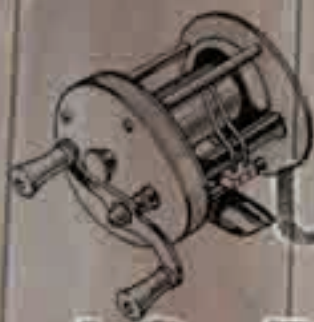




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A silhouette of a fisherman is shown in the middle ground, reeling in a large fish. The fisherman is standing in shallow water, and the fish is splashing, creating a large spray of water. The background is a vibrant sunset with orange and yellow hues. The sky is filled with soft clouds, and a few birds are visible in flight. The foreground shows the sandy beach and the gentle waves of the ocean.

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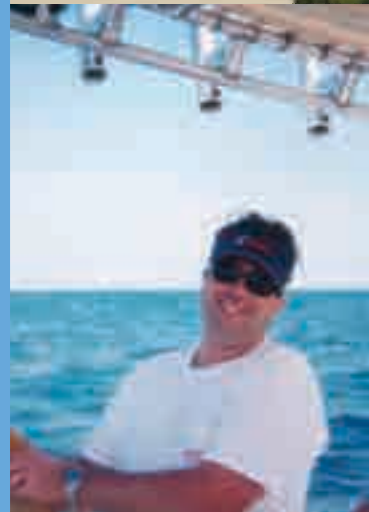
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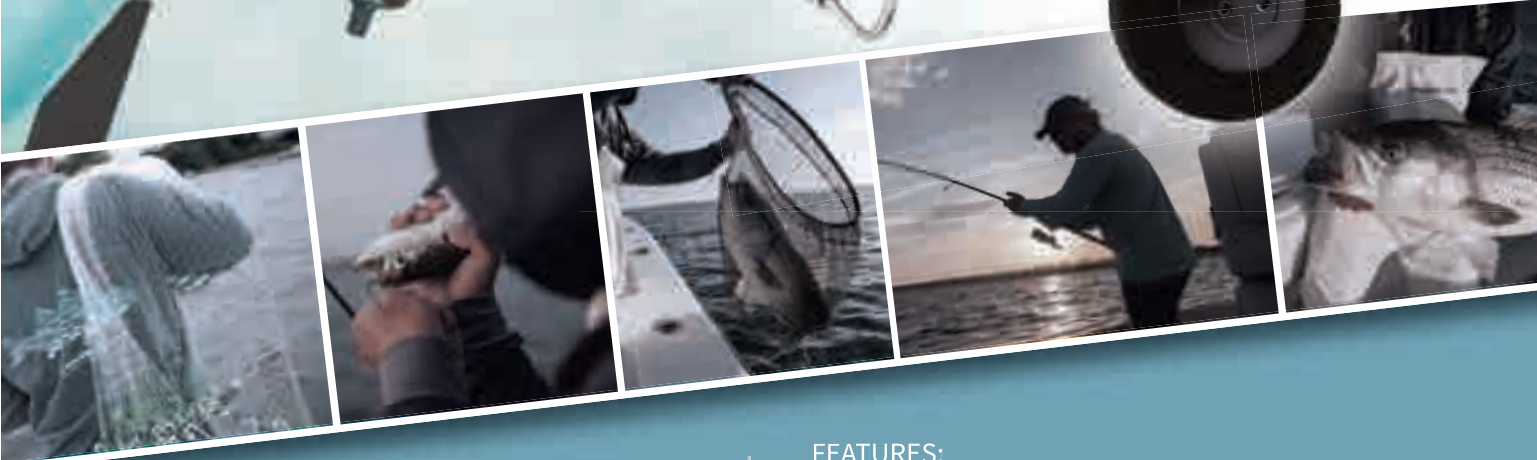
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Photo by Michael Blanchard/The Crossroads Gallery



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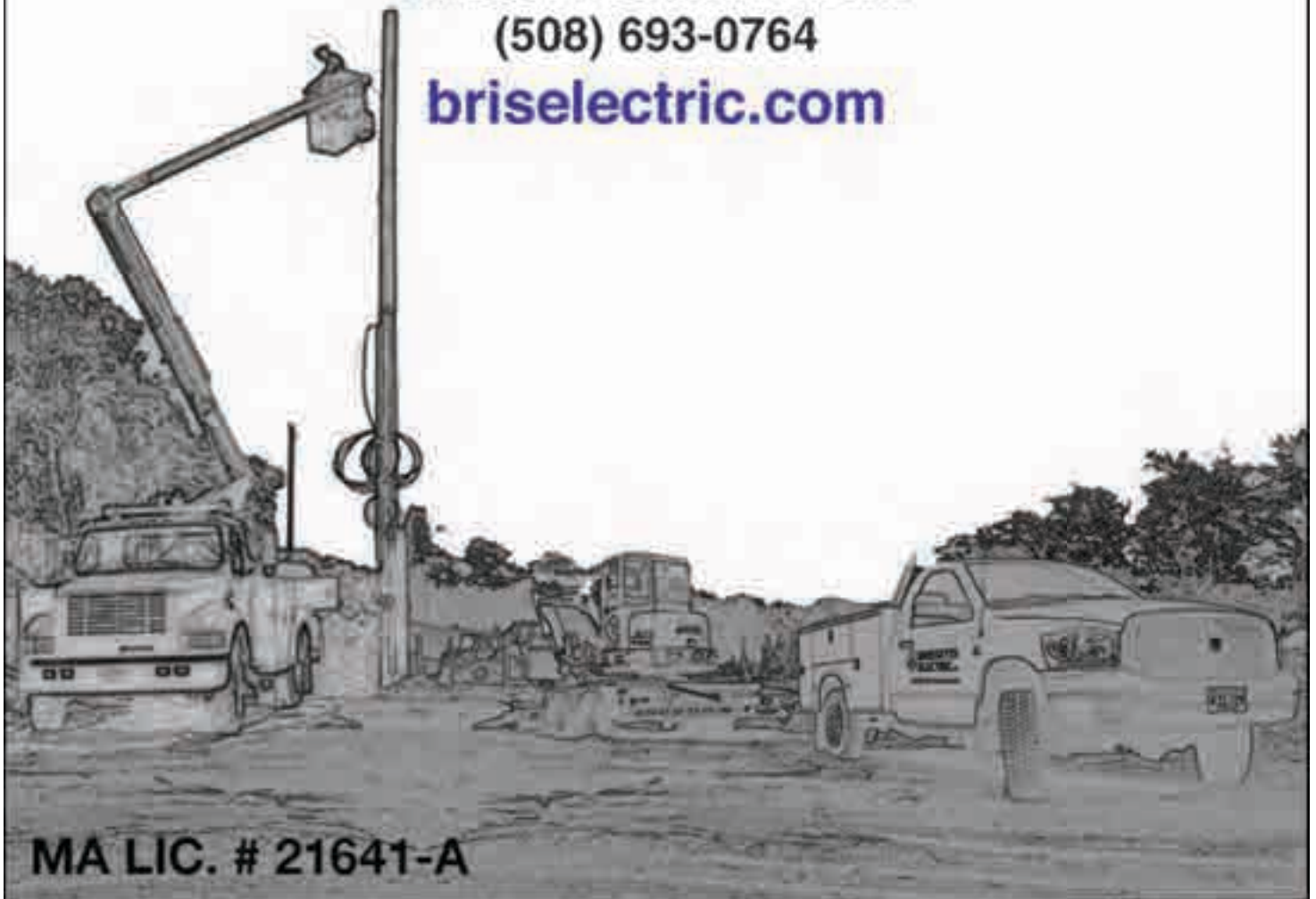
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Welcome

A Note from the Derby President

Welcome to the 78th annual Derby. There is a uniquely special feel on the island during the Derby, and fortunately it endures for several weeks. Among the many special events and happenings on the Vineyard, the Derby stands out for lasting not merely a day, not just a weekend, not even a week. Rather, the excitement and fun helps create 5 full weeks of memories. And while there are some individuals focused, dedicated, and fortunate enough to fish all 35 days, most participants need to plan their fishing around the weather, tides, work, school, and other commitments. So whether you fish most days during the Derby, or just a handful, please know you are an important part of this storied event.

The Derby Committee is thoughtful about making the experience enjoyable and positive for all participants. We appreciate its history and tradition as we consider current factors and opportunities to keep the Derby strong. The 30+ volunteers who serve on the Derby Committee sincerely care about this event and the organization. We meet monthly, year-round, to plan, discuss, and coordinate. An important part of this work considers the input from participants. To help inform our planning and decision-making, we will distribute a survey on various topics following the 2023 Derby. Survey responses will help inform our work as we look to strengthen the event. When you receive the survey, please complete and submit it, as we hope to gather information from a great number of participants.

Along with you, the Derby Committee continues to pay close attention to the health of the striped bass. It was sobering for fishermen when last spring new information was presented by fisheries managers, showing increased concern for the species. Striped bass is the most important gamefish in our waters. And while it's disappointing not to include it in the Derby - an historic event that highlights the fish's very name - we all



"A memorable part of a fishing experience when filleting, feeding scraps to Buddy."

know what is most important. The health of the species is critical. There were some successes with measures to conserve and support striped bass a few decades ago. But clearly, collectively, not enough was done, and again the fish are in trouble. Let's learn from this experience, and do all we can to ensure this majestic fish has a promising future.

I never take for granted what it takes to make the Derby happen. In addition to the work of the Derby Committee, so many other individuals and groups help make it possible. Special thanks to the volunteer staff at the Derby weigh station, our generous sponsors, the

Edgartown Yacht Club, the Town of Edgartown, and fillet program volunteers. Also, thank you for joining. By registering, you help support the amazing event that is the 35-day Derby, as well as the non-profit corporation that was created in 1986. With Ed Jerome's leadership, its purpose was to run a fishing tournament and raise money for college scholarships. With well over 3000 registrants annually, the popularity and success of the Derby is apparent. As well, the scholarship program has grown in ways few imagined possible years ago. This year, 13 island high school graduates were awarded a total of \$90,000 to pursue college educations. Both numbers are record highs, and the Derby has now awarded well over \$900,000 to Vineyard students. Incredible. Presenting these scholarships at Class Night in June is another grand prize presentation at an awards ceremony. We are fortunate to have such Derby celebrations each June and October.

Enjoy the 78th annual Derby. Thank you for promoting good sportsmanship and modeling this for others, to help ensure positive experiences for all during these 35 special days.

Sincerely,
John Custer

President, Derby Committee



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A Message From the Derby Chairman

On behalf of the Derby Committee, I'd like to welcome you to the 78th Annual Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. Our dedicated and hard-working Committee members and volunteer support staff hope you enjoy the experience. Whether this is your first Derby or one that adds another Derby badge to your large collection, I hope you enjoy being part of this great island tradition.

I recently had the privilege of attending the 2023 MVRHS Awards Night. This year the Derby awarded \$90,000 to thirteen deserving regional high school and charter school graduates. I encourage you to read the scholarship section of this booklet to learn more about this year's recipients. Your participation in the Derby allows us to continue to pay forward to the island community through our scholarship program, our fillet distribution program for island seniors, and other community activities. We appreciate your support.

I want to extend my personal thanks, along with the Derby Committee, to our Grand Prize sponsor, Eastern Boat Works, and our hat sponsor, Vineyard Vines for their generous donations. We are also grateful to the many other companies, island businesses, and organizations that provide the many prizes and goods to support this great event. To the island restaurants and shops that provide donations of food and beverages to the Headquarters staff – a heartfelt thank you. I encourage all participants to support our sponsors and the island businesses that contribute to the Derby.

The competitive spirit runs high during the Derby. Enjoy the thrill of competition, but please conduct yourself in a manner that honors this remarkable event. Please respect the Derby rules and private property rights. Help



Phil Horton, Chairman – Derby Committee

protect the amazing beaches and pristine waters that we have the opportunity to enjoy during the Derby. Leave only your footprints on the beach and your wake on the water. Most of all, please respect your fellow participants and yourself. Please refer to this year's Rules Brochure as even

long-time participants can benefit from a quick review and refresher.

Indeed, the Derby is about catching the biggest fish, but please don't forget to enjoy your time on the water, and your fellow anglers. Please practice safe, and sportsmanlike behaviors on the beach and on the water. Last year we saw two examples of great sportsmanship worthy of mention. The first is the joint winners of the 77th Derby Sportsmanship Award – Jeff Komarinetz and Sandy Fisher. These two individuals made it possible for a longtime resident Derby angler suffering from MS to return to shore fishing, adapting a fighting chair to an OSV capable pickup. The second is the efforts of Committee member Mike Cassidy, his wife Deborah, along with multiple volunteers who made it possible for a Make-A-Wish participant Finn Sears to fish the 77th Derby.

I hope you enjoy the Derby, not just the fishing, but the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, and reconnect with yourself and this amazing island. Please release any fish not destined for weigh-in quickly and carefully. Please keep any fish planned for donation to the fillet program on ice – as soon as caught if possible. Tight Lines to All.

Tight Lines to All.
Phil Horton

Chairman, Derby Committee



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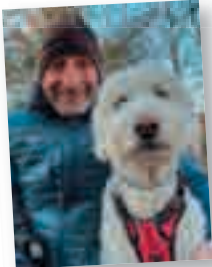


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My Gallery – The "Crossroads Gallery" – Was Named Best Gallery on Martha's Vineyard in 2020 and runner up in 2021, by *Martha's Vineyard Magazine*. The Crossroads Gallery came to life in May of 2017. In the Spring of 2019 I moved from my Circuit Ave location in Oak Bluffs to our new home at 93 Dukes County Ave in Oak Bluffs. My gallery concept has transformed into a meeting place. Folks from my Facebook fanbase have come in to talk about healing from addiction and other of life's challenges.

*My two books **Through a Sober Lens** and **Fighting for My Life** both won the coveted Ben Franklin Award for most inspirational story and best Art and photography. A portion of each book sale directly supports addiction treatment on the Island.*



We share stories, hug, laugh and cry. In addition to the selling of art it has become a spiritual place for me. Hope to see you there.

Crossroads Gallery
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Marthas Vineyard

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This year, my annual inspirational calendar is raising money for Vineyard Committee on Hunger. The photos are truly frameable and the calendar layout and composition are a work of art. Each month includes an inspirational story written by myself. It runs from September 2023 through December 2024. You don't have to wait until January to hang it up!!



2023 Derby Committee

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Committee is comprised entirely of volunteers whose mission is to plan, manage, and operate a successful and enjoyable event that benefits the Island community. These men and women meet throughout the year – as soon as one Derby ends, work begins for the following year's event. Only because of the energy and efforts of the Derby Committee does the Derby exist as one of the oldest, largest, and most popular saltwater fishing tournaments in the country. A love of the Island, an interest (or obsession) with fishing, and an appreciation for tradition are common threads that bond these individuals in their service on the Committee.

John Custer
President

Phil Horton
Chairman

Katie Carroll
Vice Chairman

Chris Scott
Treasurer

Maryanne Jerome
Secretary

John Piekos
Director-At-Large

Joe El-Deiry
Director-At-Large

Cosmo Creanga
Director-At-Large



Left to right: Phil Horton (Chairman), Maryanne Jerome (Secretary), Cosmo Creanga (Director at Large), Stacy Nickerson Hall, Janet Messineo, Chris Reed, Mark Kokoska, John Piekos (Director at Large), Paula Sullivan, Adam Darack, Katie Carroll (Vice Chairman), Mike Cassidy, Debbie Manley Smith, Steve Baccelli, David Pothier, Jake Waters-Maciel, Joe El-Deiry (Director at Large), John Custer (President), Jonathan Herman

Committee members unfortunately not pictured: Michael Carroll, Chris Scott (Treasurer), Leah Fraumeni, David Hearn, Wilson Kerr, Bob Lane, Brian McCarty, Taylor Pierce, Tim Sheran, Will DeBettencourt, Shirley Craig, Cooper Gilkes, Steve Morris, Bill Roman, Jeff Sayre, Greg Skomal

Photo Credit: Endless Memories by Adriana



Derby Scholarship Program

PRESENTING OUR 2023 RECIPIENTS

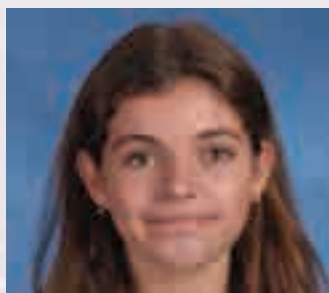
Since its establishment as a nonprofit organization, the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby, Inc., has awarded annual scholarships to Martha's Vineyard graduating seniors. The amount of money donated since 1988 totals \$933,000. Qualified students are recommended by the school and selected by a Derby subcommittee.

The Derby scholarship program has also enjoyed the support of the Ann E. Clark Foundation, the Tony and Renee Marlon Charitable Trust, The Windmill Foundation, the Edgartown Board of Trade, and the Howes Family, in memory of Teddy and Sarah Howes. In 2023 the Derby awarded \$90,000 in scholarships to the thirteen deserving graduates featured on these pages. One of the scholarships has been named in honor of longtime Derby President and Island educator Ed Jerome, whose vision led to the creation of the Derby Scholarship Program. Another is named in honor of Island artist Ray Ellis, whose contributions to the Derby made the scholarship program flourish. A third scholarship has been named the Teddy and Sarah Howes Memorial Scholarship supporting those interested in ocean engineering, and/or, as the Howes' would say, "anything salty." The Derby Committee wishes these graduates success in their educational endeavors.



Henry Kyburg-Abbot

Henry is the 2023 co-recipient of the Teddy and Sarah Howes Memorial Scholarship. His love of the sea grows from childhood experiences sailing throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean aboard his family's boat and, while at MVRHS, working in commercial maritime transportation. He has also worked as a Shipwright at Gannon and Benjamin and served as Harbor Assistant for the Tisbury Harbor Department. Henry will attend Massachusetts Maritime Academy, majoring in Marine Engineering.



Jocelyn Baliunas

Jocelyn has a long-standing interest in both Psychology and Communications with a career goal of helping others. Finishing her MVRHS academic career in the top 20% of her class, she was elected to the National Honor Society as well as being a four-year member of both the Varsity Field Hockey and Sailing Teams. She also excelled in photography and was a leader in the Environment Club. Jocelyn will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, intending to major in the Human Sciences Exploratory Track.



Samuel Gurney

Sam is the 2023 recipient of the Edward J. Jerome Memorial Scholarship. Ranking academically in the top 20% of his class and elected to the National Honor Society, he has established a commitment to protect our marine ecosystems with a goal of working for an environmental organization, restoring wild habitats. His family's background in commercial fishing and his volunteer work at Felix Neck and with many fishing organizations have reinforced his interest in our natural resources. Sam will attend the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, concentrating in Fisheries and Wildlife Science.



Jacob Riis

Jacob has set his sights on a career addressing the earth's environmental challenges. At MVRHS, he undertook a rigorous, science-focused curriculum and received honors for his Science Fair design of marine upwellers. He is also an accomplished tennis player, teaching at Vineyard Family Tennis and Co-Captaining the Varsity Team for two years while receiving numerous awards for his sportsmanship, character and leadership. Additionally, he was an active member of the Cape & Islands Social Justice Committee. Jacob will enroll in college in 2024, pursuing his interest in Environmental Science.



Matti-Lynn Floyd

Matti is the 2023 co-recipient of the Ray Ellis Memorial Scholarship. At the MV Charter School, she served as the President of student government in her senior year while also mentoring younger students in dance and photography. She has volunteered at the Chappy Community Center and has shown a passion for both the visual and theatre arts, frequently performing and exhibiting her work. Matti will attend Bennington College, concentrating in Photography and Dance.



Sophia Kokoszka

Sophia ranked in the top 10% of her class at MVHS. She aspires to a career as an Athletic Trainer, with a dream of working in professional sports medicine. In school, she undertook a rigorous academic schedule, served as a Teaching Assistant for two years and was involved in many clubs, including ambassadorship in diverse environmental and community service activities. Sophia will attend Northeastern University, focusing on Athletic Training.



Griffin Stead

Griffin is passionate about Meteorology; he hopes to work professionally constructing storm models for NOAA or a similar global organization. At MVRHS, he was the sole Meteorologist for the weekly student newspaper as well as being a four-year member of the Sailing Team and a leading volunteer for Sail MV. He is the recipient of numerous academic honors including Excellence in AP World History. Griffin plans to pursue college studies in Earth Sciences and Meteorology at Connecticut College.



Maria Sanchez Roa

Maria is the 2023 co-recipient of the Teddy and Sarah Howes Memorial Scholarship. At MVRHS, she has balanced undertaking advanced science-based courses with her volunteer activities as a Spanish Language translator. Focusing on the effects of human impact on the environment, she is committed to creating better sustainability for our planet. Maria will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, concentrating in Environmental Engineering.



Daniel Serpa

Daniel ranks academically in the top 10% of his MVRHS class and was elected to the National Honor Society, also garnering numerous awards for scholarship and leadership. An outstanding athlete, he served as Captain of both the Outdoor and Indoor Varsity Track teams; he is also an accomplished concert violinist and a dedicated community volunteer. Growing up on the Vineyard shaped his deep appreciation for natural systems and our environment. Daniel will attend Bucknell University, concentrating in Biology.



Annalee Hoy

Annalee's passion for the natural environment has roots in her family's sustainable Vineyard life; fishing, vegetable gardening, raising chickens and keeping bees. At MVRHS, she excelled in Natural History and Marine Biology courses. She also participated in the Environment Club and produced an impressive exhibit at the MV Museum on Native Plants of Martha's Vineyard. Her goal for college studies is to explore environmentally safe options for sustainable living. Annalee will attend Hampshire College, majoring in Environmental Studies and Sustainability.



Lucas Belain

Lucas is the 2023 co-recipient of the Ray Ellis Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing education in the fine or performing arts. An accomplished photographer, he has served as official sports photographer for both the MVRHS Boys Hockey and the MV Sharks Baseball teams. This year, he received the prestigious Chris Rebello Sportsmanship Award in recognition of his many contributions. Lucas will pursue Photography studies at the University of Oregon.



Ryan Harding

At MVRHS, Ryan's academic focus was technology; he was one of a select few students serving on the school's Student Tech Support Team. Outside of computer studies, he committed to environmental advocacy as an officer of the Environment Club and organizer of the Climate Cafe and Climate Summit. He was also a four-year member and Captain of the Varsity Golf Team. Ryan will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, pursuing studies in Computer Science and Environmental Studies.



Kinley Rinzin

Kinley's ambition for college is to complete the academic requirements to become a Registered Nurse. A National Honor Society member in the top 20% of his class, he garnered numerous awards for academic excellence and achievement throughout his career at MVRHS. His caring outlook is reflected in the many community organizations he has volunteered for, including the Island Food Pantry. Kinley will attend the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, studying Nursing.

My Reflections on the Edward J. Jerome Derby Scholarship

With my undergraduate studies now completed, I have been reflecting on the past four years and comparing my current prospects with the past expectations I had for myself. In 2019, I was fortunate to become the first recipient of the Edward J. Jerome Memorial Scholarship. It was an honor to be given this financial support from the MV Derby, and the incorporation of Ed's memory into the experience made it all the more special.



Victoria Scott,
Bates College
Class of 2023

When I graduated from MVRHS in 2019, I thought I was going to be a biology major and get on the fast-track to become a marine biologist. My passion for the ocean and marine science was sparked by my childhood on the Vineyard and the countless hours spent on the water, fishing during the Derby. But by the end of my freshman year courses, I found myself reaching beyond what had been my lifelong goal.

At Bates, I was fulfilling my curiosity of the natural world in a way that was better suited, but somewhat unexpected, to me. By the end of my sophomore year, I had declared a major in Environmental Science with a minor in Geology. The act of letting go of my expectations and allowing myself to explore what Bates had to offer was a freedom made possible by the support of the Derby and the Vineyard community.

I am thrilled to report that I will be working as a Geologist/Scientist for an environmental consulting firm in Boston. I am looking forward to the opportunity to protect the environments which have fostered my curiosity. And, I am so thankful to the MV Derby and the Jerome family for their aid and support these past four years. A special thank you to Ed, and "nice fish!"

– Victoria Scott

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The Derby Hall of Fame

Throughout its long history the Derby Committee has chosen to recognize and honor individuals and organizations who have made a “significant and positive impact on the sportfishing community of Martha’s Vineyard and on the operation and goals of the Derby.”

The Derby Hall of Fame Honorees Throughout History (Listed Alphabetically)

MARK LOVEWELL



Ed Amaral

Ed Amaral has participated in the Derby since its inception in 1946. Ed personifies the role of a true sportsman and always is there for others sharing his love of fishing and the Derby. As an “Ambassador of Good Will” for the Derby, he has set a guiding example for participants to follow as they cross his path at Island fishing spots. He was an active member of the Derby Committee and his competitive spirit and passion for fishing has been contagious for all who have met him.



Steve Amaral

Steve Amaral (left) fished the first Derby with his Dad, Mother and brother which was a family tradition since he was a young boy. Except for 1956, when he was away serving his nation, he has participated in every Derby. Steve has unselfishly contributed to the success of many Derby winners who he shared much of his fishing knowledge.

Steve has been an active member of the Oak Bluffs community for many years serving on the Fire Department and as Captain before retiring. He was an appointed member of the Martha’s Vineyard Commission and has been instrumental in the success of the Rod and Gun Club’s Kid’s Trout Derby.



Mike Cassidy

Mike has faithfully served on the Derby Committee for more than 30 years. As Chairman, he oversaw the celebration of the Derby’s 50th anniversary. Mike exemplifies the spirit of the Derby in his humor, generosity, and dedication to making the Derby a success. He continues to put in countless hours, including numerous shifts as weighmaster. Mike Cassidy is always there for the Derby – and he consistently puts its needs and the needs of others ahead of himself. He is humble in his behind the scenes work to ensure that things run smoothly. For years, he has been the Derby’s unsung hero.



Bob Boren

Bob was a long standing Derby Committee member who worked hard to support the Derby in many ways, but perhaps he was best known for his responsibility for handling the Derby’s raffle of a 4x4 Jeep.

For years, the committee’s raffle of a Jeep was the main fundraiser supporting the tournament and Bob was always at the center of our efforts. If he wasn’t hawking tickets on Circuit Ave or at the Tisbury Street Fair he was at the NE Sportaman Shows. Bob was a tremendous ambassador for the Derby.



MARK LOVEWELL

Kib Bramhall

A member of the Derby committee for many years, Kib Bramhall is a conservationist, skilled fisherman and distinguished artist. Kib Bramhall has held both Derby and world fly rod records. Most important, he brings a sense of integrity and fair play to the sport of fishing and the Derby. Respected both for his demeanor and fishing accomplishments, he is honored for the example he has set for others over more than four decades of Derby fishing.



Al Brickman

No single individual on Martha’s Vineyard had more connections than did Al Brickman in the mid 1940’s. This “Father” of the Derby took these ties in the fishing community, the business and tourism community, the worlds of journalism, public relations, real estate and transportation, combined them with his deep concern for the welfare of the Vineyard, its people and natural resources, and with a singularity of purpose, yet skillfully and patiently, forged the Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby into existence. This month long event has, dramatically improved the quality of life on Martha’s Vineyard.

Hall of Fame Honorees *continued on next page*



Bob & Fran Clay

For more than 20 years, Bob and Fran Clay were linked to the Derby's success as much as Striped Bass and Bluefish. Their sponsorship of the Derby's past grand awards is just one aspect of their generosity and community involvement. They played an important role in the transition of the management of Norton Point from the County Commissioners to the Trustees of Reservations and the increased access to that stretch of the beach. Bob was a member of the Edgartown Affordable Housing Committee and was active in the development of the Morgan Woods Affordable Housing Property. He was also a member of the Edgartown Finance Advisory Committee. Fran worked to keep the fishing public apprised of the latest developments of beach closures due to piping plover protection. Bob and Fran never asked for or wanted the spotlight or credit for their efforts. Their satisfaction has always been contributing to a better Island community.



John Crews

John dedicated himself to filleting fish during the derby for more than two decades. He served as the "Official Fillet Master" long before the committee assigned a fillet master. "Big John," as he was known, worked both weigh-ins each day with a broad smile and tireless dedication until he was 87 years old.



John Custer

John Custer has been an outstanding member of the Derby Committee since 1999 of which eleven were as Chairman. During John's tenure as chairman, the Committee has benefitted significantly from his sharpness to detail as he created an equitable distribution of prizes, ensuring that all winners receive consistent awards in each category. He has been a true sportsman and has always focused on conservation and scholarships for the young people of our Island community. He has always been thoughtful and has put the best interest of the Derby first in his entire decision making. He has been an exceptional leader and a community role model as the Principal of the Tisbury School.



Serge de Somov

Distinguished by his fishing skills, respected as a gentleman, both on and off the beach, Serge de Somov's four derby victories, three consecutively, were unmatched during the first half century of the Derby competition. He was known as the "Mad Russian" and "The Count", due to his aristocratic European background. Serge de Somov caught the heaviest shore striped bass to claim victories in 1964, 1965, 1966 and again in 1969. Surrounded by an aura of mystery, Serge de Somov earned his place among the legends of Derby history.



Ray Ellis

Ray Ellis, one of the most renowned American artists of our time, graciously donated his artistic talent to the Derby since 1988. The paintings that he annually created for the Derby have generated the money to make our scholarship program possible. In addition, he has donated a portion of the proceeds from his book "Fishing the Vineyard." The Ray G. Ellis Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a MVRHS graduate that has studied the visual and/or performing arts.



Everett Francis

Everett "Porky" Francis was one of the longest serving active members of the Derby Committee. For more than thirty-five years he helped give back to the community through his continued work on the committee to help plan and organize our annual Fall event. Among Porky's many contributions to the Derby, he was instrumental in securing sponsors throughout the years and especially Boston Whaler as a major sponsor for more than a decade. Porky was one of the anchors at the sportsman shows manning the booth for the entire show while other members came and went during the often 5 day event. Porky was an asset to the Derby as well as the Island's fishing community.



Cooper Gilkes

Cooper Gilkes has been an active member of the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby Committee for many years. He was instrumental in the rejuvenation of the Derby in the early 1980's. He assisted in the successful presentation to purchase the Derby from the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce in the mid 1980's. His thoughtful opinions were very helpful in the restructuring of the Derby.

Cooper has been synonymous with the Kid's Derby. His ideas led to the creation of the event that today draws hundreds of kids annually. He religiously catches bait prior to the early morning event and, with the help of his wife Lela, has successfully managed this event since its inception.



Clayton Hoyle

Clayton Hoyle was a skilled rod maker and was instrumental in the creation of the Martha's Vineyard Rod and Gun Club. Affectionately known as "The Instigator" he always offered his opinions and ideas whether asked or not. Several members of the Rod & Gun Club along with Clayton helped foster the idea of an Island fishing tournament that later became the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby.



MARK LOVWELL

Ruth Hughes

In 1947, Ruth Hughes began her daily reporting of the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby for the column she wrote as a reporter for the then New Bedford Standard Times. She chronicled the operations of the day, wrote the names of the daily winners on the derby blackboard, kept a running account of the day's largest fish and recorded for history special occurrences of the day. Ruth was a Derby fixture at the weigh station for 11 years doing just about everything that was needed until 1958 when she assumed the role of Oak Bluffs Town Treasurer until her retirement in 1976.



Ed Jerome

At the helm of the Derby, Ed Jerome guided the faltering tournament out of perilous waters and helped build it into a successful and respected institution. As the longtime President of the Derby Corporation, Ed Jerome was a thoughtful and patient leader. Whether through the Derby scholarship program or charitable contributions, he never wavered in his belief that the Derby exists to contribute to the Vineyard community. A fisherman, educator and community leader, he was honored for his extraordinary efforts in making the Derby a truly unique Island institution.



MARK LOVWELL

Jerry Jansen

Jerry first started fishing the Derby during the second year of its existence. Jerry has been an avid surf fisherman and is well known to many. His great sense of humor and wealth of fishing stories about the Derby are legendary. Jerry's book "Successful Surf Fishing" has helped many a beginner with helpful tips.



Karen Kukolich

Karen Kukolich fished Vineyard waters for nearly 40 years and was both an involved and valued member of our Island community. As a member of the Derby Committee, Karen served as Treasurer for three years and coordinated the filet program for nearly twenty years. Her angling prowess, particularly with the fly rod, was well known, including five International Game Fish Award world records. Her fishing knowledge and passion for the sport were evident and she welcomed opportunities to share that knowledge and love. She held her Captain's license for 30 years, and was one of the first women to run her own sportfishing boat. Karen was a member of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters, served on the Edgartown Finance Committee, Land Bank Advisory Committee and as a Board member of the Martha's Vineyard Rod and Gun Club.



Ed Landers

You'll never hear a negative word about Eddie. He was a great fisherman and willingly shared his knowledge and techniques with the people who fished with him. Who fished with Ed? Every neighborhood kid that he could fit into his buggy. They all have hilarious stories of their adventures with Ed. They say from watching him chase skunks down the beach to carrying his catch back to the car at Squibby. He was a great teacher and respected the rules of life and sportsmanship.



Roy Langley

Roy was the longest running weigh master in the history of the Derby. For more than 15 years, he was the morning weigh master exemplifying the spirit and image of the Derby. He was recognized for his role as the ambassador at the weigh station and the organization and distribution of the Derby's filet program to senior citizens of Martha's Vineyard.



Howard Leonard

A founder of the Derby and committee secretary for many years, Howard Leonard was an enthusiastic Derby fisherman and tireless volunteer distinguished by his good humor and kindness. Howard Leonard personified the ideals of the Derby and was unstinting with his time, particularly when it involved the young people of the Island. He is honored for his service to the Derby and the community of Martha's Vineyard.



Janet Messineo

Janet Messineo epitomizes the spirit, excitement, and camaraderie of the long history of the Derby.

She has been an intricate part of the success of the Derby as a committee member, a participant and as an advocate for children and women participants. For many years, she has created the coveted Derby fish mount trophies with her expertise and skill as a taxidermist.

Janet makes friends with all she comes in contact with. She fishes hard and is constantly on the leader board. Her spirit, sportsmanship and commitment to fishing are unmatched among participants.



MARK LOVEWELL

Ruth Meyer

Ruth Meyer was Chairman of the Derby in the late 70's until 1981. She was the organization's first female chairman, which should have come as no surprise, as she grew up in a fishing family. Her father owned and operated *Larry's Tackle Shop*. Ruth ran *Larry's* for many years after her father and continued the tradition of it being the center of Derby information. Ruth was instrumental in securing big name fishing tackle companies as Derby sponsors. Companies such as Penn and Boston Whaler became a major part of the Derby because of her efforts.



Don Mohr

This "Beach Ambassador" could be found fishing the beaches of Chappy from April until November. Don epitomizes what the Derby is all about. This sportsman always has a smile and helping hand for his fellow anglers. He has a deep respect for the resources and environment and without hesitation will gently point out a rule, infraction or abuse of these resources. Don served on the Committee from 1984 to 1991. He was Treasurer from 1985 to 1989 and Chairman from 1989 to 1991. During his tenure as Chairman, the Derby began its transition from the Chamber of Commerce to an independently run event.



Richard Morris

Richard Morris founded Dick's Bait and Tackle in 1969. He loved to fish, but most of all he loved to tell stories about fishing. He never won a prize in the Derby, but many a Derby yarn was spun in his tackle shop about the one that got away by those who congregated there on a regular basis. He enjoyed meeting new people every year and looked forward to each fall knowing the Derby would be starting. The Derby was a major part of his life and he would be very proud to know he was in its Hall of Fame.



Stephen Morris

Stephen Morris has been a member of the Derby Committee for more than 30 years. During the mid 90's, Stephen was the chairman of the Derby and helped take the Derby to new highs in participation, prizes and activities. Stephen was one of the best Chairmen the Derby has had. His organizational skills, commitment and knowledge of the fishing industry have been his hallmarks. Many of the improved practices used today in the Derby and Awards Ceremonies were suggested by Stephen.

Stephen is a well respected local tackle shop owner and registers the largest number of participants in the Derby. His opinion is well respected and his contributions have been many.



Benjamin Morton

A derby founding member, and Massachusetts Steamship Lines executive, Ben Morton worked tirelessly in both a professional and volunteer capacity to create a Derby that would be enjoyed by Islanders and visitors alike. A member of the Derby committee for more than 20 years, Ben Morton guided the Derby from its creation and joint sponsorship under the boat line and the Martha's Vineyard Rod and Gun Club to its later management by the Martha's Vineyard Chamber of Commerce. He is honored for his wisdom, foresight and efforts on behalf of the Derby and the entire Vineyard community.



Jesse J. Oliver III

In the early years of the Derby, Jesse "Buddy" Oliver often went to Boston to help Al Brickman solicit prizes from sponsors for the Derby. Although he never won the Derby, his catches of large bass before and after the Derby were well known and made him the most renowned Vineyard angler of his time and arguably the most famed surfcaster of the post-World War II era.

His fame was recognized by Life Magazine in an article with his photo, and Salt Water Sportsman Editor Frank Woolner wrote a featured story on him in their September, 1956 issue titled "Bud Oliver-Vineyard Surfman." This article was a great publicity boost to the Derby.

Buddy was known for his character and astonishing fishing talent and often it was said "where Buddy was, the fish were." He fished with the likes of Al Doyle, Frank Drake, Wallace Pinkham, Oscar Flanders and the legendary Serge de Somov.



Robert J. Post

Bob Post, self described as a "fisherman trapped in the body of a dentist", was also a gifted journalist, author, Public Health official, Derby member and father. Most importantly, Bob was a connector and chronicler of the living history of the Derby. He was happiest when sitting astride a boulder on a Gay Head beach, after fishing and conversing with fishermen passing by. Bob turned these conversations into the critically acclaimed book "*Reading the Waters*," which, more than any other source, illuminates and brings to life the wonders and mystery of surf fishing the Vineyard and the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby.



David Pothier

David has been an active member of the Derby Committee for more than three decades and has assumed many roles. During his tenure as Chairman, he lead the way in the improvements made to our software programs that manage the weigh station operations and the reporting of fish.

David has been an active community member of Oak Bluffs in their Fire Department, on the Harbor Committee and on the Island's Search and Recovery Squad.

Currently, David is actively involved in the revitalization of the USCG Auxiliary and is helping to improve the boating safety throughout the Island.



MARK LOVEWELL

Helen Scarborough

Helen was a fixture at the weigh-in for many years. She was the weigh master and keeper of records many years before the scale became digital and computers replaced the pen and paper. She was known as "mother hen" as she kept the busy weigh-in running efficiently and exciting for young and old alike.



Greg Skomal

Greg has been on the Derby Committee for more than 30 years. As an official state marine Biologist, Greg was able to guide the Derby with valuable research and insight on various conservation issues and political impact. His research helped us establish minimum fish lengths for all fish in the Derby. His research helped us to reduce the mortality rate of false albacore by establishing a size that reduced the number of False Albacore coming to our scales by more than 50%.

Greg is a nationally known speaker for his work on sharks and other species, Greg somehow found time from his very busy work schedule to be treasurer of the organization for many years which included paying the bills, preparing the income tax statements, dealing with our accountant and preparing monthly financial statements for the Board of Directors.



Chris Scott

Chris has served and continues to serve on many non-profit boards as well as Town of Edgartown committees. For all his volunteering commitments, one has the sense that the Derby offers him the greatest degree of satisfaction and pride. Chris first came to the Derby organization more than 25 years ago. He has served for most of that time on the Executive Committee, ultimately settling into his current role as Treasurer. Under his watchful eye, the Derby has thrived and steadily built financial capacity to ensure the strength of the organization and its scholarship program. For many years, Chris has shared his passion for boating and fishing with his daughter Victoria. For her and others, he has been a true example of good sportsmanship, honesty, and integrity. The Derby Hall of Fame is proud to add an individual of Chris Scott's character.



Martha Smith

Martha was the glue at Derby Headquarters, morning and night, for more than 15 years. As Weigh Station Manager, she understood fully the intricacies of operating the Derby, and kept it running smoothly. Her dedication to the Derby was demonstrated by her commitment to the event and all it benefited. Martha endeared herself to countless Derby participants over the many years she stood behind the desk at Derby HQ.



MARK LOVEWELL

Daniel Shea

For more than 25 years, Dan Shea was an extremely important part of the success, growth and popularity of the Derby. While working as a Manufacturers Representative for the J. D. Keith Agency, Dan was instrumental in obtaining many new sponsors including Zebco which became the Kid's Day Sponsor for many years. In 1985, Dan and his business partner became a rep for Penn Reel Company as their flagship line. Although Penn had been a sponsor prior to this time, their contributions grew exponentially with Dan's help and dedication to the Derby. Dan is an accomplished fisherman and a role model in the fishing tackle industry.



Arnold Spofford

Arnold Spofford was a member of the Derby Committee for nearly 15 years beginning in the the early 1980's. He was well known for his famous Ballistic Missile and Needle Fish Lures. But "Spof" was known best to us for his vision and forward thinking for the Derby's direction. It was "Spof" who created and wrote the first Souvenir Booklets. His stories captured the essence of this tournament and were matched by his photography.

Spof was instrumental in the creation of the Ray Ellis prints we sell each year and the Scholarships we now offer to Island graduates. Arnold Spofford truly had an impact on the Derby as we know it today.



Nelson Sigelman

Nelson was a long-time Derby committee member and instrumental in the improvement of the souvenir booklet through his writing, the collection of advertisements and the book's visual presentation.

This booklet and his efforts to keep the community informed of fishing issues through his weekly news column have both become treasured Island keepsakes.

Nelson's contributions to the Derby are many and have truly had an impact on the success of the Derby and the Derby is better today because of his participation on the Committee.



Arthur Winters

Arthur was a member of the Derby Committee from 1981-1992. He was part of the new group of Derby Committee members who traveled about New England trying to create a new image for the Derby. At that time, participation was at a very low point

Arthur traveled to sportsman shows hawking Jeep raffle tickets and many Island activities. Arthur helped catch bait for the Kids Day event every year and was well respected for his ability to catch Bonito and Albies, often getting on the leader board. His 11 pound Bonito was an Island record for many years.

Arthur Winters brought humor to all that he did and there are countless stories of his wit.

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Final Results 2022

Grand Prize Winner

EASTERN BOATS - Elizabeth O'Brien

All Tackle Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: PETER D. CRABTREE 10.86 LBS.
SHORE: MARK J. CAMPOS 8.36 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: ELIZABETH S. O'BRIEN 19.30 LBS.
SHORE: PETER M. HESS 17.16 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: MARK LEONARD 16.52 LBS.
SHORE: MATTHEW D. STREM 13.28 LBS.

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: NICHOLI D. SULLO 10.12 LBS.
SHORE: STEVEN J. WOOD 7.58 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: JASON BROADLEY 18.88 LBS.
SHORE: RALPH PECKHAM 17.00 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: ZACHARY D. MAGID 16.50 LBS.
SHORE: RUDY SANFILIPPO 12.53 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: LENNY BEFORD 10.08 LBS.
SHORE: CYNTHIA HILL 7.55 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: DAVID KADISON 18.06 LBS.
SHORE: KEVIN M. SEGER 16.49 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: PETER D. CRABTREE 14.87 LBS.
SHORE: ZACHARY MACDONALD-BAIRD 12.27 LBS.

Flyrod Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: ZACHARY HORROCKS 6.66 LBS.
SHORE: COLIN S. COURNOYER 7.52 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: THOMAS J. RAPONE 14.12 LBS.
SHORE: GUNNAR A. HUGHES 10.13 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: TERRY HORROCKS 13.51 LBS.
SHORE: JOSEPH A. DART 10.45 LBS.

CONTINUED TOP OF PAGE

Flyrod Division Awards

CONTINUED

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: W. BRICE CONTESSA 6.25 LBS.
SHORE: DAVID NASH 6.78 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: ZACHARY HORROCKS 13.28 LBS.
SHORE: COOPER FERSEN 8.59 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: ZACHARY HORROCKS 12.93 LBS.
SHORE: PATRICK J. CARSON 10.07 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

Boat: Robert D. Morrison 3.86 lbs.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: RICK SCHIFTER 13.03 LBS.
SHORE: WYATT BRAMHALL 7.18 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: PETER D. CRABTREE 12.51 LBS.
SHORE: COLIN S. COURNOYER 9.78 LBS.

Mini Junior Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: ETHAN G. RIVERS 6.23 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: DILL G. KLEEMAN 15.23 LBS.
SHORE: ABE SEABOURNE 13.10 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: DILL G. KLEEMAN 10.80 LBS.
SHORE: SAMUEL C. FAIRSTEIN 7.62 LBS.

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: GRACE POLLARD 4.56 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: ETHAN G. RIVERS 15.12 LBS.
SHORE: HUDSON SMITH 9.44 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: RONAN E. MURPHY 9.49 LBS.
SHORE: OWEN A. EMIN 7.44 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: WOLF ISCOL 4.42 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: TUCKER SCHAEFER 14.85 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: HENRY SCOTT 9.27 LBS.

Derby Record Winning Fish

FOR ANY OVERALL RECORD FISH CAUGHT, ANGLER RECEIVES \$1000.00 CASH PRIZE

Bluefish	JEAN HANCOCK	23 LBS., 4.5 OZ.	(BOAT, ALL TACKLE, 1972)	Bonito	JOE W. THOMPSON	13.10 LBS.	(BOAT, ALL TACKLE, 2021)
	CHARLIE BLAIR	18.85 LBS.	(BOAT, FLY ROD, 1984)		NELSON SIGELMAN	10.81 LBS.	(BOAT, FLY ROD, 1994)
Striped Bass	DICK HATHAWAY	60 LBS., 2 OZ.	(SHORE, ALL TACKLE, 1978)	False Albacore	DONALD MAC GILLIVRAY	19.39 LBS.	(BOAT, ALL TACKLE, 1990)
	KIB BRAMHALL	42.14 LBS.	(SHORE, FLY ROD, 1981)		JAIME BOYLE	16.38 LBS.	(BOAT, FLY ROD, 1990)
				Weakfish	LEE WELCH	16.90 LBS.	(BOAT, ALL TACKLE, 1986)

Junior Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: ELI BEFORD 10.46 LBS.
SHORE: LATHROP J. KEENE 5.00 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: PAIGE SMITH 17.71 LBS.
SHORE: JOHN CHO 15.02 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: CUYLER G. FISHER 14.38 LBS.
SHORE: LATHROP J. KEENE 10.96 LBS.

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: AIDEN OLSEN 8.36 LBS.
SHORE: DYLAN MONE 4.57 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: CUYLER G. FISHER 17.26 LBS.
SHORE: EMILIA S. JEFFERY 14.19 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: CHRISTIAN E. FISHER 11.47 LBS.
SHORE: AIDEN OLSEN 9.57 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: RILEY GALE 6.93 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: CHRISTIAN E. FISHER 17.09 LBS.
SHORE: CAMERON LAVIGNE 11.62 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: RILEY GALE 11.45 LBS.
SHORE: ELI BEFORD 9.39 LBS.

Special Awards

THE ABE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL AWARD – CASEY ELLISTON

THE ALBERT ANGELONE MEMORIAL AWARD –
PETER ROSBECK III

THE BOB “HAWKEYE” JACOBS AWARD – TEAM FISH POLICE
MARK LEWIS, SCOTT WERNER

THE THOMAS A. McCAULEY AWARD – JAMES JOYCE

MARTHA’S VINEYARD SURFCASTER’S SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
– JEFF KOMARINETZ, SANDY FISHER

BEAULIEU/LOUD MEMORIAL AWARD – FINN SEARS & FAMILY

ROBERT “HUFF” LANGLEY MEMORIAL AWARD – CYNTHIA
HILL

CUTLER BIKE SHOP AWARD – (BOAT) PAGE SMITH;
(SHORE) LATHROP KEENE

DAVID FURINO MEMORIAL AWARD – CAMERON, ALEXIS, EVE-
LYN LAVIGUE

JARED FISHER MEMORIAL AWARD –
RILEY GAYLE

‘BONITO’ ED LAPORE MEMORIAL AWARD –
COLIN COURNOYER

WALTER MORRISON MEMORIAL AWARD – BAILEN DARACK

ROBERTO GERMANI MEMORIAL CATCH AND RELEASE
AWARDS – FLYROD FALSE ALBACORE - DAVID NASH

FLYROD BLUEFISH - JIM LEPORE

ALL TACKLE BONITO - STEVEN WOOD

ALL TACKLE FALSE ALBACORE - STEVEN WOOD

ALL TACKLE BLUEFISH - JOHN PIEKOS

Triple Crown Winners

Boat - All Tackle

First Place - David Kadison 41.62 lbs.

Second Place - Peter D. Crabtree 38.45 lbs.

Third Place - Sandy E. Fisher 36.33 lbs.

Boat - Flyrod

First Place - Zachary Horrocks 32.87 lbs.

Second Place - Peter D. Crabtree 27.07 lbs.

Third Place - W. Brice Contessa 26.87 lbs.

Shore - All Tackle

First Place - John M. Thurgood 31.54 lbs

Second Place - Ben T. Ciciora 30.75 lbs.

Third Place - Jay Harrison 30.60 lbs.

Shore - Flyrod

First Place - Colin S. Cournoyer 22.55 lbs.

Junior Boat

First Place - Christian E. Fisher 35.25 lbs.

Second Place - Eli Beford 34.60 lbs.

Third Place - Riley Gale 30.22 lbs.

Junior Shore

First Place - Lathrop J. Keene 23.15 lbs.

Mini Junior Boat

First Place - Ethan G. Rivers 30.37 lbs.

Second Place - Wolf Iscol 21.32 lbs.

Team Winners

BOAT

1ST: ANDY & SANDY – SANDY FISHER &
ANDY VAN ROOYEN 69.84 LBS.

2ND: DYNAMIC DUO – DAVID KADISON & BILL POTTER 68.82 LBS.

3RD: SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN – JOE EL-DEIRY &
JOHNNY GRAHAM 67.78 LBS.

SHORE

1ST: TUNA MELIDOWN – RUDY SANFILIPPO &
JOHN THURGOOD 60.29 LBS.

2ND: ON AGAIN – DAVID NASH & RALPH PECKHAM 57.84 LBS.

3RD: OUTCASTS – DONALD SICARD & STEVEN WOOD 54.07 LBS.

Senior Awards

MADISON ALWARDT MEMORIAL AWARD (*bluefish*)

Boat: Bob Garrison 16.59 lbs.

Shore: Wilz A. Moreis 16.35 lbs.

ARNOLD SPOFFORD MEMORIAL AWARD (*bonito*)

Boat: Bob Garrison 9.71 lbs.

Shore: David Nash 6.78 lbs.

HOWARD LEONARD MEMORIAL AWARD (*false albacore*)

Boat: Terry Horrocks 13.51 lbs.

Shore: Brian Gracie 11.29 lbs.

Derby Grand Leaders

From 1946 to 1984, with the exception of 1980, the fisherman catching the largest striped bass was the grand prize winner.

(digital) Lbs.

			Lbs.	Oz.					
1946	BASS	GORDON PITMAN, NEW YORK, NY	47	0	1984	BASS	JACK COUTINHO, VINEYARD HAVEN	48.75	
1947	BASS	GEORGE MARSHALL, VINEYARD HAVEN	45	13		BLUEFISH	STANLEY TOMKIEWICZ, ACHUSNET, MA	20.5	
1948	BASS	AL DOYLE, EDGARTOWN	42	14		WEAKFISH	BILL SMITH, PEMBROKE, MA	13.55	
	BLUEFISH	HENRY B. HARTLEY, BOSTON, MA	4	06		BONITO	SEAN O'CONNOR, GAY HEAD	9.80	
1949	BASS	GEORGE MARSHALL, VINEYARD HAVEN	46	14.5		LITTLE TUNNY	ARTHUR WINTERS, EDGARTOWN	13.40	
	BLUEFISH	RALPH ESTES, WEST TISBURY	5	06	1985	BLUEFISH	(BOAT) DAVID WALTON, NEW BEDFORD, MA	19.20**	
1950	BASS	FRANK DRAKE, VINEYARD HAVEN	40	14		BONITO	(BOAT) STAN BROWN & DOUG KUDRAVETZ (TIE)	9.00	
	BLUEFISH	WALLACE PINKHAM, VINEYARD HAVEN	5	15		ALBACORE	(SHORE) HARVEY KAUSEL, SLINGERLANDS, NY	19.15	
1951	BASS	FREEMAN CASWELL, ATTLEBORO, MA	43	5		WEAKFISH	(BOAT) SONNY BEAULIEU, OAK BLUFFS	16.50	
	BLUEFISH	PHILIP SILVA, OAK BLUFFS	6	10.5	1986	BLUEFISH	(BOAT) BILL UNIATOWSKI, OAK BLUFFS	19.40**	
1952	BASS	JOHN O. SYLVIA, OAK BLUFFS	48	1		BONITO	(BOAT) GEORGE KUDRAVETZ, ALEXANDRIA, VA	10.95	
1953	BASS	JAMES WALPOLE, EDGARTOWN	51	11		ALBACORE	(SHORE) KEVIN HALL, WEST TISBURY	15.60	
1954	BASS	WALLACE PINKHAM, VINEYARD HAVEN	55	9.5		WEAKFISH	(BOAT) LEE WELCH, EDGARTOWN	16.90*	
	BLUEFISH	WALTER LYKO, DORCHESTER, MA	9	5.5	1987	BONITO	(BOAT) COOPER GILKES III, EDGARTOWN	10.19**	
1955	BASS	LOUISE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	43	14		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) AMY MUSIA, EVANSVILLE, IN	17.16	
	BLUEFISH	ED LIVINGSTON, NEW BEDFORD, MA	11	9.5		ALBACORE	(BOAT) KEITH LEWIS, VINEYARD HAVEN	13.45	
1956	BASS	DICK HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	52	9	1988	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ROGER BEACH, EDGARTOWN	15.40**	
	BLUEFISH	WALTER LYKO, NEW BEDFORD, MA	12	11.5		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) PAT DROUIN, EDGARTOWN	15.92	
1957	BASS	RALPH GRANT, EDGARTOWN	47	8		(SHORE) CHRIS MACDONALD, NEEDHAM, MA	15.53		
	BLUEFISH	ARTHUR E. RODGERS, VINEYARD HAVEN	17	12.5		(BOAT) SCOTT TERRY, WEST TISBURY	17.41		
1958	BASS	OSCAR FLANDERS, CHILMARK	51	11		BONITO	(SHORE) PAUL BERGERON, OAK BLUFFS	8.97	
	BLUEFISH	WILLIAM E. BLAKE, MELROSE, MA	14	6	1989	ALBACORE	(BOAT) PETER BARONE, WEYMOUTH, MA	10.84	
1959	BASS	ANTON VAN BREEMAN, MEDFORD, MA	50	12.5		(SHORE) ROBERT GRAVES, OAK BLUFFS	14.09		
	BLUEFISH	LES HEBBLEWHITE, So. BOSTON, MA	16	10		(BOAT) JOEL GRAVES, OAK BLUFFS	15.90		
1960	BASS	PHILIP BARON, WOLLASTON, MA	45	9		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) SERGIO RADOSSI, RIDGEFIELD PARK, NJ	16.07	
	BLUEFISH	ALBERT KEINBERG, EDGARTOWN	17	10		(BOAT) MICHELE ROGERS, EDGARTOWN	15.92		
1961	BASS	ADAM KURPAT, NEW YORK, NY	51	14		BONITO	(SHORE) CURTIS HOPPS, VINEYARD HAVEN	9.89**	
	BLUEFISH	ROGER TITUS, So. DARTMOUTH, MA	16	11	1990	ALBACORE	(BOAT) KIB BRAMHALL, WEST TISBURY	10.58	
1962	BASS	HAROLD BENWAY, VINEYARD HAVEN	52	4		(SHORE) BOB PERRY, BRIDGEWATER, MA	14.48**		
	BLUEFISH	MICHAEL PAGANO, NEW BEDFORD, MA	11	11.5		(BOAT) DON MACGILLIVRAY, VINEYARD HAVEN	19.39*		
1963	BASS	SERGE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	52	13		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) DAVID HEARN, BURLINGTON, MA	18.28	
	BLUEFISH	FRANK VALOIS, FARGO, ND	12	10		(BOAT) MICHELE ROGERS, EDGARTOWN	18.81		
1964	BASS	SERGE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	54	14		BONITO	(SHORE) BENJAMIN BARBEE, WEYMOUTH, MA	9.58	
	BLUEFISH	GEORGE HAMPSON, No. FALMOUTH, MA	12	13.5	1991	ALBACORE	(BOAT) BRYAN ABRAHAMSON, OAK BLUFFS	11.22	
1965	BASS	SERGE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	49	10		(SHORE) MARTIN S. FOX, MILLBURN, NJ	16.89		
	BLUEFISH	RICHARD HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	15	2.5		(BOAT) JOHN NOVAK, MARSHFIELD, MA	17.67		
1966	BASS	EDWARD SOUZA, LOWELL, MA	53	15		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) MATT PERRY, VINEYARD HAVEN	15.85	
	BLUEFISH	RICHARD HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	16	10		(BOAT) SCOTT H. TERRY, WEST TISBURY	18.50**		
1967	BASS	FRED KIENER, VINEYARD HAVEN	52	6		BONITO	(SHORE) STEVE DOWLER, OAK BLUFFS	9.62	
	BLUEFISH	ARNOLD CARR, TEATICKET, MA	16	11.5	1992	ALBACORE	(BOAT) SCOTT H. TERRY, WEST TISBURY	9.27	
1968	BASS	ROBERT ROSE, OAK BLUFFS	48	6		(SHORE) ROBERT D. WILCOXON	13.00		
	BLUEFISH	MADISON ALWARDT, OAK BLUFFS	17	15.5		(BOAT) DOMINGO CANHA	14.23		
1969	BASS	SERGE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	51	6		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) LARRY A. MERCIER	17.35	
	BLUEFISH	DOUGLAS GINGRAS, VINEYARD HAVEN	18	11		(BOAT) ERNEST L. DAMAN	16.77**		
1970	BASS	GORDON LINGBERG, FAIRHAVEN, MA	42	10		BONITO	(SHORE) MARK F. BUDRESKY	9.92	
	BLUEFISH	GLADYS FLANDERS, CHILMARK	19	14		(BOAT) CARLOS T. BARTHOLOMEU	10.43		
1971	BASS	ALBION ALLEY, WEST TISBURY	49	12	1993	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ROBERT MILNE	13.46	
	BLUEFISH	FRANK SIMMONS, OAK BLUFFS	21	10		(BOAT) MARILYN SCHEERBAUM	13.62**		
1972	BASS	WAYNE IACONO, VINEYARD HAVEN	56	9		BASS	(SHORE) BUCK MARTIN	54.74	
	BLUEFISH	JEAN HANCOCK, CHILMARK	23	4.5*		(BOAT) AARON CORSETTI	46.86		
1973	BASS	ROBERT BLACK, SOMERVILLE, MA	54	7.5		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) MICHAEL TINUS	17.08	
	BLUEFISH	FREEMAN WILLOUGHBY, EDGARTOWN	19	9		(BOAT) EARL PETERS	18.04		
1974	BASS	RAYMOND METCALF, EDGARTOWN	51	14		BONITO	(SHORE) DAVID DESMARAIS	9.87	
	BLUEFISH	WAYNE COUTINHO, OAK BLUFFS	19	6	1994	ALBACORE	(BOAT) DON MACGILLIVRAY	10.50	
1975	BASS	ROGER SYLVA, WEST TISBURY	53	14		(SHORE) DAVID VERGARA	12.99		
	BLUEFISH	KEVIN PETERS, OAK BLUFFS	18	9		(BOAT) THOMAS GOODALE	15.20		
1976	BASS	RICK CONNELL, VINEYARD HAVEN	48	0		BASS	(SHORE) RICHARD MORRIS	54.48	
	BLUEFISH	DICK CUDMORE, W. BRIDGEWATER, MA	19	6		(BOAT) DONNA NAGLE	53.52		
1977	BASS	AL DOYLE, EDGARTOWN	56	6		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) DANIEL BRYANT	16.56	
	BLUEFISH	KEVIN HALL, VINEYARD HAVEN	20	3		(BOAT) MATT LAKSO	17.26		
1978	BASS	DICK HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	60	2*		BONITO	(SHORE) DAVE DESMARAIS	10.43	
	BLUEFISH	GARY LEWIS	17	9		(BOAT) GARY LOOK	12.44**		
1979	BASS	DICK HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	55	3	1995	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ERIC BROWN	13.15**	
	BLUEFISH	BERNIE ARRUDA, EDGARTOWN	19	0		(BOAT) MARK E. DRINKWATER	12.01		
1980	BASS	FRANCIS BERNARD, OAK BLUFFS	49	5		BASS	(SHORE) MIKE ALWARDT	57.82	
	BLUEFISH	LEE WELCH, EDGARTOWN	20	0**		(BOAT) FRANK T. DOUGHERTY	50.42		
1981	BASS	RICHARD LONDON, NEW HAVEN, CT	56.14			BLUEFISH	(SHORE) LORI VANDERLASKE (FLY ROD)	18.69	
	BLUEFISH	ERIC PACHICO, VINEYARD HAVEN	20.10			(BOAT) EDWIN GENTLE III	20.08		
	WEAKFISH	DAVE PERRY SR., ATTLEBORO, MA	14.19			(SHORE) BILL ASHAK	7.96		
	BONITO	KIB BRAMHALL, WEST TISBURY	10.69		1996	ALBACORE	(BOAT) STEVEN WOOD	9.12	
	LITTLE TUNNY	JOHN WATERS, HAMILTON, MA	13.37			(SHORE) PHILIP B. WILLOUGHBY	11.68**		
1982	BASS	THOMAS BASSETT, EDGARTOWN	46.77			(BOAT) ARTHUR N. VOSE	11.97		
	BLUEFISH	JERRY MORENCY, SOUTH DARTMOUTH, MA	18.32			BASS	(SHORE) MARK PLANTE	47.37	
	WEAKFISH	LEONARD REID, WEST TISBURY	13.26			(BOAT) FRANK NUOVO	49.11		
	BONITO	DENNIS SANIDAS, FALMOUTH, MA	9.43			BLUEFISH	(SHORE) DENNIS WILLIAMS	18.47	
	LITTLE TUNNY	STAN POPOWITZ, EDGARTOWN	14.25			(BOAT) DONALD BALLOU	18.80		
1983	BASS	STEVE MORRIS, OAK BLUFFS	49.96			BONITO	(SHORE) JOHN LIVINGSTON	9.42	
	BLUEFISH	DAVID WALTON, NEW BEDFORD, MA	20.76		1997	ALBACORE	(BOAT) PERRY C. AMBULOS	10.14	
	WEAKFISH	EARL STYPULKOWSKI, EDGARTOWN	14.16			(SHORE) KEN ABBOTT	15.38		
	BONITO	ROBIN HYDE, CHILMARK	9.14			(BOAT) PHILIP LOFGREN	13.26		
	LITTLE TUNNY	CHARLES WITHAM JR., GAY HEAD	15.36			BASS	(SHORE) DICK HATHAWAY	50.75	
						(BOAT) DICK T. LEESON	40.62		
						BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ANDRE LEVESQUE	18.97	
						(BOAT) VLADIMIR SMIRNOV	18.40		

(digital) Lbs.

1997	BONITO	(SHORE) STANLEY POPOWITZ	9.49**
		(BOAT) JOSEPH CANHA	9.97
1998	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ADAM ROSE	12.09
		(BOAT) WALTER S. WLODYKA	14.99
	BASS	(SHORE) SCOTT JADOVICH	43.71**
		(BOAT) DONALD WIDDISS	52.41
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ABRAM WILLIAMS	20.58
		(BOAT) FRED COLLINS	16.54
	BONITO	(SHORE) BERNIE ARRUDA	7.88
1999	ALBACORE	(SHORE) DAVE DESMARAIS	14.30
		(BOAT) LEV WLODYKA	12.05
	BASS	(SHORE) WILLIAM DEBETTENCOURT	42.27
		(BOAT) JEN CLARKE	44.08
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) PAUL B. SCHULTZ	14.92
		(BOAT) JOHN COWART	17.31
	BONITO	(SHORE) DAVID DESMARAIS	10.33**
		(BOAT) ROBERT MOCARSKI	10.77
2000	ALBACORE	(SHORE) DAVID SKOK	12.96
		(BOAT) JOHN SCHILLINGER	12.67
	BASS	(SHORE) STEPHEN MORRIS	41.78
		(BOAT) LEV WLODYKA	52.32
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) KEVIN HEARN	14.57
		(BOAT) JOE UVA	19.18
	BONITO	(SHORE) ERIC R. WOLFE	7.11
		(BOAT) MARK PLANTE	10.37**
2001	ALBACORE	(SHORE) DAVID W. SKOK	12.97**
		(BOAT) MICHAEL D. HENRY	9.81
	BASS	(SHORE) DAN T. PRIBANIC	44.96
		(BOAT) LEV WLODYKA	44.14
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) JACK M. LIVINGSTON	15.26
		(BOAT) KAREN A. KUKOLICH	16.78
	BONITO	(SHORE) ROB MORRISON	7.36
		(BOAT) ROBERT H. CLAY	8.89
2002	ALBACORE	(SHORE) BOB W. IWASKIEWICZ	12.93**
		(BOAT) WALTER S. WLODYKA	11.63
	BASS	(SHORE) LEV C. WLODYKA	39.96
		(BOAT) CAPT. BUDDY VANDERHOOP	53.60
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) DANIEL J. GEARY	15.69
		(BOAT) ROSS MORANCIE	14.96
	BONITO	(SHORE) JAMES C. CORNWELL	9.27
		(BOAT) LEV C. WLODYKA	10.89**
2003	ALBACORE	(SHORE) MARSHALL H. BRERETON	14.42
		(BOAT) TERRY W. HORROCKS	13.28
	BASS	(SHORE) MICHAEL ALWARDT	42.12
		(BOAT) CHRIS M. HARDING	46.26
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) THOMAS J. KIERAS	15.27**
		(BOAT) NICK W. PETERS	14.58
	BONITO	(SHORE) ANDREW J. SCHERIFF	8.12
		(BOAT) STANLEY W. BROWN	10.25**
2004	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ROBERT W. THOMAS	12.48**
		(BOAT) DAVID C. KADISON	12.37
	BASS	(SHORE) KEITH A. MCART	42.46
		(BOAT) WILLIAM F. LEHMAN	47.62
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) DANIEL J. BENEDETTO	15.40
		(BOAT) WILLIAM W. FARNHAM	15.17
	BONITO	(SHORE) BETSY J. MIRAGLIA	8.75
		(BOAT) TOM LANGMAN	10.13**
2005	ALBACORE	(SHORE) DENNIS R. GOUGH	16.71
		(BOAT) KEITH M. OGREN	14.19**
	BASS	(SHORE) LEO B. LECUYER	45.18**
		(BOAT) MOLLY FISCHER	49.22
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) RONALD G. SULLIVAN	13.70
		(BOAT) JOHN D. SMITH	15.95
	BONITO	(SHORE) BERNIE B. ARRUDA	9.53
		(BOAT) JARED D. MACKENZIE	10.38
2006	ALBACORE	(SHORE) RICHARD N. HALL	14.63
		(BOAT) GEOFF K. CODDING	13.25**
	BASS	(SHORE) LEO B. LECUYER	40.19
		(BOAT) DAVID C. HEARN	43.86
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) WILLIAM A. PATE	13.87**
		(BOAT) FRANCIS FISHER	17.36
	BONITO	(SHORE) DON S. SEXTON	9.84
		(BOAT) JOSEPH P. CANHA	11.42
2007	ALBACORE	(SHORE) CLARK M. GOFF, JR.	15.86
		(BOAT) SANDY E. FISHER	15.33
	BASS	(SHORE) ZACHARY K. TILTON	40.61
		(BOAT) ZEB TILTON	56.51
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) CHRIS A. MORRIS	11.70**
		(BOAT) BRUCE L. MCINTOSH	14.62
	BONITO	(SHORE) DENNIS R. GOUGH	7.77
		(BOAT) GEOFF K. CODDING	9.14**
2008	ALBACORE	(SHORE) JAMES C. CORNWELL	11.55
		(BOAT) WILLIAM A. PATE	11.44**
	BASS	(SHORE) SCOTT D. TOMKINS	40.12
		(BOAT) LEV C. WLODYKA	46.82

(digital) Lbs.

	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) CURTIS J. FARRELL	15.55
		(BOAT) ALPHONSUS D. SIMMONS	16.12
	BONITO	(SHORE) JARED STOBIE	7.22
		(BOAT) PAUL C. HARRIS	10.75**
2009	ALBACORE	(SHORE) KEITH MCART	16.55
		(BOAT) WILLIAM A. PATE	12.66**
	BASS	(SHORE) RYAN KURTH	34.10
		(BOAT) STEPHEN PIETRUSKA	44.68
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) PETER SHEPARDSON	13.81
		(BOAT) HENRY FAUTEUX	14.04
	BONITO	(SHORE) MICHAEL SEEGER	7.99**
		(BOAT) WYATT JENKINSON	9.71
2010	ALBACORE	(SHORE) HAYDEN L. BOULLIE	14.33
		(BOAT) TERRY HORROCKS	14.22
	BASS	(SHORE) PAUL P. STAMOS	31.87
		(BOAT) MICHAEL A. PAONE	37.60**
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ROGER A. SCHAEFER	13.27**
		(BOAT) ESTEY L. TELLER	16.29
	BONITO	(SHORE) DAVE DESMARAIS	8.35
		(BOAT) WILZ A. MOREIS	10.39
2011	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ALEXANDER BETTENCOURT	15.38
		(BOAT) JAEMON GILLIES	14.77
	BASS	(SHORE) STEVE PIERSON	34.92
		(BOAT) RICHARD PENNEY	46.15**
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) STEPHEN MORRIS	14.86**
		(BOAT) CHARLES OGLETREE	15.50
	BONITO	(SHORE) PEDRO GUZMAN	7.39
		(BOAT) DOMINGO CANHA	9.79
2012	ALBACORE	(SHORE) PATRICK T. JENKINSON	12.75
		(BOAT) MOGAN T. TAYLOR	13.22
	BASS	(SHORE) TONY H. REZENDES, JR.	32.12
		(BOAT) STEPHEN J. PIETRUSKA	44.40
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ROBERT J. BOYHAN	15.39**
		(BOAT) ADAM CUMMINGS	16.06**
	BONITO	(SHORE) JULIAN G. PEPPER	8.22
		(BOAT) ANDREW M. WHEELER	10.29
2013	ALBACORE	(SHORE) BILL R. HANSEN	13.10
		(BOAT) SAM T. BELL	13.24**
	BASS	(SHORE) JENA-LYNN BEAUREGARD	34.63**
		(BOAT) STEPHEN J. PIETRUSKA	39.94
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) RALPH J. PECKHAM	15.18
		(BOAT) DANIEL HIEMER	19.69
	BONITO	(SHORE) COOPER A. GILKES	6.58
		(BOAT) BOB H. CLAY	11.49
2014	ALBACORE	(SHORE) MARY ANN ANGELONE	14.65
		(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	13.17
	BASS	(SHORE) CREANGA COSMIN	38.63
		(BOAT) VINNY IACONO	39.77
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) MICHAEL MULCAHY	15.20**
		(BOAT) PRESTON BUTLER	15.00**
	BONITO	(SHORE) SEBASTIAN KEEFE	7.87
		(BOAT) NORMAN BOUCHARD	10.47
2015	ALBACORE	(SHORE) DONALD R. SICARD	13.10
		(BOAT) FRED HOFFMAN	14.22
	BASS	(SHORE) MILES WHYTE	37.95**
		(BOAT) STEPHEN J. PIETRUSKA	41.98**
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) KAREN A. ALTIERI	15.65
		(BOAT) CLINTON A. FISHER	17.87
	BONITO	(SHORE) TIMOTHY J. SCOTT	8.99
		(BOAT) ROB E. COAD	11.32
2016	ALBACORE	(SHORE) DONALD F. O'SHAUGHNESSEY, JR.	10.79
		(BOAT) LOUIS M. KERR	10.04**
	BASS	(SHORE) KEVIN P. O'FARRELL	36.53
		(BOAT) MICHAEL CAPEEN	39.69
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) EVAN HAMMOND	15.11**
		(BOAT) ED AMARAL	17.83**
	BONITO	(SHORE) MICHAEL D. LUDWIG	5.66
		(BOAT) TOMMY S. REYNOLDS	9.78
2017	ALBACORE	(SHORE) CASEY ELLISTON	12.56
		(BOAT) TRISH LYMAN	12.23**
	BASS	(SHORE) JOHN C. STASIUK	29.61**
		(BOAT) STEPHEN B. HANSEL	51.05
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ROBERT BOITARY	16.70
		(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	18.81
	BONITO	(SHORE) MARK CAMPOS	8.57
		(BOAT) STEVE J. BACCELLI	10.80
2018	ALBACORE	(SHORE) KEN W. ZAIATZ	12.85
		(BOAT) GARY R. LOOK	15.75
	BASS	(SHORE) OLLIE P. BECKER	37.69
		(BOAT) STEPHEN J. PIETRUSKA	39.20
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) PAUL T. HOFFMAN	13.08**
		(BOAT) DAVID C. KADISON	18.49**
	BONITO	(SHORE) STEPHEN K. SAWYER, JR.	6.76
		(BOAT) RAYMOND CABOT	11.75

Grand Derby Leaders continued on next page



Derby Grand Leaders CONTINUED

		(digital) Lbs.			(digital) Lbs.		
2019	ALBACORE	(SHORE) SHAWN A. EMIN (BOAT) ISAIAH L. SCHEFFER	12.13** 10.06	2021	ALBACORE	(BOAT) DAVID C. KADISON (SHORE) KATHI M. PAGODA	14.76 12.31
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ROBERT BOTTARY (BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	12.17 17.49		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) RICHARD WOOD (SHORE) ZACHARY MAGID	20.11 16.65**
	BONITO	(SHORE) LEWIS C. COLBY (BOAT) GREG G. CLARK	6.43 11.62		BONITO	(BOAT) JOE W. THOMPSON (SHORE) GAVIN SMITH	13.10 8.43
2020	ALBACORE	(BOAT) STEPHEN W. LUCE (SHORE) RUDY S. SANFILIPPO	11.40 13.70	THE 2022 GRAND LEADERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 30.			
	BLUEFISH	(BOAT) CHRISTOPHER BELEZOS (SHORE) PETER C. SHEPARDSON	17.86 12.98				
	BONITO	(BOAT) GREG G. CLARK (SHORE) JOHN THURGOOD	12.34** 10.48				

Junior Division Winners

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1991 THRU 2021 • 2022 WINNERS ARE ON PAGE 31.

FALSE ALBACORE

1991	(BOAT) NICK WARBURTON	9.59
	(SHORE) TONY B. JACKSON	13.09*
1992	(BOAT) LEV WLODYKA	10.96
	(SHORE) MILES WHYTE	11.44
1993	(BOAT) NICK WARBURTON	9.59
	(SHORE) KEVIN LUDWIG	11.02
1994	(BOAT) LIAM BASSETT	8.68
	(SHORE) MILES WHYTE	9.66
1995	(BOAT) JARED FISHER	9.45
	(SHORE) ZACHARY C. HORROCKS	8.67
1996	(BOAT) WILLY CODDING	9.63
	(SHORE) ZACHARY C. HORROCKS	8.21
1997	(BOAT) JARED E. FISHER	9.44
	(SHORE) AMY V. BAYNES	9.79
1998	(BOAT) JOSHUA ALWARDT	6.78
	(SHORE) TREVOR WRIGHT	9.87
1999	(BOAT) CODY PACHICO	7.85
	(SHORE) BRIAN HACKETT	11.69
2000	(SHORE) ZACH SHEA	7.47
2001	(BOAT) LAUREN A. WILLISTON	8.18
2002	(BOAT) SARAH L. KADISON	9.10
	(SHORE) ANTONE T. SILVIA	9.10
2003	(BOAT) D. J. POTHIER	9.89
	(SHORE) CODY A. PACHICO	9.14
2004	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	11.25
	(SHORE) SCOTT CANAVAN	8.96
2005	(BOAT) SARAH L. KADISON	11.27
	(SHORE) ALEX M. POOLE	9.75
2006	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	9.48
	(SHORE) QUINT R. LONG	6.56
2007	(BOAT) JACOB S. WATERS-MACIEL	10.83
	(SHORE) CONOR J. SMITH	10.56
2008	(BOAT) NICK L. WATTS	9.99
	(SHORE) CURTIS J. FARRELL	7.81
2009	(BOAT) BRYAN CARTER	12.39*
	(SHORE) CURTIS J. FARRELL	10.96
2010	(BOAT) CAELAN K. WATTS	10.54
	(SHORE) TONY P. CANHA	12.37
2011	(BOAT) KATHERINE G. O'BRIEN	11.48
	(SHORE) JEREMEY P. MERCIER	9.80
2012	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	9.28
	(SHORE) HUNTER B. PONTE	7.93
2013	(BOAT) MICHAELA BENEFIT	9.96
	(SHORE) BENNETT J. MACDOUGALL	11.38

2014	(BOAT) BENNETT J. MACDOUGALL	11.01
	(SHORE) QUINN KEEFE	8.85
2015	(BOAT) EMMETT ATHEARN	9.36
	(SHORE) LEAH M. WAREING	8.77
2016	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	11.77
	(SHORE) WESTLEY L. WLODYKA	7.96
2017	(BOAT) TEGAN M. FENNER	12.00
	(SHORE) TY NOLON	9.41
2018	(SHORE) LINDSAY E. HILLEMEIR	8.31
	(BOAT) WESTLEY L. WLODYKA	10.40
2019	(SHORE) LINDSAY E. HILLEMEIR	7.92
	(BOAT) WESTLEY L. WLODYKA	12.96
2020	(BOAT) LATHROP J. KEENE	10.71
	(SHORE) AIDEN R. OLSEN	8.96
2021	BOAT: CUYLER G. FISHER	14.38
	SHORE: LATHROP J. KEENE	10.96

STRIPED BASS

1994	(BOAT) DERECK PETERSON	38.72
	(SHORE) WOLFIE BLAIR	36.59*
1995	(BOAT) JENNIFER JORDAN	35.95
	(SHORE) JOSHUA ALWARDT	27.63
1996	(BOAT) MICHAEL PACHICO	34.42
	(SHORE) RYAN PIERCE	27.98
1997	(BOAT) MICHAEL PACHICO	34.42
	(SHORE) CHRIS POLLEYS	35.22
1998	(BOAT) JOE HEGARTY	35.23
	(SHORE) TIM SAUER	29.98
1999	(BOAT) CODY T. CHANDLER	33.60
	(SHORE) JOSHUA ALWARDT	35.90
2000	(BOAT) CASEY ELLISTON	31.94
	(SHORE) ELI BONNELL	28.65
2001	(BOAT) BECCA L. WEBB	33.14
	(SHORE) TIM J. SAUER	27.04
2002	(BOAT) MAX CROCKETT	29.75
	(SHORE) EMILYANNE A. WILLISTON	35.34
2003	(BOAT) ANNIE C. FINNERTY	40.52
	(SHORE) LEAH H. PACHICO	36.08
2004	(BOAT) ASHLEIGH L. PLANTE	39.08
	(SHORE) WILLIAM B. STEWART	26.29
2005	(BOAT) MOLLY A. FISCHER	49.22*
	(SHORE) ANDREW JACKSON	25.81
2006	(BOAT) JUSTIN D. SMITH	32.69
	(SHORE) EMILYANNE A. WILLISTON	23.82
2007	(BOAT) DALE E. MCINTOSH, II	35.92
	(SHORE) WILLIAM B. STEWART	23.71

2008	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	40.98
	(SHORE) WILLIAM B. STEWART	23.11
2009	(BOAT) TYLER K. DUFRESNE	28.04
	(SHORE) BRANDON A. STEIGELMAN	17.88
2010	(BOAT) GIOVANNI M. PAONE	27.22
	(SHORE) MAGGIE A. MAYHEW	17.63
2011	(BOAT) LUKE EL-DEIRY	32.14
	(SHORE) CURTIS J. FOURNIER	20.29
2012	(BOAT) BRENDAN R. MORRIS	23.78
	(SHORE) MATTHEW T. BARBER	17.06
2013	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	27.57
	(SHORE) EMMA A. TOOMEY	21.20
2014	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	29.36
	(SHORE) MACOL OLIVEIRA	24.76
2015	(BOAT) BRENDAN R. MORRIS	26.50
	(SHORE) COLBY ZARBA	19.49
2016	(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	24.45
	(SHORE) RILEY CAMERON	16.16
2017	(BOAT) BROOKS B. CARROLL	23.72
	(SHORE) JAKE SCOTT	27.29
2018	(SHORE) LEAH M. WAREING	21.77
	(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	25.25
2019	(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	37.58

BONITO

1991	(BOAT) RYAN WELCH	7.45
	(SHORE) LEV WLODYKA	8.55*
1992	(BOAT) MORGAN CHILD	8.96
	(SHORE) GEOFFERY CODDING	8.24
1993	(BOAT) NICK WARBURTON	10.48*
	(SHORE) LEV WLODYKA	8.05
1994	(BOAT) MICHAEL BROCCOLLI	10.28
	(SHORE) BENJAMIN BARBEE	8.04
1995	(BOAT) TYRONE BARLOSKY	7.48
	(SHORE) TOM RAPONE	5.71
1996	(BOAT) TED BLACKANTON	6.72
1997	(BOAT) BRIAN POULIOT	8.55
1998	(BOAT) WOLFIE BLAIR	6.14
	(SHORE) CODY BREWER	5.86
1999	(BOAT) SAM BELL	6.83
	(SHORE) TIM SAUER	8.66
2000	(BOAT) CASEY ELLISTON	10.07
	(SHORE) TIM SAUER	4.58
2001	(BOAT) SPENCER A. SASS	6.83
2002	(BOAT) SARAH L. KADISON	5.86
2003	(BOAT) D. J. POTHIER	9.04

* JUNIOR RECORD

2004	(BOAT) KASSIDY R. BETTENCOURT	6.42	1993	(BOAT) LEV WLODYKA	16.17	2008	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	14.25
2005	(BOAT) ERIC K. RIEDEL	8.11	(SHORE) MILES WHYTE	11.44	(SHORE) CURTIS J. FARRELL	15.55*		
2006	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	6.96	1994	(BOAT) RYAN PIERCE	16.66	2009	(BOAT) ALEC B. COBBAN	12.66
2007	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	7.35	(SHORE) SHARON OH	10.07	(SHORE) JEFFREY S. CIMENO, JR.	10.55		
2008	(BOAT) SARAH J. WILLISTON	8.24	1995	(BOAT) RYAN PIERCE	17.54	2010	(BOAT) VICTORIA T. SCOTT	14.77
2009	(BOAT) WYATT A. JENKINSON	9.71	(SHORE) STEVEN COSTAS	15.13	(SHORE) JACK G. MURRAY	11.20		
(SHORE) EVANDRO MEDICI, JR.	4.45	1996	(BOAT) ROSS McDOWELL	14.19	2011	(BOAT) MICHAEL B. HABEKOST	13.57	
2010	(BOAT) GUS N. HOY	7.33	(SHORE) ELI J. BONNELL	13.66	(SHORE) BRENDAN R. MORRIS	11.33		
2011	(BOAT) WYATT A. JENKINSON	7.78	1997	(BOAT) CHRIS STEFANOS	14.41	2012	(BOAT) CHESCA POTTER	14.59
2012	(BOAT) CHRISTOPHER A. MAYHEW	8.32	(SHORE) TIM J. LUCE	12.37	(SHORE) MICHAEL J. GIBSON	11.27		
(SHORE) TOMMY WHITE	7.65	1998	(BOAT) MARC LEVESQUE	15.57	2013	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	12.60	
2013	(BOAT) ELIZABETH S. O'BRIEN	9.05	(SHORE) SHANA MONTESION	8.29	(SHORE) EMMA A. TOOMEY	14.18		
2014	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	9.17	1999	(BOAT) NIKOLAS PAPAISTRATIS	13.46	2014	(BOAT) BRENDAN R. MORRIS	13.51
2015	(BOAT) QUINN C. KEEFE	8.40	(SHORE) OLLIE BECKER	10.28	(SHORE) ABIGAIL E. O'CONNELL	9.37		
2016	(BOAT) ZAK POTTER	8.17	2000	(BOAT) TAYLOR PIERCE	19.05*	2015	(BOAT) VICTORIA T. SCOTT	15.36
2017	(BOAT) VOLKERT KLEEMAN	8.79	(SHORE) CODY BREWER	11.82	(SHORE) JACK A. O'CONNELL	10.11		
2018	(SHORE) ANTHONY HERN	3.94	2001	(BOAT) D. J. POTHIER	15.14	2016	(BOAT) SEAMUS P.MCKEON	15.45
(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	10.23	(SHORE) JACK C. STEPHENSON	5.51	(SHORE) RILEY CAMERON	11.83			
2019	(SHORE) SEAMUS P. MCKEON	4.01	2002	(BOAT) CODY J. BREWER	14.38	2017	(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	18.81
(BOAT) AUBREY WARBURTON	8.08	(SHORE) ASA P. BERNARD	10.56	(SHORE) JACK A. O'CONNELL	9.48			
2020	(SHORE) GREY W. GRAHAM	5.90	2003	(BOAT) LAUREN A. WILLISTON	13.60	2018	(SHORE) MAYA TOMKINS	5.94
(BOAT) ELIZABETH R. THOMPSON	11.68	(SHORE) MICHAEL E. ROBINSON	10.23	(BOAT) VOKERT KLEEMAN	15.49			
2021	BOAT: ELI BEFORD	10.4	2004	(BOAT) KASSIDY R. BETTENCOURT	12.72	2019	(SHORE) CUYLER G. FISHER	4.30
SHORE: LATHROP J. KEENE	5.0	(SHORE) LUCY BENEDETTO	9.77	(BOAT) AUBREY WARBURTON	20.19**			
		2005	(BOAT) JESSE L. THOMAS	11.82	2020	(SHORE) DYLAN WALDMAN.	13.03	
		(SHORE) MIA G. BENEDETTO	11.61	(BOAT) CHRISTIAN E. FISHER.	15.85			
		2006	(BOAT) EMILYANNE A. WILLISTON	13.12	2021	BOAT: PAIGE SMITH	17.71	
		(SHORE) CHRIS A. MORRIS	9.66	SHORE: JOHN CHO	15.02			
		2007	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	14.31				
		(SHORE) CHRIS MORRIS	11.70					

BLUEFISH

1991	(BOAT) RYAN PIERCE	16.24
(SHORE) FRANCIS FISHER	13.67	
1992	(BOAT) JOSEPH PETERS	16.17
(SHORE) GARRETT WOJTKIEWICZ	13.34	

* JUNIOR RECORD

Honoring Family and Friends by Supporting the Derby Scholarship Program

The true grand prizes in the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby are the scholarships that students receive to pursue higher education. In an effort to support this core mission the Derby established the 'Honoring Family and Friends' program. This program provides individuals, families, or groups with an opportunity to make contributions to the scholarship program in memory of individuals for whom the Derby was an important annual event.

The Derby Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the families and individuals who have made contributions to the Derby Scholarship program in memory of the following fisherman

- Edward J. Jerome
- Teddy and Sarah Howes
- Edward B. Self, Jr.
- Jared Fisher
- Francis "Sancy" Pachico
- Michael and Susan Wrabel
- Don Mohr
- Abe Williams
- Peter Johnson
- Peter C. Crabtree

To make this contribution to the Derby Scholarship, Honoring Family and Friends:

- Mail a check (\$100 minimum, payable to "MV Derby") to Chris Scott, Derby Treasurer, PO Box 2101, Edgartown, MA 02539 no later than June 1, 2024
- Include a note stating the name of the individual the contribution honors (please specify if it is in memoriam)

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Awards Ceremony 2022



Christian Fisher receives his award from Derby President John Custer



Will Elizabeth's key unlock the grand prize?



Thank you, 2022 Derby Participants!



Elizabeth O'Brien hugs family and Matthew Strem as she wins the boat



Cameron, Evelyn, Alexis LaVigne win the David Furino memorial award



John Custer, Phil Horton, Greg Hopkins (Eastern Boat Works), Elizabeth O'Brien



Derby Committee member Mike Cassidy with his "make a wish" photo album

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MAKE A WISH SALUTE

"Be careful what you wish for" became the motto of Finn Sears' first Derby experience. Back in 2007, when Samantha Cassidy, daughter of Debbie Grant and Mike Cassidy (a Derby Committee member) finished her treatment for lymphoma, the Make A Wish Foundation sent their entire family to Ireland for a week to meet Samantha's adopted donkey Timmy. Since then, the Cassidy/Grant family has looked for ways to give back, including the possibility of granting a Wish themselves.

A few years ago, Mike thought about offering a "fishing wish" as a Make A Wish gift. He mentioned his idea to the Committee and, naturally, the group was wholeheartedly on board. Last year, Mike mentioned it to Debbie; without hesitating, she responded, "Let's make this happen!" They placed a call and pitched their idea to the director of the Foundation. She immediately had a child in mind, one who had made a fishing wish. Covid and illness had delayed the wish several times. Mike went back to the Derby Committee, told them about the child who'd wished to catch fish, and the plan would soon become a reality.

Fifteen-year-old Finn Sears, who arrived on the Vineyard in 2022 with his mom Lauren and sister Hailie, had one wish — to "catch a big fish." According to Lauren, when Finn's Make a Wish story began in 2017, Finn was having Epileptic seizures 10 to 20 times per day. Although his quality of life had been diminished, his passion for fishing never wavered. At a Children's Hospital meeting with Finn's doctor and social worker, the idea of looking into Make a Wish was brought up. Lauren later filled out the paperwork, hoping that an opportunity to fulfill Finn's wish would be granted.

In 2018, it was decided Finn would have brain surgery with the hope his seizure activity would be reduced. After his surgery and the strokes that occurred during it, Finn lost the use of his left arm and leg; his doctors were not sure he would ever walk again or have use of his hand. Nevertheless, his passion for fishing persevered, and his

acceptance into the Make a Wish program was granted.

Finn met with coordinators, and a plan to have him travel to Florida to wet a line and meet Guy Harvey, of whom Finn is a big fan, started to come together. Sadly, Covid reared its ugly head, forcing the group to begin looking for options closer to home. Finn kept persevering with PT and OT, learning to walk again. Although still afflicted with seizures and limited mobility, he continued to fish any chance he got in ponds or local harbors.

Finally, in 2022 the Sears family got a call about a potential opportunity for Finn to fish on the Vineyard. Without hesitation, Lauren jumped at the opportunity. Finn's dream of catching a "big" fish was quickly organized by the team at Make a Wish and Mike. As a result of their quick coordination, the Sears family arrived in the Vineyard and were immersed in the Derby community. Mike, Debbie, and a generous team of community members including Joe and Beka El-Deiry, Cooper Gilkes and Jake Waters-Maciell at Coop's Bait and Tackle, Chris Fotta, Shep and Ian Murray at Vineyard Vines, the folks at the HarborView Hotel and many more, Finn's wish was answered.

According to Mike, "The kid was in fish heaven." Joe added, "I have taken a lot of kids out in the past, but I've got to say Finn was the most enthusiastic fisher person I've ever had. He was laser-focused, watching both rods nonstop." Finn reeled in a beautiful Bonito which landed him a second-place daily spot. He now had a silver pin to proudly affix to his Derby hat.

Although Finn's passion for fishing goes back to when he was six or seven, he'd never caught a really big one. Taking that as a challenge, along with the group guided by Coop



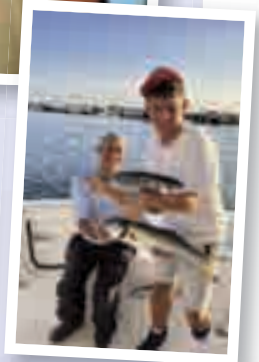
Finn Sears with his Derby family making dreams come true.



and Jake, the Sears family made their way to Chappaquiddick in search of shark. After 45 minutes and with blistered, bloody hands, Finn reeled in a monumental 165-pound brown shark. This was the moment that Mike said to Finn, "be careful what you wish for." As Finn and his family exchanged goodbyes and thank yous, Debbie told Finn, "The wish turned out to be not just for you. It was for all of us too."

Finn continues to wish for big fish. The Cassidy/Grant family hopes to help him fulfill that wish once again at the 78th annual Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. Keep casting, wishing, hoping, and reeling!

— Mike Cassidy, Debbie Grant,
Katie Carroll



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Tribute to Walter Lison

A Fisherman's Fisherman Written by Ron Domurat

The Derby and the Island fishing community lost one of the last old school anglers when Walter Lison passed away in late December 2022. He was 93.

Walter was born and raised in New York City but he and his beloved wife Jane and daughters Barbara and Karen vacationed on the Island for years and like many of us had fallen in love with Martha's Vineyard.

Finally, in 1992 after a long and successful career in the tough New York City garment district, Walter and Jane retired to their dream home in Katama.

Walter was unassuming and a bit on the quiet side but possessed a dry wit, a wry smile and had a great sense of humor. He was intelligent, handy, and loved to tinker around the house and his well equipped workshop. He loved everything about the outdoors. He owned a camouflaged duck boat and carved and painted his own decoys. He was a complete outdoorsman but his real passion was fishing of any kind and he was at home on the banks of a trout pond, peering through a hole in the ice, or drifting on the ocean. His favorite was standing in waders at the edge of the surf, with an eleven foot surf rod in his hands and before retiring to the Vineyard, cut his teeth casting for striped bass and bluefish from the rocks of Montauk Point and the beaches of Long Island. He was a master rod builder. He tied his own flies and made his own bucktail jigs and fluke rigs. He was meticulous about maintaining his tackle and during slow fishing periods on the beach, could often be seen polishing one of his favorite lures, a block tin squid, with steel wool. But it wasn't just any block tin squid, it had to be a Charlie Pasqualle block tin squid with a feathered 9/0 Siwash hook. He also helped design and develop the now famous Van Staal spinning reel and along with Rob Koelewyn brought it into production. The Lison family is in proud possession of a Van Staal prototype reel, test



number 5.

He was a former member of the Derby committee and an active member of the Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association (MVSA) where he served as Vice President and chairman of the prize committee for their annual fundraising raffle. He was also a co-founder and charter member of the MVSA's volunteer

Courtesy Patrol and often assisted in helping stuck vehicles out of the sand and answering questions from the many 'Pilgrims' he encountered. He annually participated in beach clean-ups and spent many hours constructing and installing line recycling boxes at popular fishing locations throughout the island. He also played a pivotal role in the transition of the management of Norton Point from Dukes County to The Trustees of Reservations.

Walter was a recognizable part of the surf fishing community on Chappaquiddick and easily recognized by his emerald green Isuzu Trooper with magnetic MVSA Courtesy Patrol signs on the doors. He was most often found in the company of the late Don Mohr who was a former Derby Chairman and Hall of Fame member, the late Gordon Ditchfield who was also a Derby Committee member and former treasurer, and the late Marsh Bryan. The group was dubbed 'The Viagra Fishing Team'. Once the school bass and bluefish arrived in the spring, the foursome spent almost every morning on the lookout for bluefish traveling from Wasque to the Cape Pogue Gut, with stops along the way at Lelands, the Snow Fence, Dike Bridge, Arruda Point, Shear Pen Pond, the Jetties, the Cape Pogue Lighthouse, North Hole, the Elbow and the Windmill House. The four communicated by means of Citizens Band (CB) radios and had secret (?) numerical codes for each of their spots. Walter's CB 'handle' was Sea Urchin

as was the name of his 20' center console. During a bluefish blitz at Wasque one year, Walter landed a 10.5 lb pound Atlantic Salmon that he quickly threw in his cooler. We found out later that the Salmon was on the endangered species list and illegal to keep. Walter said it was delicious!

He was old school secretive. When the fishing is slow on Chappy, heads are often swiveling around looking for signs of fish like birds working over bait, or breaking bluefish. Many times, when breaking fish or 'slicks' were sighted, someone in their group would instinctively point a finger in the direction of the fish. Walter hated that and would quickly scold them with a stern "don't point" warning after which the four would quietly slip away from the crowd and chase down the sighting. Early one morning when I was just getting to know him, I ran into Walter and Rob Koelewyn bottom fishing with cut bait right in front of the parking lot at Squibnocket. I suited up and grabbed my rod and as I was walking past asked how they were doing. Walter replied "not too good" and I continued on my way. But when I looked back a few minutes later, I could see them pulling what appeared to be about a forty pound striper from between the rocks.

In 1998 one of my best fishing trips ever was spent with Walter Lison at the Edgartown Pond opening. We arrived at the opening at first light and surprisingly had the place to ourselves. On



our first casts we immediately doubled up on twin 15lb stripers. Almost every cast produced a fish that size or bigger and the action continued for close to an hour and a half. As the sun rose in the east, the best part of the whole thing was seeing the fish in the waves and watching them attack our Danny plugs. There was a series of waves breaking over the newly formed sandbar and every wave held rows of fish across its entire width and from the top to the bottom. We figured later there had to be at least a thousand fish in the area. I described it this way in my log book. "An army of 15 to 20 lb stripers moving through. Row upon row of soldiers in striped suits swimming over the bar stacked up for almost a hundred yards in a series of merged waves. Each wave was a picture frame with a painting of striped bass, highlighted by the rising sun." It was a surf caster's dream that neither of us had ever experienced and in the twenty five years since, I have never experienced anything like it again.

Expecting a repeat the next morning, we went back with our friend Don Mohr and shortly after arriving Cooper Gilkes drove up with piscatorial photographer Sam Talarico. Coop and I waded out to each side of the drop-off at the end of the bar and started fishing while Walter and Don stayed close to the outflow near the beach. Talarico set up his tripod high on the cliffed beach. But conditions had changed. The wind was from a different direction and the beautiful breaking waves that had been there the day before were almost gone. Don caught a nice fish on his first cast but not another fish was caught and Sam Talarico never got the prized shot he was looking for.

I've never forgotten that trip and I'll always remember Water Lison. He was a fisherman's fisherman and one of the very last of a disappearing breed!



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The 2022 Derby: A Good Year for Bluefish, Shore Bonito, and Triple Crowns

Synopsis by Phil Horton, Derby Chairman

2022 Derby registration (3,131) almost matched 2021 registration (3,146).

28% more fish were weighed in 2022 (1,960) compared to 2021 (1,529).

The 2022 weigh-in total was 38% less than the time series high of 3,146 weighed in during the 2004 Derby. Note the total weigh-in number is not adjusted for striped bass, which were removed twice from the Derby, most recently in 2020.

Landings of all three eligible species were up year over year. Both bluefish and bonito landing showed moderate increases, while false albacore landings increased significantly in 2022 compared to 2021.

The following synopsis and accompanying figure show how Derby participants fared in 2022 when compared to the previous 34 years.

Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*):

From 1990 to 1996, bluefish landings declined from a 34-year high of 1,700 fish to a low of 665 fish. For the next decade (1997 to 2008), Derby bluefish landings slowly rebounded to levels comparable to those in the late 1980's. Between 2008 and 2019 bluefish landings declined steadily year over year, until a rebound in 2020 - which continued thru 2021 and 2022. Bluefish landings increased by 23% in 2022 (1272) - as compared to 2021 (1032). Even with the increase 2022 landings were 12% lower than the 14-year high watermark of 2008 (1,438). Boat landings increased from 714 in 2021 to 768 in 2022 and shore landings increased from 318 to 504. On average, shore fishermen have accounted for 30% of the annual bluefish landings over the last 34 years. In 2022 shore fisherman weighed 40% of the bluefish catch, above the average. The average weight of bluefish from 1987-1997 was approximately 10 lbs., and dropped to approximately 8 lbs. from 1998-2008. The average weight has increased to 8.5 lbs. since 2008. It was 10.7 lbs. in 2022. Daily landings indicate that bluefish were available throughout the event.



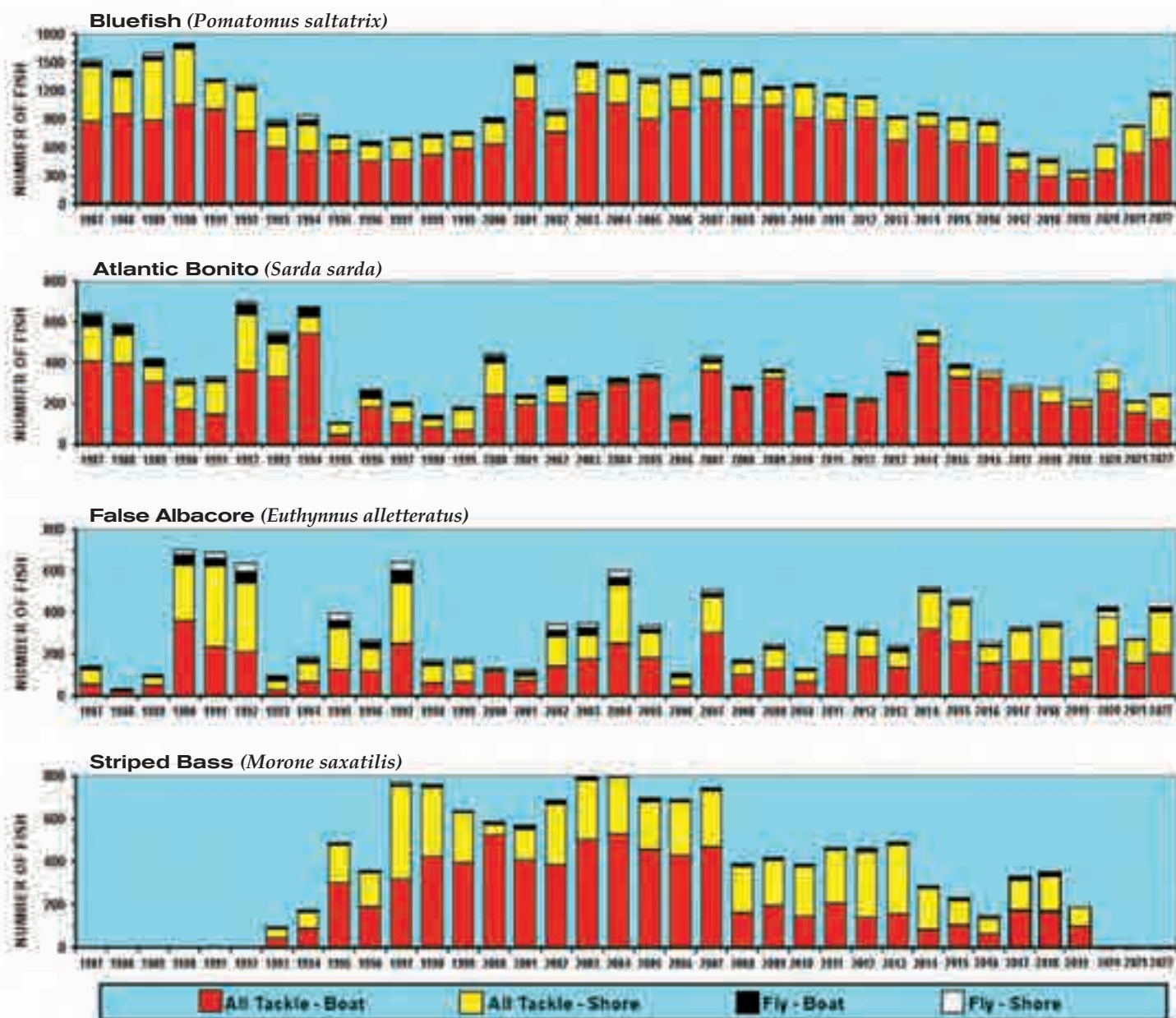
Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*):

Striped bass were eliminated from the Derby prize structure for conservation reasons in 2020.

Atlantic Bonito (*Sarda sarda*):

Over the last 34 years, bonito landings have fluctuated between 110 and 696 fish annually. Prior to 1995, the average number of bonito weighed annually was on the high end of the range (528 fish) which can be partially attributed to more effort being directed at bonito because striped bass was excluded from the Derby. Since 2000, the annual average has dropped to 296 fish largely due to the conspicuous absence of shore fish. In 2022 241 bonito were landed, a 26% increase compared to 2021 when 191 fish were weighed in. Boat landings decreased from 165 in 2021 to 126 in 2022 while shore landings increased dramatically from 26 in 2021 to 115 in 2022. Since 2000 shore fishermen account for only 13% of the bonito landings. 2022 shore landings came in significantly above average at 48% of the total catch. There has been significant variability in the number of shore bonito weighted in over the past 21 years - from as few as 1 to as many as 115. Despite a big shore bonito year in 2022, boat anglers have a significant advantage in the hunt for 'bones'.

The average weight of bonito has been ranged between 4.9-6.9 lbs. since 1995. The average weight of bonito landed in 2022 was 5.3 lbs. The availability of bonito to participants over the course of the five-week event has fluctuated dramatically from year to year. In 2003, 2005, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2016, 2021, and 2022 bonito catches were sporadic with pulses of fish taken throughout the Derby. In 2008, 50% of the bonito were taken during the last 10 days of the event. In 2001, 2002, 2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, and 2017-2020 the bulk was landed during the month of September.



False Albacore (*Euthynnus alletteratus*):

Trends in false albacore landings are difficult to interpret and should be viewed with caution due to rule changes designed to reduce weigh-ins. Since 1995 daily prizes have not been awarded for false albacore, thereby reducing the incentive to weigh in fish. In 1998, the minimum length of 25 inches was established, which further reduced false albacore landings in subsequent years. In 2005, the Derby Committee made efforts to further reduce landings by imposing a Derby bag limit of three fish. Despite these restrictions, some information can be derived from the landings data. In 2000 and 2001, this species was not available to shore fisher-

men, but this changed dramatically in subsequent years as both shore and boat fishermen were equally successful. Landings have fluctuated dramatically since 2006, ranging from 131 (2010) to 520 (2014). In 2022 447 false albacore were weighed by Derby fishermen, representing a 47% increase from 2021 (306). The shore/boat split was very close to 50/50 in 2022. 126 false albacore were weighed in from boat and 115 were weighed in from shore. Between 2003 and 2019, the average weight of false albacore has fluctuated between 7.9-9.5 lbs. In 2022, the average weight was 8.8 lbs. A higher percentage of false albacore weighed in 2022 were landed in September, but this may not reflect availability due to the three fish bag limit. 🐟



FEATURING:

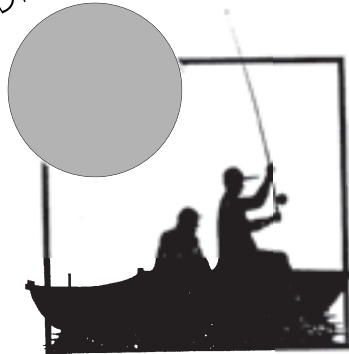
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“Reserved for Jim”

Just like the sign on the chair in the parking area at Lobsterville marked a special spot for our gone but not forgotten Derby brother, this spot in the booklet is also reserved for Jim.

If you had to sum up a persons MV Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby experience in a bumper stick to affix to Jim Wareing’s second generation Dodge truck with Cummins diesel (envision something along the lines of a Sherman tank), it would read, “He was always positive, always helpful with less experienced anglers, sometimes a prankster, always a pleasure to talk to on the beach and always looking to make his friends and especially his daughter Leah’s Derby moments memorable, laughable and enjoyable ones.” Yes, this would take up the entire bumper, but Jim was one of those guys who simply can’t be summed up in a catchy three word phrase.

Jim loved the Vineyard and the Derby- he was a walking Derby almanac- almost as much as he loved Leah. He would call his core group of Derby buddies months in advance to coordinate schedules and supplies. He would get school-boy giddy with anticipation and play childish pranks on his friends just to make each Derby adventure a memorable one. This allowed the group to say, “Remember that Derby when Jim turned a baby photo of Jared into stickers and temporary tattoos?”

On October 2, 2022, the news of the sudden passing of this long time Derby shore angler moved quickly throughout the community. Jim cast a wide net managing to pull folks into his Derby family through a common desire to fish, be one with the land and sea and laugh over practical jokes. His positive attitude and love for friendly conversation begun with a handshake, earned him the nickname “the Mayor.” He fished passionately with a smile on his face from sunup to sundown, alongside old friends and new, from the time he arrived on the island right up to the ringing of the closing bell. The multiple awards he’d pocketed over the years

were secondary to receiving the 2015 Surfcasters Sportsmanship Award.

In the core of many stories told, there was Jim, so it only seems fitting that his tribute include a compilation of thoughts, anecdotes, quotes and memories brought together on to this page. Please enjoy some highlights:

“Jim became our personal chef. He enjoyed keeping us fed and hydrated so we could catch fish because that’s what brought him joy, putting a smile on everyone else’s face. It was all about hot food on chilly days. Jim made the most delicious Beefaroni one could ever have.”

“Being there when Leah hooked up on her first, and prize winning, Albie and watching him patiently guide her on what to do.”

“With his drag singing loudly audible across the North Shore, Jim still insisted the fish he had on was small so I swam out to the rock he was on and saw a huge bass circling me. I helped him land it. That night, when we couldn’t find Jim, we searched and found him sitting in the ice bath with his fish. He didn’t want it to dry out and lose weight overnight. We still don’t know why he sat in the tub with it but it is the Derby and people do some weird things. That’s the year Jim took third overall in shore Bass and won the Grand Slam.”

“Jim brought many folks together with his egg sandwiches. His sandwiches weren’t pretty and we all agree his face was prettier, but they were both memorable. Neither his face nor his egg sammies will be forgotten.”

“Leah set into an Albie with a



Jim Wareing at “home” at Lobsterville

hook set that I’ll never forget. Tony went into coach mode and I started screaming for Jim like an excited school girl. He looked up from his GoPro and saw Leah was on. He started a full sprint back to us. The GoPro still running, pliers bouncing in and out of the shot clipped to his waist. Leah took first place Junior Shore Albie with that one. We started joking with him and telling him to go away so Leah could catch a big fish. This proved true again a couple years later when we got into one of the most epic Bass fishing nights I have ever had- every cast for an entire tide. Leah was leaning into small fish after small fish with Jim by her side and then, boom, a Bass that put her back on stage. Jim was grinning ear to ear as she was completely self-sufficient and hammering.”

“A great memory is of the time we

all went to the Canal in the middle of the night 'cause the bite was so good. It was one of those nights when it didn't matter what you threw the fish were chewin'. So I set Leah up with a rigged eel and told her to hold on. That night she landed a fish over 35 pounds and Jim was ecstatic."

"Jim truly was one of the kindest people I have ever met in my life, especially in the fishing community. He helped me land my first Albie, which is a moment I think about every time I think of fishing or am by the water."

"There was a day when Jim, Jared and Rick were fishing inside the bowl. Jim was casting nonstop and had Bones blowing up on his Maria jig. He yelled, 'BONES ON MY PLUG!' Jared casted his fly and hooked up on a weighable Bonito. Rick, not to be out done, kept casting and hooked up on an Albie. Jim made his way down the beach to me and said, 'They both got weighables... those friggin' guys, I love it!'"

"I was up until about 2 am in 'The Fisherman's lot' with Jim and Rich. We stared at the stars for hours and shared stories of fishing and life. To this day it is my most memorable moment on the Vineyard."

"Not knowing his last words to me were 'That Blue isn't gonna win the Derby. Get back down there and catch the winner.'"

In day to day life, Jim wasn't just a character, he was the most sincere and dedicated individual who embraced late night talks and unwavering dedication to the well-being of his family and friends. When it came to the Derby, it didn't matter if he was catching fish or not. He simply wanted everyone to love fishing and even more so the island. For Jim, the true meaning of the Derby was to make lifelong friends with whom memories were shared, every moment was cherished and nothing was taken for granted. He was a success.

Although there is now an empty



Jim and Leah Waring

seat at the Derby dinner table, the stories and strategies talked out over tide charts and an explosive pile of tackle will now include stories of Jim. His presence will be felt with each bite of food, each time lines are tugged and, of course, each time someone slips into the water trying to land a big one.

- Written by Jared Stobie/
Tony D'Agostino/Katie Carroll

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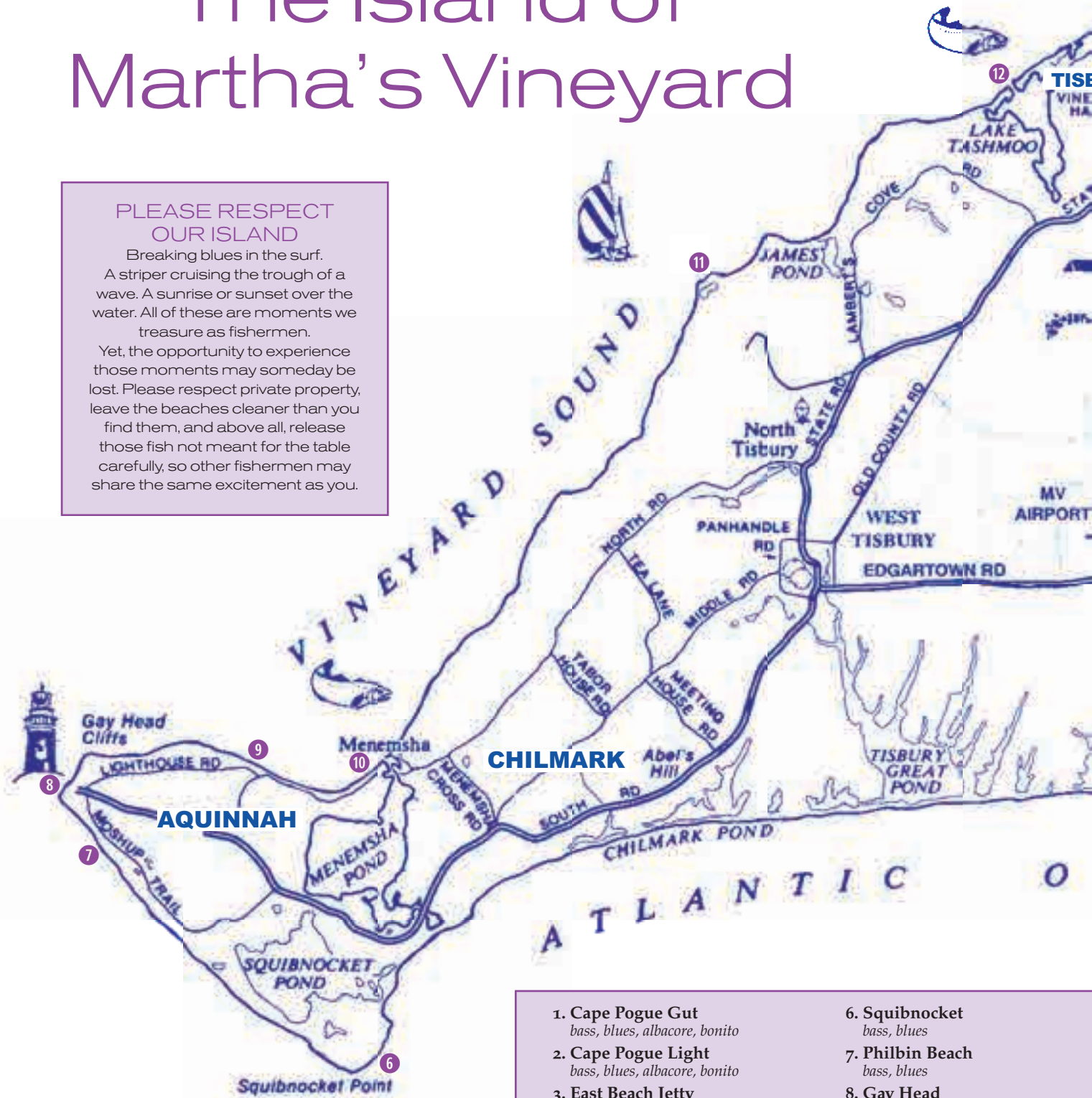
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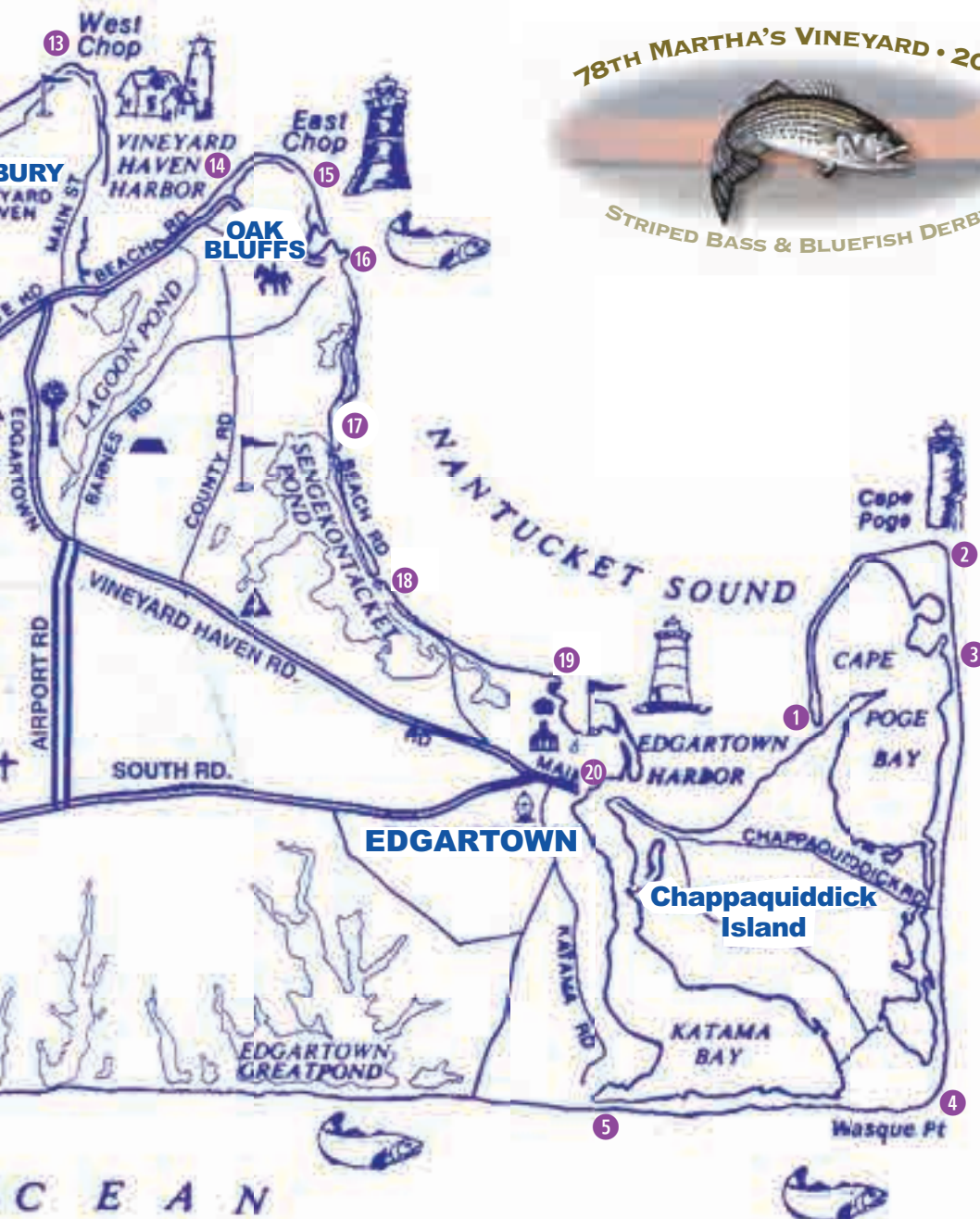
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Breaking blues in the surf. A striper cruising the trough of a wave. A sunrise or sunset over the water. All of these are moments we treasure as fishermen. Yet, the opportunity to experience those moments may someday be lost. Please respect private property, leave the beaches cleaner than you find them, and above all, release those fish not meant for the table carefully, so other fishermen may share the same excitement as you.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Cape Pogue Gut
<i>bass, blues, albacore, bonito</i> | 6. Squibnocket
<i>bass, blues</i> |
| 2. Cape Pogue Light
<i>bass, blues, albacore, bonito</i> | 7. Philbin Beach
<i>bass, blues</i> |
| 3. East Beach Jetty
<i>bass, blues, albacore, bonito</i> | 8. Gay Head
<i>bass, blues</i> |
| 4. Wasque Point
<i>bass, blues and anything else</i> | 9. Lobsterville Beach
<i>bass, blues, albacore, bonito</i> |
| 5. South Beach
<i>bass, blues</i> | 10. Menemsha Jetties
<i>bass, blues, albacore, bonito</i> |

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BLUEFISH are an aggressive fish, considered among the toughest battlers, pound for pound, among saltwater species. Their sharp teeth require the use of pliers when removing hooks. Often under-appreciated for table fare, fresh bluefish, if iced and properly cared for, is delicious. Consistently, bluefish account for the greatest number of Derby weigh-ins. Exciting to catch on topwater lures, the Massachusetts bag limit is 3 fish per angler, per day.



BONITO, highly valued for its appetizing fillets, are strong, fast fish. They have keen eyesight and are thrilling to catch on light tackle. A member of the tuna family, bonito attract anglers ripe for a challenge. Catches from shore have become more rare in recent years. It is not uncommon for the heaviest bonito to show late in the Derby, as evidenced by several winning fish caught on the final day.



FALSE ALBACORE attract a cult-like following, including many flyfisherman. Incredibly fast and powerful, albies offer an unmatched fight for anglers. Also called "Little Tunny", these fish feature beautiful colors and markings. The arrival of false albacore ushers in an annual frenzy of fisherman, eager to pursue this popular species. There is a Derby limit of three fish per badge.



STRIPED BASS are an historic part of the Derby tradition. The species has been suspended from the Derby this year as a conservation measure. The hope is to return stripers to the Derby when stocks are healthy. Massachusetts regulations allow anglers to possess one fish per day, between 28" and 31" in length.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 11. Cedar Tree Neck
<i>bass, blues</i> | 16. Oak Bluffs SSA Wharf
<i>bonito</i> |
| 12. Tashmoo Opening
<i>bass, blues</i> | 17. Little Bridge
<i>bass, blues</i> |
| 13. West Chop
<i>bass, blues</i> | 18. Big Bridge
<i>bass, blues</i> |
| 14. Vineyard Haven Jetty
<i>bass, blues</i> | 19. Edgartown Light
<i>bass, blues, albacore, bonito</i> |
| 15. East Chop
<i>bass, blues</i> | 20. Edgartown Dock
<i>albacore, bonito</i> |



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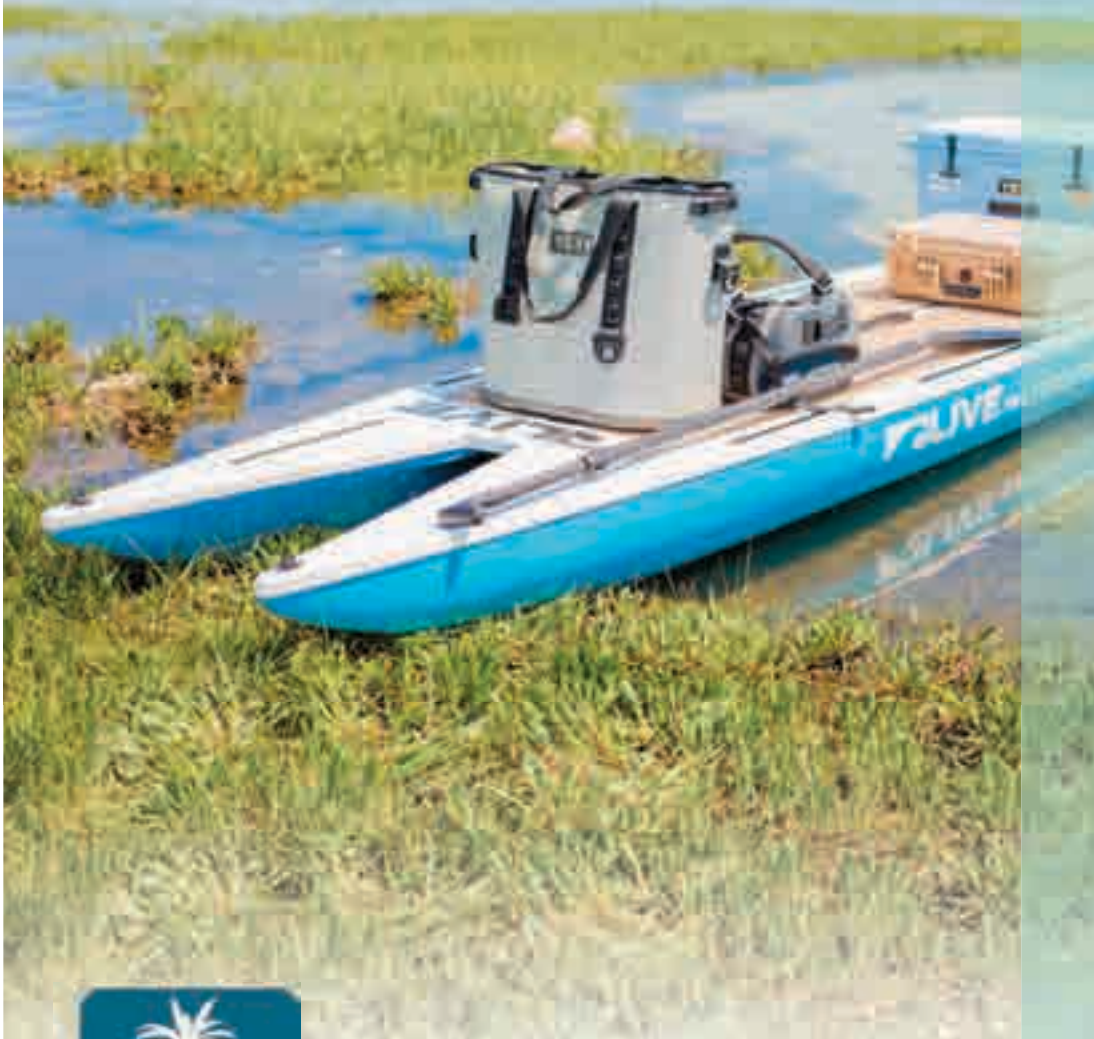
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TRIBUTE TO PETER CRABTREE

Written By Terry, Cindy and Zac Horrocks

I met a young angler one evening while fishing the beach. I was catching lots of stripers, he was not. He had the wrong fly. The time came for me to head home to rejoin my family. So, I nipped the successful fly off my line, gave it to him and, in parting, wished

him good fishing. I stopped at a fly shop the next day and, by chance, he was there. He greeted me like a long lost friend recounting all the stripers, his first on a fly, he had caught the previous evening with that single fly. It had definitely changed his luck and catching all those fish surely put a big smile on his face. Meeting Peter Crabtree that evening, it turns out, also changed both our lives as a new friendship began that grew and matured over the ensuing 30+ years.

Like many Islanders and Derby participants, Pete was a highly competent and avid fisherman. He fished the Derby with us every year, last year winning a coveted "key" for catching the largest bonito. I guess it was his lucky Derby as he also won just about every raffle item, it seemed, at the final Derby party and awards ceremony.

Having a very even and easy to be around personality, with never a harsh word for anyone, Pete was multi-faceted. As a conservationist, he thought-up, organized, and with the help of a couple of friends, staged the Ipswich Bay Fly Fishing Derby. It was fashioned somewhat



Peter D. Crabtree

Pete was a highly competent and avid fisherman.

after the Vineyard Derby. Entry fees were charged, prizes donated and a silent auction further increased the take with all proceeds going toward coastal conservation measures around his home waters of Cape Ann. It was a big hit for many years.

Pete had been traveling with us on holiday fishing trips for nearly 30 years and had truly become a part of our family. We all loved him dearly, though each in a slightly different way. His passing was sudden and unexpected. Our family was shocked, devastated, and hugely saddened when we received the news. He was in each of our thoughts constantly in the days and weeks that followed. Although deeply saddened, we could not help but remember all of the laughs, fun and great times that always seemed to accompany Pete, often centered on fishing. It was always more fun when Pete was with us. So we say farewell, but not good-bye, to a dear friend whom we know will be fishing with us for the rest of our days.



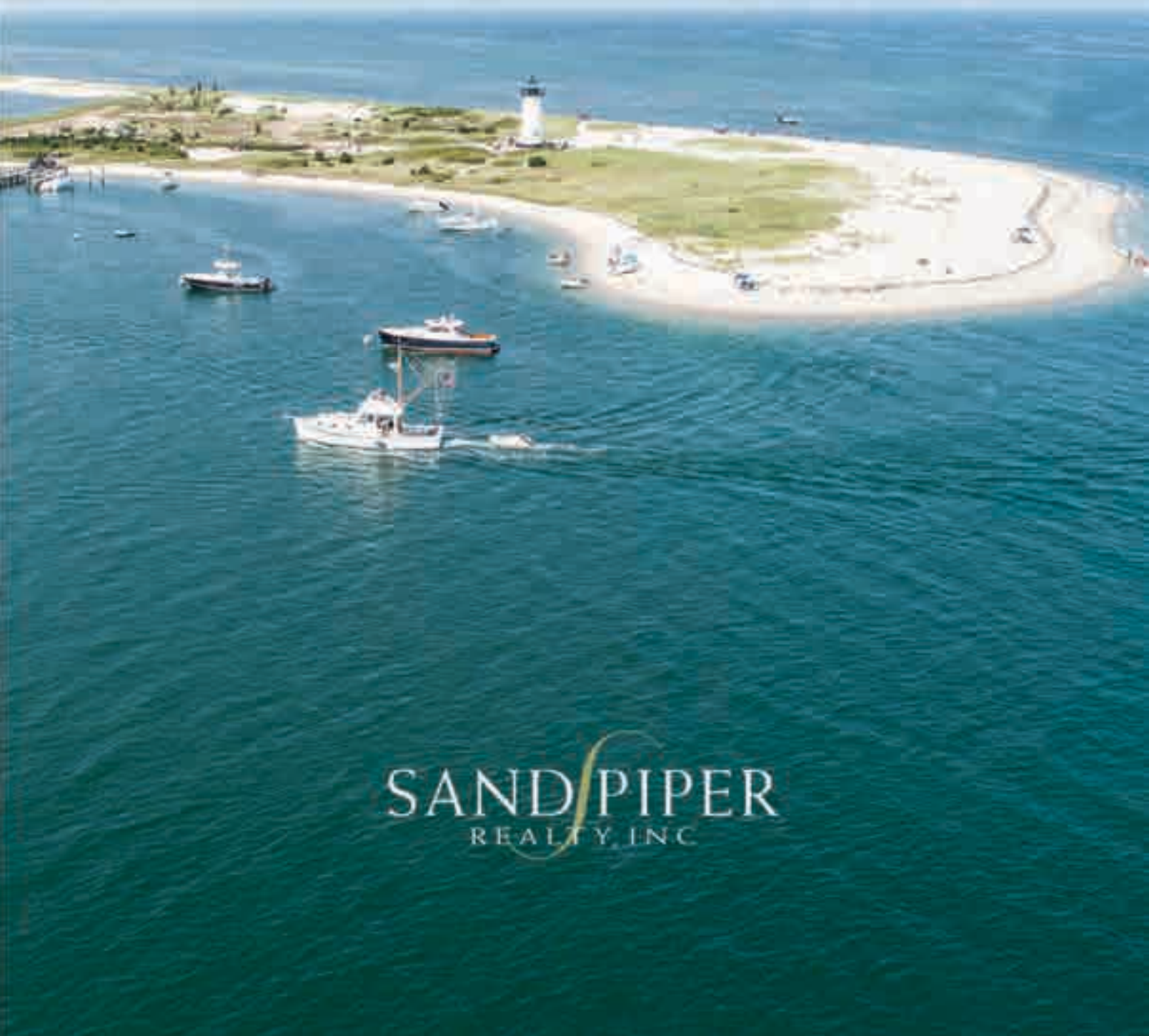
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RON DOMURAT

2022 Spirit of the Derby winning photo



PAMELA HOLDEN

Emery Holden, age 8, and her Week 1 winning 14.67lb boat bluefish!



SCOTT BRITNEY

Jack Creighton caught red handed with a False Albacore



SHAWN EMIN

Owen Ermin's first ever albie!



ANDREW ROBERTSON

Melissa Robertson crushed the Bluefish at Wasque



ALISON-MCNEES

Jason McNees' third albie of the day!



BRENDA GEROSA-BEAL

Bob Beal beached another big bluefish!



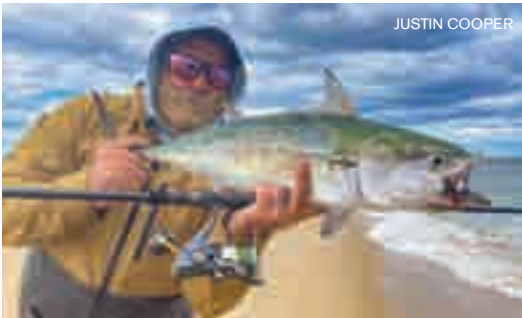
RON DOMURAT

Sunset Bliss, oh, I mean Blitz



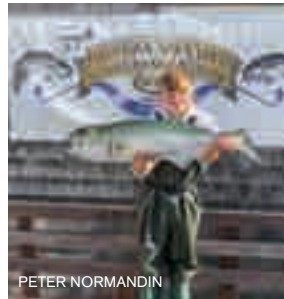
SCOTT-BRITNEY

Joe Holey, Bill Moody, Bob Dunn and Jack Creighton had a heck of a morning!



JUSTIN COOPER

Luis Tirado, from Maine, with a bad case of Albie Fever



PETER NORMANDIN

Mason Normandin with another nice bluefish!



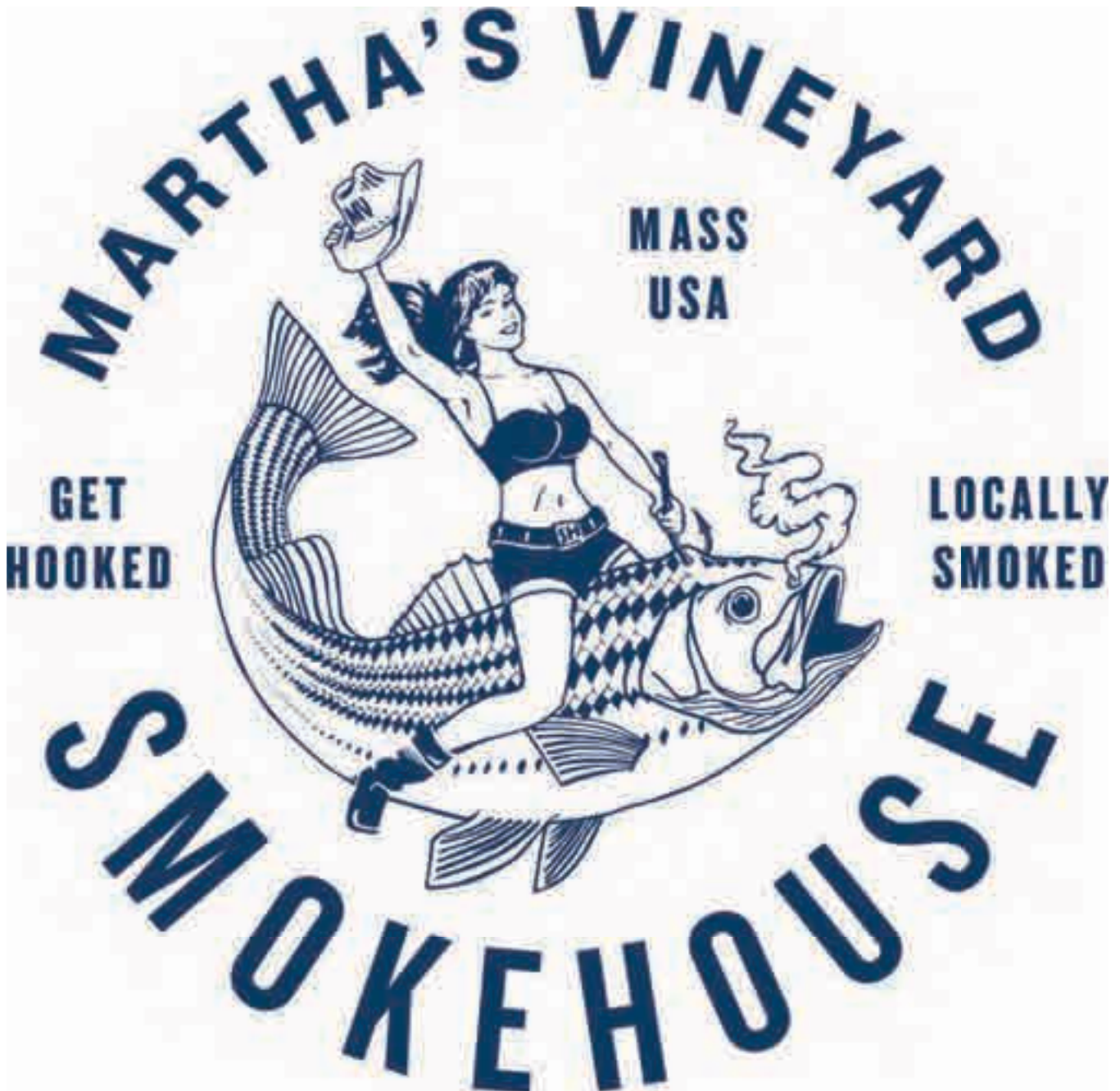
SCOTT-BRITNEY

Joe Holey lands a nice false abacore early in the Derby



WENDY PAQUETTE

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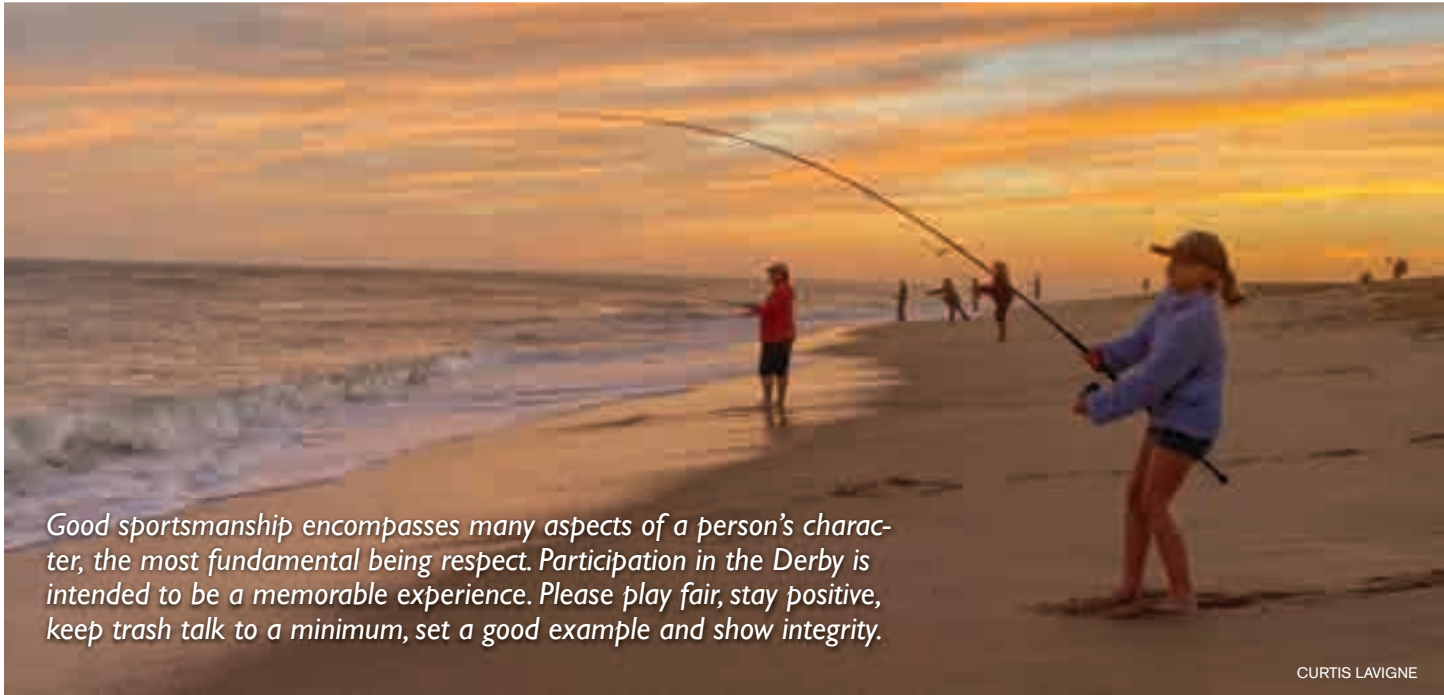

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MAGIC MOMENTS

Throughout the Booklet we'll show you many "Magic Moments" from the 2022 Derby — some are identified, others . . . well, speak for themselves. Enjoy, and send us your "Magic Moments" from this year's 2023 Derby.



Good sportsmanship encompasses many aspects of a person's character, the most fundamental being respect. Participation in the Derby is intended to be a memorable experience. Please play fair, stay positive, keep trash talk to a minimum, set a good example and show integrity.

CURTIS LAVIGNE

The sunset bite was on!



BILL CUNNINGHAM

Patrick, baby Blythe, and Amy Leibach pose for the "family weigh-in" photo



AARON KINNE

Nora Kinne with her first weighable Derby fish and it is a Bonito!



CARL TREYZ

A rock pile release by Doug Treyz



CURTIS LAVIGNE

The LaVigne sisters celebrate their weigh-ins



BILL MCMICHAEL

There were some big boat albies out there

KATIE CAROLL



Aiden Olsen and Lathrop Keene proudly display their catch

BOB BOTTARY



Peter Sliwkowski with his personal best Chappy bluefish



CARL TREYZ

Crit Perreten, voted "best dressed on the beach", admires his albie



CHRIS SCOTT

David Kadison took the early lead with his 18lb+ monster bluefish



CURTIS LAVIGNE

Cameron LaVigne and her father Curtis both weigh in nice fish



BOB PISTORINO

2022 Shore Bluefish Winner Peter Hess and his Crew

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MAGIC MOMENTS



JOHN PIEKOS

Wildman and his son Nate Gardner show off the day's catch, along with Jonathan Herman



JASON PATTERSON

Chantelle Patterson's hands are full with a big boat blue



JOHN PIEKOS

Colin Townes weighs in his 30'+ bluefish



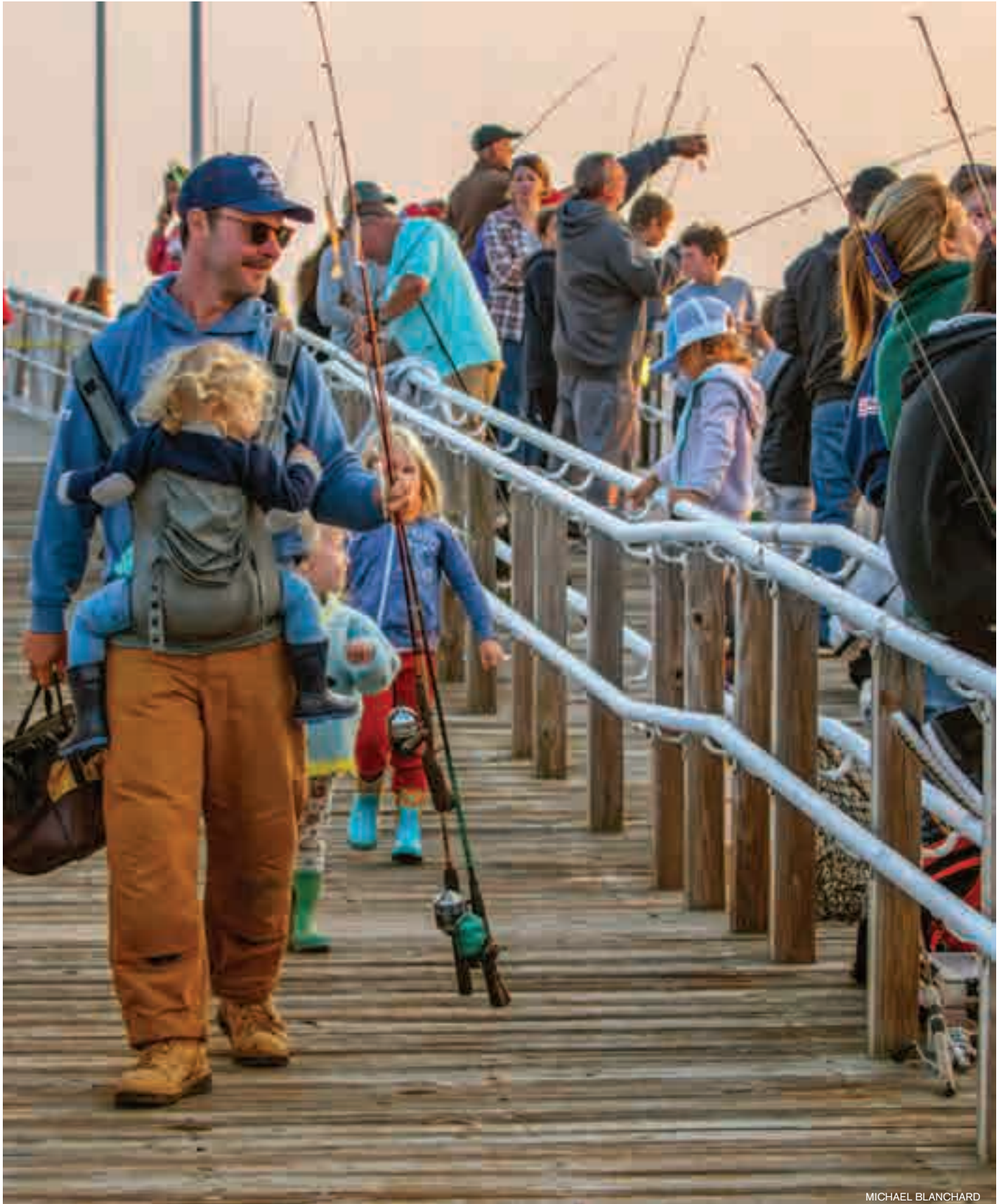
DAVE BALON

A nice bluefish for surfcaster Lisa Belcastro



DAVE BALON

Mark Wrabel and "The White Whale" beachbuggy catch a dawn bite



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THROWBACK



The 38th annual Derby committee:

Front row left to right, Chairman Ed Jerome, Ed BenDavid, Ed Meteiros, Helen Scarborough, Carol Koss; Middle row, David Smith, Jules BenDavid, Sam Rucio, Arthur Winters, Alan Schocken, Gordon Dechfield, Bob Brown, Everett "Porky" Francis; Back row, Cooper Giles III, Bruce Pratt, Ralph Case, Arnold Spafford, Charlie Davis, Clyde Omar, Dan Purdy. Not present when the picture was taken: David Gazella, Laura Weigle and John Broderick, the Executive Director.



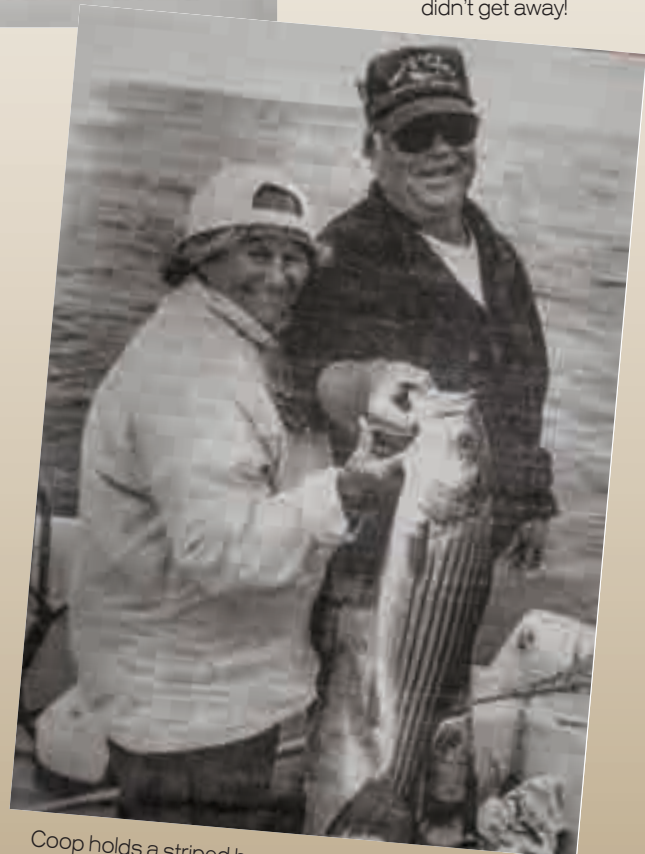
Derby prize winner Stanley Popowitz exults.



Chris Scott and the one that didn't get away!



Don Mohr, a former derby chairman, casts an artificial lure with artificial joints.



Coop holds a striped bass caught by Derby fisherman Olga Hirshhorn prior to releasing it.

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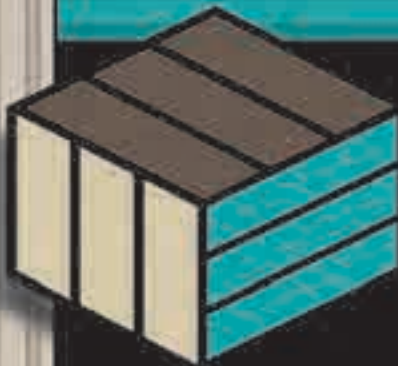
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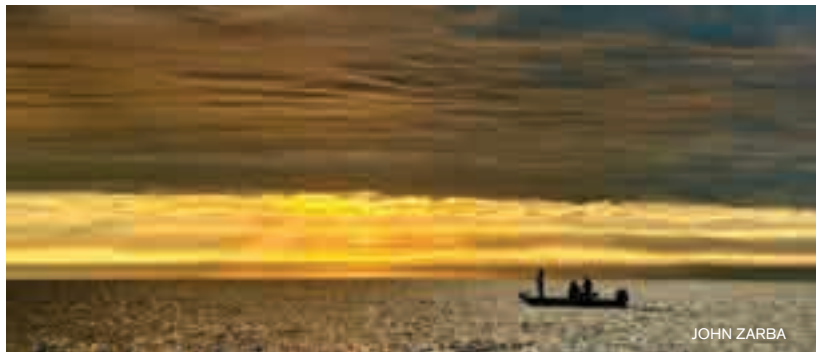


MAGIC MOMENTS



KATIE CAROLL

Menemsha Sunset.



JOHN ZARBA

Beautiful sunrise on the water.



CARL TREYZ

The Rock Pile Crew.



JOHN-PIEKOS

Tracy Morgan with her first ever false albacore.



STEVE BACCELLI

The weigh-in we love to see!



JOHN ZARBA

John and Sue Zarba landed some nice blues.



DOUG TREYZ

Dr. Carl Treyz getting it done on the Chappy beaches.

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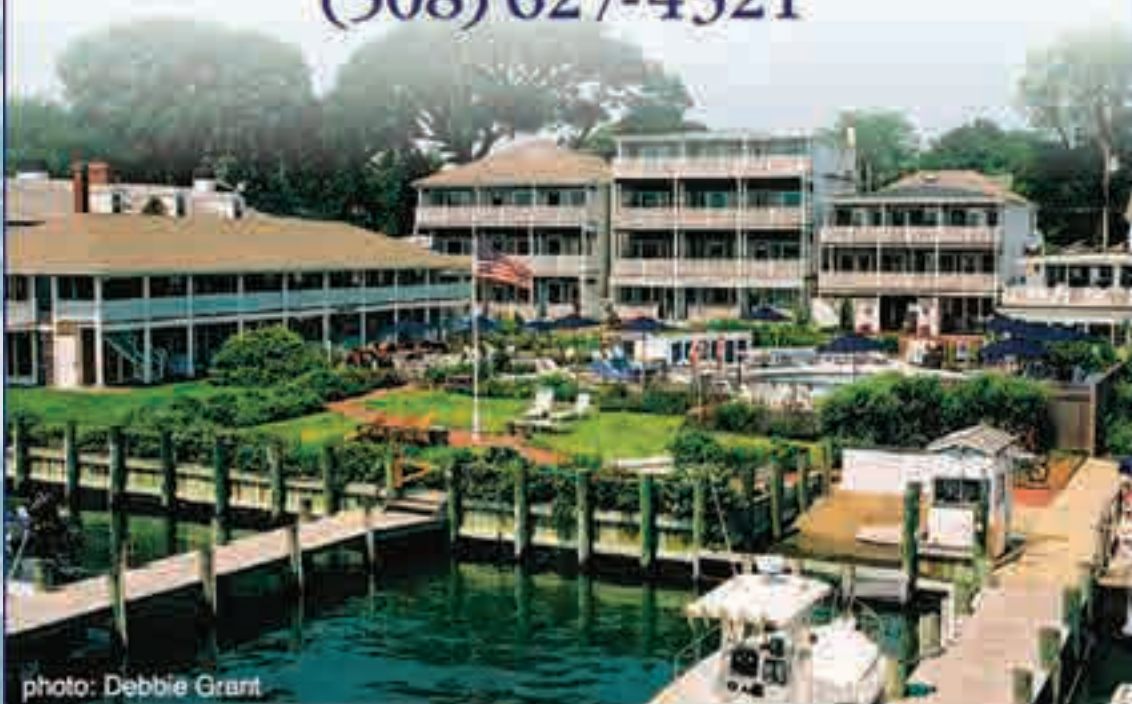


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three of MVSA's finest, who were always
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Thank you,

Mark

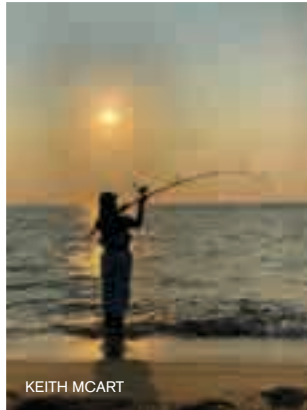


MAGIC MOMENTS



TRACY MORGAN

Dawn bite at Chappy Point



KEITH MCART

No one fished harder than Daphne Condon this derby!



CURTIS LAVIGNE

Lexy LaVigne was all smiles after landing a nice false albacore



JOHN PIEKOS

Ozzie Filho with his first weigh-in ever, takes first place daily!



JOHN PIEKOS

Mark Campos strikes a pose with his 1st place 8.36 lb shore bonito



MIKE LAPRADE

Jack Callahan, guided by grandfather Tony Thompson, fished his first derby



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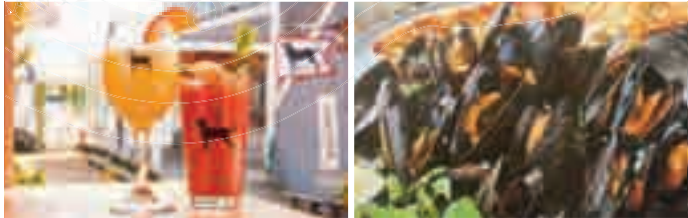


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MAGIC MOMENTS



Alan Landry, Bill Moody, Jack Cushman with the triple albie play



Dave Balon found the albies all derby



Molly Reed, Rocky Rukan and Chris Reed weigh in on the first day!



Ron Domurat joins the bluefish crowd

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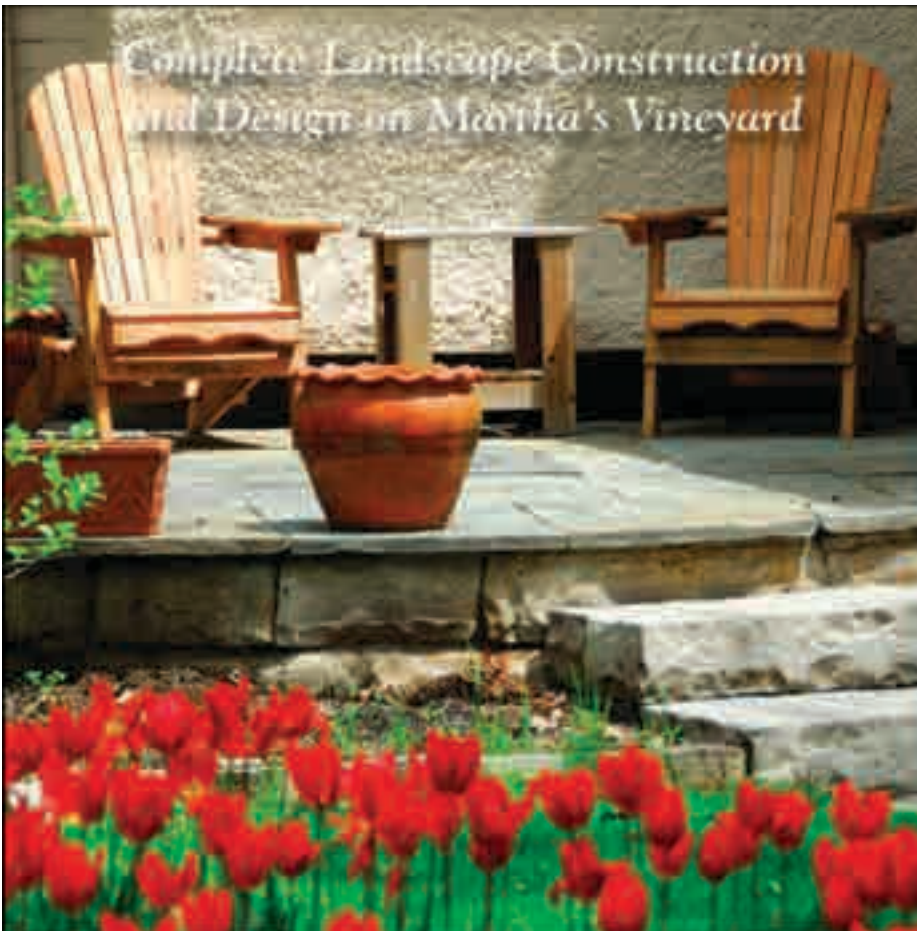
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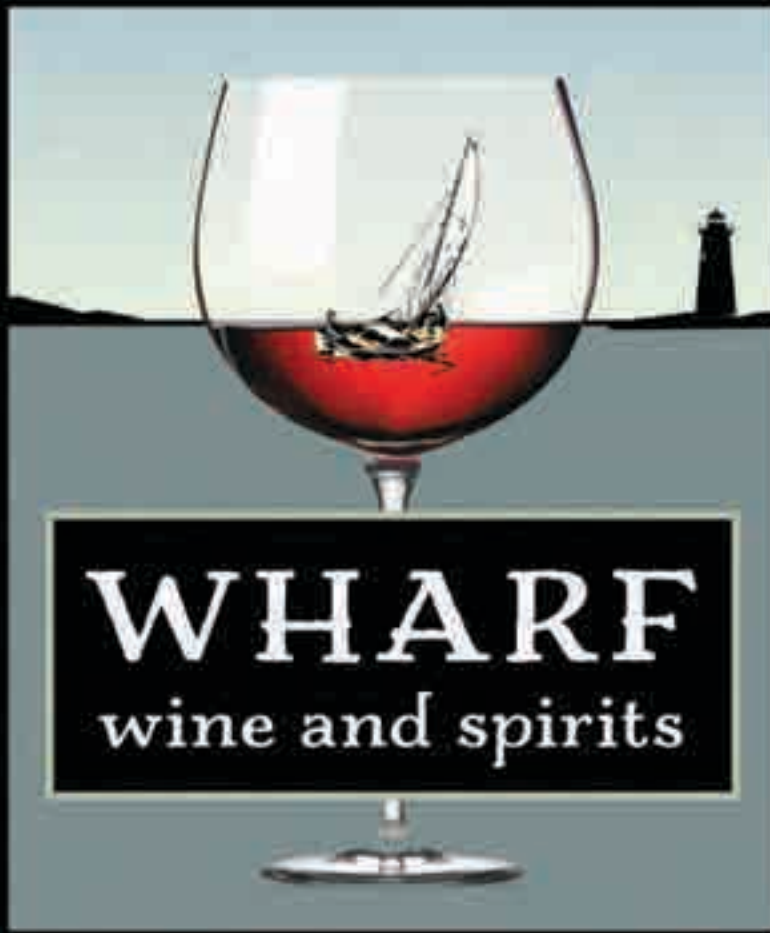
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MAGIC MOMENTS



JOHN PIEKOS

Pepsi Patracuollo with his daily dose of Albie - and I mean daily!



JOHN PIEKOS

Amy Hewitt fished hard for this Chappy Point false albacore



BILL HANSEN

Colin Cournoyer and his 1st place 7.52lb flyrod shore bonito



BILL HANSEN

Joe Uva and Melisa Hansen got into some nice fish!



JOHN PIEKOS

All smiles, Jim Cornwell continues to put fish on the beach and board!



CURTIS LAVIGNE

Evelyn LaVigne enjoys fishing with a view



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MAGIC MOMENTS

78TH MARTHA'S VINEYARD • 2023



STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH DERBY



JOHN PIEKOS

Keith McArt partook in the Derby Blues



ANGELA SISON

All smiles with a first day false albacore weigh-in!



BILL MOODY

Jack Cushman completes his triple crown with a nice bonito



JOHN PIEKOS

Colin Townes and father Nick with their big blues



PAULA SULLIVAN

Ralph Peckham with his 17lb 2nd place bluefish



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Patently waiting for a bite...



TONY THOMPSON

Chris Sapp once again catching fish on an empty beach

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MAGIC MOMENTS



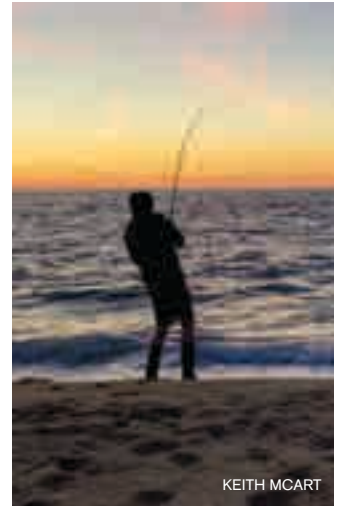
JOHN PIEKOS

Dave Cron hammered the bluefish this derby



JOHN ZARBA

The Eastville Jetty produced some nice albies too



KEITH MCART

Jeff Condon takes advantage of the sunrise bite!



MIKE LAPRADE

Tony Thompson is all smiles - of course!



JUSTIN COOPER

Parker Gerrish, also from Maine, with the antidote for Albie Fever



PETER NORMANDIN

Mason, his 8.42lb blue, and cousin Brian Normandin visit the weigh-in once again!



PAM SCOTT

Chris Scott boated a big bluefish mid-derby

KATIE CAROLL



Shhh....! Time for a boat nap.



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RESULTS (C&R LEADERS) POSTED WEEKLY



Note: Fish must be caught, measured, promptly released alive, and entered online within 14 hours. Open to registered 2023 Derby anglers. Derby rules apply. Catch & Release fish entered are NOT ELIGIBLE for any merchandise/cash awards. Fish entered must meet Derby minimum lengths. Paper or incomplete/inaccurate online forms not accepted. Measure fish length straight (not over the curve of the fish) from nose to tip of tail, rounded to the nearest inch (EG: a 30.3 inch bluefish = 30 inches. A 30.5+ inch bluefish = 31 inches).

Length ties go to first fish entered. Photos not required (honor system). Unlimited entries allowed.

C&R Questions? Email: mvderbycommittee@gmail.com



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The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Committee Scholarships

One \$15,000 scholarship, one \$10,000 scholarship, five \$7,500 scholarships and two \$5,000 scholarships to high school graduates planning to continue their education in the field of Marine Science. In addition, the Derby awards one \$7,500 scholarship in honor of Ray Ellis to a high school graduate planning to continue their education in Fine or Performing Arts.

The Bob "Hawkeye" Jacobs Memorial Award

Awarded to the first Shore Team to record a Triple Crown.

The Estey Teller Memorial Women's Weekly Awards

Awarded for the first place weekly honors for all species, boat & shore.

The Beaulieu/Loud Memorial Award

See weigh-in for details.

The Cutler Bike Shop Award

Awarded by luck of the draw to two of the six junior grand leaders one from boat and one from shore.

The Jared Fisher Memorial Award - Third place Junior Boat

False Albacore.

The Roberto Germani Competitive Release

Awards (6) First place plaques awarded by length, submitted by online form. One award per species for both All-Tackle and Flyrod.

The Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association Sportsmanship Award

Honoring the true meaning of good sportmanship during Derby.

The Thomas A. McCauley Award

Weigh any species under Badge number 204, Boat or shore.

The Roland Perreault & Huff Langley Memorial Award

Awarded at random to one of the All Tackle Shore Division 3rd place winners

The Abe Williams Memorial Award

For the first angler to record a shore Triple Crown.

The David Furino Memorial Award

Awarded to siblings who show determination and sportsmanship.

Albert Angelone Memorial Award

Given to the first junior angler to weigh in a Bonito.

Senior Awards - In Honor of their past participation and support in the Derby.

Howie Leonard – Albacore,

Arnold Spofford – Bonito, **Madison Alwardt** – Bluefish

For heaviest of each species caught from boat or shore.

Edward 'Bonito Ed' Lepore Memorial Award

For the heaviest flyrod bonito caught from boat or shore.

The Walter Morrison Memorial Award

For Mini-Junior or Junior catch and release false albacore.

The Derby Committee reserves the right to create, adjust or delete additional categories, awards and prizes and to accept and create special presentations.

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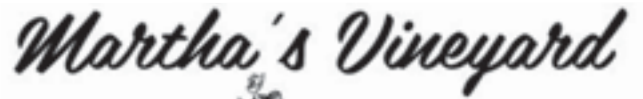
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Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Corporation Charitable Giving

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Corporation was created to hold an annual fishing tournament for the benefit of the island of Martha's Vineyard, and for the funding of college scholarships and charitable causes. In 2022, the nonprofit Derby Corporation enjoyed a successful year, and was thus able to provide assistance to other

groups and individuals. Many of these play a part in maintaining the quality of life on the Vineyard that we all enjoy, but sometimes take for granted.

Thanks to the support of all sponsors and participants, the Derby Corporation was able to contribute \$96,500 in 2023. We hope you share our pride in being able to help.

Corporation Grants, 2022

Red Stocking Fund	\$ 1,000.
Community Donations	\$ 800.
Sancy Pachico Memorial Youth Scholarships	\$ 3,500.
College Scholarships	<u>\$ 80,000.</u>

(in conjunction with the Ann E. Clark Foundation, the Tony and Renee Marlon Charitable Trust, the Windmill Foundation, the Teddy and Sarah Howes Family and Bass in the Grass)

Total

\$85,300.



JEANNE STAPLES WEIGH STATION PRINTS



Derby Evening



Weigh-In

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby is pleased to offer you an opportunity to purchase two limited-edition giclée prints from by Martha's Vineyard artist Jeanne Staples. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Derby Scholarship program. The original oil paintings have been reproduced in two sizes and unframed.

Jeanne Staples is represented on the island by the Granary Gallery.

Also - a limited number of the original Ray Ellis Derby Series prints are still available.

For Further information: Call Maryanne Jerome at 508 627-8510



GRANARY GALLERY
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You are Invited to Become a Sponsor of The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby is held annually in the Fall. Every year, fishermen come from around the country to visit the beautiful Island of Martha's Vineyard and enjoy its great fishing. The Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby has become one of the most successful and perhaps the premier saltwater fishing tournaments on the East Coast. In 2022 almost 3200 anglers participated in the 77th anniversary of the contest, weigh-

ing in a total of more than 1,900 fish. Aside from managing a successful tournament, at the core of the Derby's mission is to give back to the Vineyard community and to support and protect recreational fishing efforts. In 2022, the Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby awarded \$80,000 in scholarships to graduates of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School as well as \$3,500 in scholarships for Island youngsters to attend summer camps.

Please Contact Us at MVDerbyCommittee@gmail.com

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Banner displayed at Weigh Station** and at Awards Ceremony.

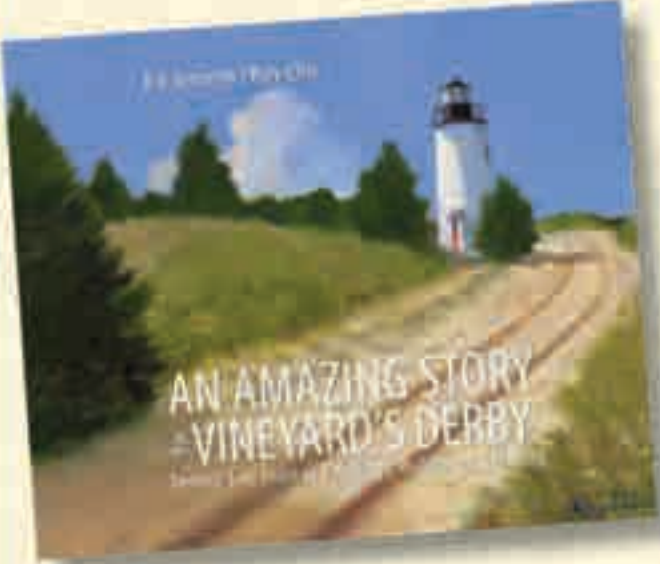
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** The Weigh Station attracts thousands of visitors during the five weeks of the Derby.

We Welcome and Appreciate Your Contribution at any Level

AN AMAZING STORY of the VINEYARD'S DERBY

By Past President, Ed Jerome and Renowned Vineyard Artist, Ray Ellis



Ray and Ed's vision illuminate the beauty of the Island's fishing spots and the joy and passion of those who fish them.

-MARC SPICER, MITT SINGER

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Ed Jerome	• Cooper Gilkes	• Janet Messinger
Bridget Tobin	• Chris Kennedy	• Matthew Stackpole
Everett Pook	• Bailey Norton	• Spider Andresen
Nelson Sigelman	• Charlie Cinto	• Greg Skornal
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Mark Alan Leveswell	• Mike Lapszew	• Tom Richardson
Philip Craig	• CK Wolfson	• Kib Bramhall

The book is available at the Derby Headquarters as well as Island Bookstores, Vineyard Vines and other local businesses. Proceeds from sales benefit the Derby Scholarship Program.



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KID'S DAY - A Love Story

TRIBUTE TO COOP AND LELA

Written By Stacy Nickerson Hall

When Island fishing icon Cooper Gilkes was eleven years old, his father moved the family to NH. "We were raised as one big family on Martha's Vineyard. We had a lot of things going on together. They moved me off kicking and scratching! I was not a happy camper. I wasn't doing too well, and there were a couple of things that got me out of that, my sixth grade teacher and Lee's brother, Henry." He smiles at Henry's sister, Lela, now his wife of almost sixty years. Lela and Henry lived across the

street and she remembers an unhappy Cooper. "It was awful," she says. "He was so unhappy being off Island."

"My father used to say I grew scales on Martha's Vineyard! Up there, it was a whole new thing. I didn't know anything. Henry taught me everything about those lakes. I was taken to a Kid's Day tournament at Belknap Mountain and it always stuck with me because it was really at that particular time it meant a lot to me. It wasn't about catching the fish but it was about everything that happened with the kids that day and it just stuck with me forever."

Lela laughs when asked how they ended up together, "My brother went into the service and he just kept hanging around!" They married in 1964 and had three children. Coming home from his third shift plant foreman job in Laconia one night, he told his family of five, "That's it, we're going to Martha's Vineyard! I don't know how Lela did it. Those first few years were tough." But Lela understood, "He was so unhappy off island, it was awful."

Their children, Tina and Danny, have magical childhood Island memories. "Every day was an adventure, and every day was different. Where they went, we went. It was always about community when we were growing up."

The Kid's Trout Tournament spawned The Kid's Day Tournament. "That was the MV Fishing Club, we ran that and then of course, I got in with Ed." He refers to the purchase of the MV Derby from the Chamber of Commerce with our late friend, Derby President Ed Jerome, an Edgartown School educator. "Ed was a big, big part of it. He was huge."

Coop told Ed stories of the old steamboat dock fishing. "I used to live down there! If we could ever get that pier for the kids, it would be phenomenal. Somehow we talked our way into it." More than 40 years later, he says, it's still unbelievable. "It is so much fun, oh my God I love watching those kids walk down that road to the dock."

Without mentioning all the preparation that he puts into Kid's Day, he says, "It runs itself it really does— I mean there's work put in and John (Custer) puts a lot of work into it now but when you're standing on that dock and you're watching a little kid and he's cranking, even if it's a scup it doesn't make any difference if it's a sea robin, we've even caught a lobster, we've caught a 200 pound shark, I mean it's been one thing after another out there. Always something new happens every single year no matter what. There's something about getting up in the morning with the family, getting them down there—it's just crazy! It's crazy and I love it, I eat it right up!"

While Coop may be the heart and soul of the Kid's



Derby, Lela is the bones. As Coop imparts his knowledge to our next generation anglers, Lela runs the kid's weigh station. She says, "I just do the same thing you guys do down at Derby Headquarters."

At the Derby weigh station, our job would be very difficult without our computer system. "So, you used to do it by hand?" I ask. "We still do it by hand! The youngsters come to the table with their fish and they are divided into three age categories— for each of those three categories we have one person who measures and

the next person writes it down and at the end of a certain amount of time, I pick up the sheets by groups and just determine who the top four winners are in each age group. Me and my highlighter!" She makes sound so easy, what is truly pretty complex.

Last year, when Lela was sidelined in Utah with a bad back it took three people to replace her. After praising the great job that they did filling in, Coop says, "Let me tell you, it was awful not having her there."

Think of all those kids and parents waiting while Lela does her calculations. "I'm sitting in the truck now doing this," she says, and Coop chimes in, "I have only one job in this, I keep everyone away from the truck! You would not believe the people who would be at her window, "How's my kid doing?"

"He does his job faithfully," says Lela, smiling. So much love is evident between them as she deflects attention from herself. Tina and Danny agree that, "They work always as a team. Our mother gets the quiet end of things but she definitely does the work. She's very humble."

"It's all him," says Lela, "I'm just the wind beneath his wings."

When Island fishers go to Coop's for lure or line, what they come away with is much more than supplies and local knowledge; they are getting community, camaraderie, the cracker barrel of old. "He's a great communicator," Lela says, "He loves it."

Tina says, "Everybody seemed like family, and we treated everybody like family. This is how they brought us up, this is what matters, it's people, it's friendships, it's learning to love life, appreciating what's in front of you, being grateful for what you have and enjoying it." Danny finishes her thought, "We just want to have fun and enjoy it and bring it to other people."

It is a family affair, this ability to create the fabric of our Island community. They credit their parents, "They are so amazing, they are just the most community oriented people who just love to help people enjoy what's there. It's their kindness and their love of wanting to pass the best things onto future generations."

I ask Coop, is there something deeper underneath it all that we haven't talked about?

Not missing a beat, Coop says, "I want people to feel what I felt when I was a kid growing up and what I feel now, even now. Nothing's changed! When I hit that beach I'm a kid— and obviously I may not be able to run as fast. And once I get that to the person, it's a win for me."

Coop and Lela create Island fishing magic that makes winners of us all!

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