to serve as the Assistant Secretary for the State Department’s Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Science Affairs (OES).

We are pleased to see Dr. Rick Spinrad, a well-respected scientist, nominated to be the next NOAA Administrator. As the former Chief Scientist of NOAA and head of NOAA’s office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR), Dr. Spinrad is intimately aware of the challenges that face our oceans and fishing industry.

Monica Medina is the co-founder and publisher of Our Daily Planet and has worked on climate and oceans issues for many years, both at NOAA and in the non-profit sector. Her extensive background positions her well to serve as the next Assistant Secretary for the State Department’s OES.

DERA Grant Program is Reauthorized



F/V Proud Mary, Point Judith, RI

Harvesters is a member of the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Coalition, a group that advocates for authorization and appropriations for DERA. After many months of meetings and advocacy, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act was reauthorized through 2024 as part of the “Coronavirus” package (a combination of Coronavirus relief provisions and Omnibus appropriations bill) that passed Congress at the end of 2020.

The DERA grant program provides funds to help offset the cost of retrofitting or upgrading older diesel engines for newer, cleaner burning engines, or shifting to electric engines. The commercial fishing industry is eligible to apply for these funds. The inclusion of DERA reauthorization language was a big win for both the DERA Coalition and for Harvesters.

Learn more about the DERA grant program [here](#). Ocean Strategies has also put together information to help fishermen and vessel owners navigate the grant application process - click [here](#).

Harvesters Announces New Board Members and Officers

Harvesters is excited to announce two new board members: Heather Mann from the [Midwater Trawlers Cooperative](#) and Matt Alward from the [North Pacific Fisheries Association](#).

Heather Mann has been working in the commercial fishing industry for over twenty-five years. She is currently Executive Director for Harvesters' member organization Midwater Trawlers Cooperative (MTC), which represents 29 trawl catcher vessels that harvest Pacific whiting and groundfish off the west coast and pollock, cod and other groundfish in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. She currently serves on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's (PFMC) Groundfish Electronic Monitoring Policy Advisory Committee and is a past member and long-time chair of the PFMC's Groundfish Advisory Panel. On the North Pacific Council, Heather currently serves as an Advisory Panel member, as well as a member of the Trawl Electronic Monitoring Committee.

Matt Alward has been a tireless advocate for the commercial fishing industry. He operates a Kodiak seiner during the Alaska salmon season and is owner of Just Knots out of Homer, AK. Matt also serves as President of the United Fishermen of

Alaska (UFA), following his tenure as the organization's Vice President. He is also on the board of the North Pacific Fisheries Association where he has been Treasurer since 2015. As a leader in the industry and with his expertise in fisheries policy, Matt will be a great addition to Harvesters' board.

We also welcome back Chris Brown as Harvesters' Board President. Chris was the founding President of Harvesters and remained in that position through 2019. Edward Poulsen has been reelected for another term as Vice President and Buddy Guindon reelected as Secretary/Treasurer. Jack Cox, Jason Delacruz, Bob Dooley, Brent Paine, Brad Pettinger, and Rebecca Skinner will continue to serve as Directors. Thank you to these members for their visionary leadership and enduring commitment to the organization.



Heather Mann (left), Matt Alward (right)

Harvesters Welcomes 19th Member



Harvesters is excited to welcome the Hawaii Longline Association (HLA) as our newest member. HLA is the 19th fishing organization to join Harvesters. Established in 2000, HLA provides a voice for Hawaii longline fishermen in the conservation and management of their fisheries, and advocates for its members in domestic and international management settings. The Hawaii longline fishery began in 1917 and has grown to include 145 active vessels, all of which are members of HLA. This fleet is the nation's largest producer of fresh, ice-chilled bigeye and yellowfin tuna, and swordfish, and represents approximately 85 percent of the commercial fishing landings and revenue in Hawaii.

HLA advances the interests of its fishermen and supports science-based management and coordinates cooperative research within the Hawaii longline fleet. Eric Kingma, PhD, serves as HLA Executive Director and serves as their representative to Harvesters.



Sponsor Spotlight: Seven Seas Seafood Market - Murrells Inlet, SC



Seven Seas Seafood Market is owned and operated by Chris Conklin, a fisherman out of Murrells Inlet, SC. Chris has been a longtime member and supporter of the Harvesters. He is the youngest council member in history and has been a strong advocate for accountability and science-based management in the South Atlantic. Seven Seas Seafood Market got its start when Chris' father, Phil Conklin, opened a seafood co-op in 1997 with several other commercial fishing boat skippers. They offered fresh-off-the-boat seafood at

prices all seafood lovers could afford. As the co-op built a strong customer base, demand grew and a few years later, Seven Seas Seafood went from rented space in the back of a local warehouse to its current location on Highway 17 Business in Murrells Inlet.

Chris took the helm of Seven Seas Seafood in 2008. He spends his days running commercial and charter fishing trips, and operating the seafood market. Seven Seas Seafood prides itself on providing only the freshest, most sustainable seafood to its customers and remains true to their slogan, "From the Boat To Your Throat!"



If your company is interested in supporting Harvesters as a corporate sponsor, click [here](#) for more information or email info@seafoodharvesters.org

If you are an individual fisherman who would like to join Harvesters, you can sign up as an Associate Member [here](#) and scroll down. Email info@seafoodharvesters.org with questions or for more information.

Member Organizations



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