

Winter  
2007

# NAMA Newsletter

NORTHWEST ATLANTIC MARINE ALLIANCE



## NAMA Partners With Midcoast Shrimpers in a Community Supported Fishery Program

For generations, farmers, ranchers, fishermen, and other food producers were closely tied to their communities: In those days, not only could you be certain where your food came from, but you probably also knew who caught, grew, or raised it, and on what day it was brought to market.

Of course, changes in technology and global economics have changed things. Today, an urbanite in Boston can go to the store for a Chilean Sea Bass or Indonesian Pomegrante in the middle of January.

Not only has this erased accountability for quality produce, fish, and meat (producers are less likely to skimp on products when they know their friends and neighbors will be eating it), it has also contributed to a break down in resource-based communities that can't compete with cheap imports.

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Craig Pendleton hands a relief check to a grateful Mississippi fisherman. Two years ago NAMA travelled to the region to hand out Holiday gifts to fishermen impacted by the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. Some 25 fishing community members received \$1,000 checks.

## Pendleton bids farewell in a letter to his colleagues and supporters

After 12 years at the helm, the NAMA Board of Trustees is conducting a search to replace the organization's founding leader.

Runnin' out of self-control  
 Gettin' close to an overload  
 Up against a no-win situation  
 Shoulder to shoulder, push and shove  
 I'm hangin' up my boxin' gloves  
 I'm ready for a long vacation

These are the words from one of my favorite songs by the rock band Journey. How appropriate they ring as I write to you for this final time. Life is short. Anger and frustration had replaced fun and excitement in my job and my life. Life is too short for all that. I have family and friends that deserve better than that from me.

I have had twelve wonderful years of thinking through the creation of NAMA with some wonderful people and then being

chosen as Coordinating Director and leading this great organization through its infancy and early childhood. I have made some lifelong friends spanning across the globe and I will forever be grateful for this opportunity.

Let me leave you with one last parting plea. I hope that someday, somehow and someday, the fish come back before the last fisherman leaving the Gulf of Maine has to turn off the lights. It won't happen if we don't take control of our own destiny.

You must seize power and authority to manage both the marine resources and yourselves. For thirty years we have digressed and abdicated our rights to political appointees. I don't have to remind you of the outcome- most of you are living it.

The time is right. You must brush aside what you disagree about and focus on what you agree on. Learn to work together. Learn to trust your neighbor.

Take the time to read NAMA's principles one more time and then apply them to your own personal life. I will always

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You will realize that Dee’s words ring true. These two documents which were proposals developed by good, caring people to whom NAMA gave that unique opportunity to try, are two projects I believe represent the best work of my career.

remember the words of my dear friend and mentor Dee Hock “ given the ability to try- quite ordinary people will find quite extraordinary solutions to some of life’s most complicated problems” I believe that to be true.

When you finish reading NAMA’s principles, go back and read the Gulf of Maine Inshore Fisheries Conservation and Stewardship Plan and Local Area Management of Groundfish-A Framework for Moving New England Forward.

You will realize that Dee’s words ring true. These two documents which were proposals developed by good, caring people to whom NAMA gave that unique opportunity to try, are two projects I believe represent the best work of my career.

I’m not sure where I’m headed. I’m not sure what the future holds for me. What I am sure of is that I have given, with all my heart and soul, every day that I was employed by NAMA. And I hope that someday soon there will truly be a Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance that has an opportunity to create programs based on abundance not scarcity and operates during a time of prosperity not despair.

I often wonder where we would be had we chosen to collaborate with the Native Americans instead of creating an adversarial position with them. What if we made decisions based on whether or not there would be equal or more seven generations from now? Sadly we may never know because greed interfered, much like it is today.



Capt. Craig Pendleton stands above his vessel *Ocean Spray* on the Camp Ellis Fishing Pier in his home town of Saco.

Good Luck, Good Fishing, Good Vision to Good Decisions and thank you all again for a wonderful life opportunity.

## The hope is to return some of the ties between food consumers and producers that help ensure a future for small-scale fishermen and better food for all of us.

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But in an age when stories about toxic spinach from California and poisonous shrimp from China seems to make the headlines every day, NAMA, the Midcoast Fishermen's Association of Port Clyde, and the First Universalist Church in Rockland have teamed up to offer people a food alternative.

The hope is to return some of the ties between food consumers and producers that help ensure a future for small-scale fishermen and better food for all of us.

NAMA's Jennifer Plummer has taken the lead on the project, coordinating fishermen in Port Clyde with church representatives and has created promotional material to advertise the program.

"A Community Supported Fishery (CSF) is a shoreside community of people collaborating with their local fishermen. CSF members give the industry financial support in advance of the season, and in turn the fishermen provide a weekly share of seafood during the harvesting season," she said.

"A CSF reconnects people to the ocean that sustains them and builds a rewarding relationship between fishermen and the shareholders."

To get things going the program will deliver fresh whole Maine shrimp—perhaps the most robust and sustainable fisheries in the region—to the church on Sundays.

If the program proves successful, the fishermen may begin to offer other products, such as groundfish, as well.

There are a variety of payment options. A full share supplies shrimp weekly (enough for a family) from December 16th, 2007 to March 16th, 2008 or 14 weeks for \$189.00.

A half share supplies 14 weeks worth of shrimp for an

individual or couple for \$94.50.

Participants can pay in full or in two installments, the first due on enrollment and the second on February 3, 2008.

The Maine shrimp fishery is the perfect fishery to investigate the Community Supported Fishery concept. Not only is it very healthy, for generations it has predominately been harvested by small-scale fishermen from Maine and New Hampshire.

However, a lack of shoreside infrastructure to process and market the fish in combination with competition from cheap farm-raised imports means process have been very low, as little as 40 or 50 cents a pound.

"Our small family owned boats enable us to pay attention to the way fish is caught and to focus on strengthening our local food community, economy, and the sustainability of the ecosystem," said Plummer.

Email [Jennifer@namanet.org](mailto:Jennifer@namanet.org) for more information.



The village of Port Clyde, Maine represents the last stronghold of mom-and-pop fishing operations on the Downeast coast, making it the logical choice to begin a community supported fishery program.

# Legal Petition against Midwater Trawling in Groundfish Closed Areas

In October, NAMA and MFA partnered with Earth Justice attorney Roger Fleming to petition the Secretary of Commerce to prohibit Midwater Trawlers from fishing in areas closed to commercial groundfishermen.

The controversial rule was established in 1999 because of the claim that the 165-foot trawlers that tow 1-inch mesh do not impact the bottom or incur bycatch of cod, haddock, and other groundfish.

For just as long, commercial groundfishermen have complained that the rule is unfair—because credible eyewitnesses have reported seeing major midwater trawl bycatch events involving haddock and other species such as bluefin tuna.

Because observer coverage is so low on the midwater fleet, the sector has had a hard time disproving these claims. Following a press conference about the petition, members of the midwater industry criticized NAMA and the MFA for taking a stand on the issue.

To make NAMA's perspective very clear, Craig Pendleton's remarks have been included in their entirety:

Thank you all for braving the weather today.

Since the early 1990's, NAMA has been opposed to decisions made by the New England Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service which allowed Mid Water Trawling for herring inside designated groundfish closures.

NAMA has consistently developed alternative management proposals that address HOW, WHEN and WHERE fishing occurs.

Over the years, minimal steps have been made to deal with this issue while at the same time the mid water fleet has grown in size, capacity, expertise. They have implemented technological advances that allow this type of fishing to skim their gear along the bottom when the herring are as we call it "hard down" on the bottom. It is inevitable that there will be interactions with the groundfish we are trying to rebuild.

Today, we can wait no longer. As you look out over this harbor, most of the groundfish vessels are out of days at sea, when we fish in the area in front of us, we get charged 2 days for every day we fish-and we have been restricted to the point of extinction.

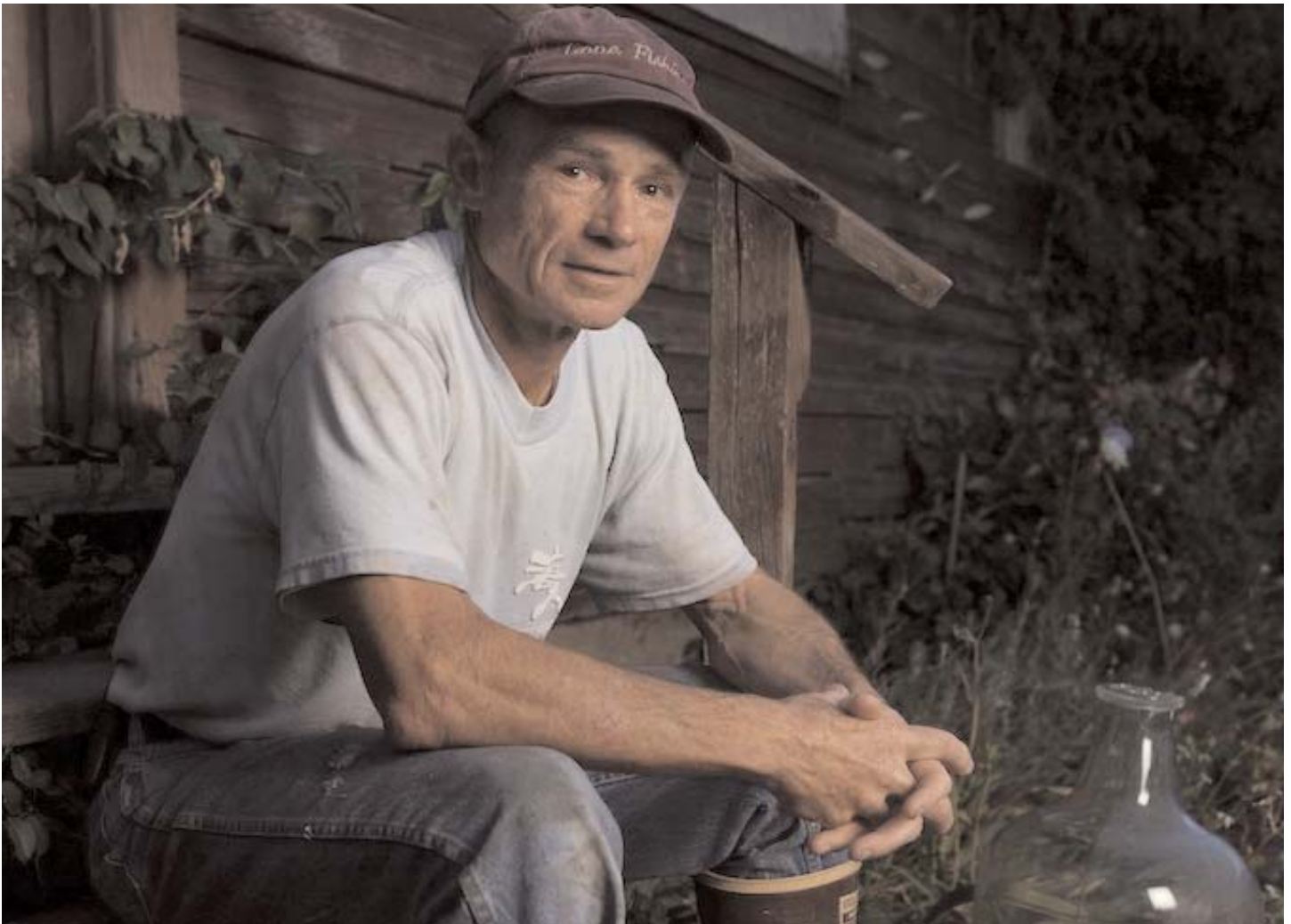


The Pier at Camp Ellis served as the perfect back drop for a press conference announcing the petition. Small ports like Camp Ellis catch only a fraction of the haddock that midwater trawlers are permitted to land as bycatch.

Federal regulators are currently immersed in yet another amendment in order to meet overfishing requirements. What's left of our groundfish fleet will face further restrictions while mid water trawl vessels fishing for herring will still be allowed to fish in the most precious areas we have set aside to enhance recovery. One of these vessels will legally be able to land more haddock in one day than most of us will catch in an entire year. One of these vessels has the potential to have more interaction with juvenile groundfish than a great number of us put together. This must come to an end.

We file this petition today, not as an attack on the herring trawlers—instead it is a plea for relief, sanity and fairness within the rulemaking process. We are suffering greatly. We recognize there will be pain during rebuilding but we can not allow all of our sacrifices to be wiped clean by this fleet of vessels being allowed in groundfish closed areas.

We urge the Secretary of Commerce to come to our aid and to sincerely and immediately address this major concern.



One of Rebecca Hale's portraits that accompany stories told by fishermen, scientists, and conservationists in "Sharing the Ocean."

## "Sharing the Ocean" Nears Publication!

“Sharing the Ocean: Stories of Science, Politics, and Ownership,” NAMA Communications Director Michael Crocker’s book about the New England groundfishery has entered its production stage at Tilbury House.

After designers finalize the book’s layout it will be sent out for printing. Volumes should be on the shelves this spring.

The project was built on dialogue and consensus found during the Fleet Visioning Project that focused on the values that motivated their desire to go fishing, study the ocean, fight for its protection, and so on.

Many found that talking about their experiences on the water helped them find common ground and change their mindset about each other’s policy positions.

The Andrus Family Fund sponsored the book as a continuation of the social progress made during the FVP.

The following excerpt recounts the emotional drama in the fishery after Amendment 5 took effect in 1994, and shows a perspective on the rules that some conservationists involved in the dialogue said they didn’t fully appreciate until fishermen told them their side of the story:

*However, with the proper historical context and the tools of*

*responsible scholarship, one can see the demonstrations in a different light. Indeed, is not difficult to vicariously put yourself in the shoes of those angry fishermen: At the time of the cuts your business had high overhead costs. You knew that maintenance, fuel, ice, dockage, and other expenses would quickly mount without a steady stream of revenue. And, just a few years before, the government had encouraged you to expand with subsidies so, maybe, you had a \$200,000 mortgage to contend with as well. Now, the same government that told you to catch more fish said you caught too many and, because of its mistake, you had to take a fifty percent pay cut.*

*But your anger ran deeper than frustration over lost wages and government incompetence. You thought about growing up in a family and community where fishing was all you knew. As a kid you loved the kind of freedom you only felt on the water and you wanted your children to have the same opportunity if they chose it. The fishing life was rough and dangerous, yes, but with hard work it could support a family and maybe send your kids to college. For you, fishing was what made sense of the world, it was the foundation of your identity, and it was suddenly under attack by bureaucrats and environmentalists who didn’t know their port from starboard. The emotional turmoil prompted by policy changes is as much a part of the fishery’s story as foreign trawlers, the Magnuson Act, and the increasingly stringent regulations that followed.*

# YOU CAN HELP!

**ACT TODAY:** In order to serve you better, NAMA has developed a "Subscriber Program." NAMA's subscribers come from many walks of life, including fishing, research, conservation, and education, and they share a common desire to manage our marine resources sustainably and fairly. We believe this can be accomplished by promoting collaborative approaches to fisheries research and management, where the fishery's diverse community is united by a shared sense of responsibility for building a resilient northwest Atlantic ecosystem. We cannot do this without your help. Please consider supporting our efforts to protect fish and fishing communities for future generations.

I subscribe to NAMA's Principles and my \$35 subscription fee is enclosed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Support NAMA's Programs! NAMA works on a multitude of programs that benefit fishermen and the resource. Your tax-deductible contribution and support will enable us to continue to promote and advance excellence in fisheries management, science, and harvesting through networking, information-sharing, visits to Capitol Hill, and maintaining a resource center in Saco, Maine.

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ to assist NAMA in continuing its excellent work in advancing the welfare of fishermen and the resource in the northwest Atlantic.

Detach this form and mail it with your check to: The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance; 200 Main Street, STE A; Saco, ME 04072 Or, visit us online at [www.namanet.org](http://www.namanet.org) to subscribe or donate by clicking on the Network For Good icon.



Please Print: information below.

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[www.namanet.org](http://www.namanet.org)

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