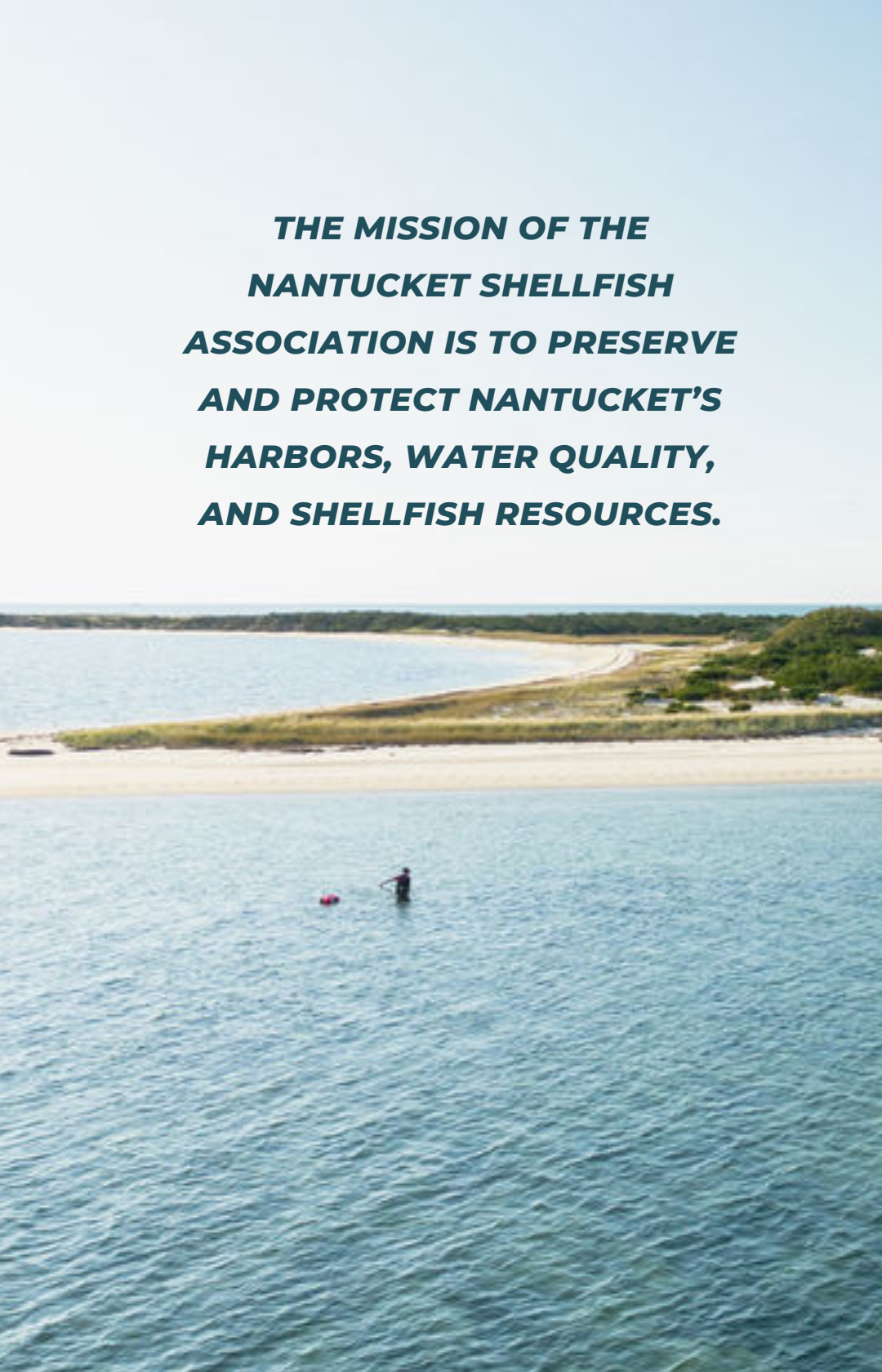


NANTUCKET SHELLFISH ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





***THE MISSION OF THE
NANTUCKET SHELLFISH
ASSOCIATION IS TO PRESERVE
AND PROTECT NANTUCKET'S
HARBORS, WATER QUALITY,
AND SHELLFISH RESOURCES.***

2023: A CELEBRATION OF TWENTY YEARS, A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

The Nantucket Shellfish Association was established in 2003 to promote research, education, and advocacy linked to Nantucket bay scallops and other local shellfish. Our principal goal at the time was the preservation of the shellfisheries, a critical part of the cultural, historic, and economic fabric of the island.

Through our early years, our sponsored research brought a focus to the state of water quality and the eelgrass beds in Nantucket Harbor. We are proud that our focus garnered the attention of other community groups who began turning their attention to water quality, thus expanding the dialogue and commitment to improving the health of our harbors. This effort led to the decision by Nantucket's residents to extend sewers to much of the Nantucket Harbor watershed and pass the first ever fertilizer ban through Town Meeting.

What began twenty years ago with a handful of dedicated volunteers is now a thriving organization with over 600 members. Our mission is tightly focused and we are poised to continue the work of improving the water quality of our harbors and the sustainability and legacy of our fishery. This report reflects on the past year and the people who have made it possible. And to our community we are forever grateful.

Our work is not done and the pressures facing our harbors persist. The NSA continues to advocate for healthy harbors, a sustainable fishery, and a legacy that is integral to our island. The next generation of families and fishermen are counting on us to ensure we have clean harbors and a bounty we can all enjoy.

Thank you for your continued support.

Bruce Beni & Kevin Kuester
Board of Directors Co-Presidents



***Fair winds and following seas
In honor of our friend Neil Cocker
January 20, 1951 - August 12, 2023***

Neil Cocker's scallop boat at The Scallopers Ball in October 2023

IN MEMORY OF NEIL COCKER

The Nantucket Shellfish Association remembers Neil Cocker, a beloved member of our island's fishing community. For almost 46 winters, Neil was a dedicated commercial bay scalloper, an avid quahog fisherman, and one of the first people to develop a blue mussel market on island. Whether working on the water or in catering, raw bars, and restaurants, Neil was a salty and true ambassador for Nantucket's fishery. We are grateful for the years of experience and advice Neil shared with our community and he will be greatly missed.



We thank those who donated to the NSA in Neil's memory. Their donations will support our continued commitment to supporting our harbors and fishery.

- Patricia Paterno Flanagan
- Diane Karper
- Ron Shepherd
- Town of Nantucket Natural Resources Department
- David Shea
- Randy Pearson



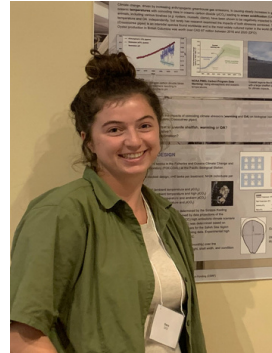


"I'm beyond grateful for the support the NSA has given me over the last seven years. From my undergrad at URI to my masters at UVic, I've been able to fully focus on my studies, participating in numerous research studies and publications."

-Sierra Gray

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Nantucket Shellfish Association awards scholarships each year to alumni of Nantucket High School who are pursuing higher education in the marine sciences or related fields. In 2023, the NSA awarded scholarships to two undergraduates and one graduate student.



SIERRA GRAY

University of Victoria, British Columbia
Masters in Biology
Graduate thesis on the effects of climate stressors on juvenile Pacific oysters



SKYE FLEGG

University of New Hampshire
BS in Biology, Minor in Environmental Conservation and Sustainability
Focus on coastal and marine environments



ALEX FREEMAN

University of New Hampshire
BS in Business Administration and Economics, Minor in Marine Policy

HARBOR INITIATIVES

The Nantucket Shellfish Association works to address issues facing our harbor and shellfishery. By collaborating with partner organizations and members of our commercial fishing fleet, we can apply local research to field projects together.

GREEN CRAB PILOT PROJECT

During spring 2023, the NSA partnered with the Nantucket Land & Water Council and local fishermen to trap green crabs, an invasive species that preys on juvenile shellfish and harms our eelgrass habitats. **We assessed 22 locations in Nantucket Harbor, trapping 1,344 green crabs.** We partnered with Toscana Corp. to add them to their organic fertilizer mix.

HURRICANE LEE SEED STRANDING

After Hurricane Lee brought significant wind and waves to Nantucket in September 2023, we worked with the Natural Resources Dept. to identify and address scallop seed strandings. With countless volunteers and many commercial scallopers and their boats, **we rescued 6.7 million juvenile bay scallops.** We filled totes and buckets with scallop seed that washed ashore during the storm and our fishermen relocated them to more favorable areas of the harbor.

COMMERCIAL FLEET SEED MOVE

Throughout the fall, harbor studies showed large amounts of scallop seed in a few concentrated areas. In an effort to mitigate additional seed strandings on the beach, our commercial bay scallop fleet worked to proactively move juvenile scallops. Focusing on two major areas, **36 fishermen across 22 boats spent a day dredging 1.2 million vulnerable scallop seed** near the shore and relocating them to other areas of Nantucket Harbor.





EDUCATION & OUTREACH

In March, we hosted an activity table about the life cycle of bay scallops at **Nantucket Science Festival** hosted by the Maria Mitchell Association and the Nantucket Community School.

This spring we joined our peers at the Nantucket Historical Association **Earth Day Celebration** to educate our youth about Nantucket bay scallops.

In June, we hosted the second **Nantucket Oysterfest** at Cisco Brewers. With the largest raw bar of the year, we celebrated Nantucket's oysters and those who farm them.

We hosted an educational forum as co-founders of the Clean Water Coalition in July on **Understanding the Health of Nantucket's Water**.

Alongside the Natural Resources Dept, we presented to the Great Harbor Yacht Club **Youth Harbor Education Program**, discussing the impact of harbor health and water quality on our bay scallop fishery.

To share the history of our oyster farms, we joined the Egan Maritime Institute on their podcast, co-hosting a special series: **Time & Tide The Shellfish Series**.

This summer we debuted a new event series, **Wine and Brine**, with our partners **Ethos Wine Bar and Hang Ten Raw Bar**, offering a small group setting to learn about oysters, farming, harbor health, and more.

And this October, we shared the joy of **recreational scalloping** with the founders of Barton & Grey as part of an educational resource for their membership.



COMMUNITY ACTION

Nantucket is home to the last wild-caught commercially-viable bay scallop fishery in the world. We are also home to a dynamic aquaculture industry with five thriving oyster farms and commercial quahog fishermen. Amid a rapidly changing landscape, we work to advocate for and protect our fishing community and working waterfront.

FISHERMEN'S COUNCIL

Now with **over thirty active members**, the Fishermen's Council includes scallopers, oyster farmers, charter fishermen, and other watermen. This group **offers a forum** to discuss the difficulties those in the fishery are facing and work towards solutions for the common good.

NANTUCKET & MADAKET HARBORS ACTION PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE

Our Executive Director holds a seat on this municipal committee as the fishery representative. Formed every ten years, the mission of the committee is to update Nantucket's harbor plan to reflect our changing community and new challenges. **Priorities include protecting natural resources, improving harbor water quality, improving equitable access to the waterfront, and more.**

MEDIA RELATIONS

The NSA champions our harbors and fishery through online and traditional media. In addition to regular contributions to local stories, we penned an *Inquirer and Mirror* op-ed **"With Support and Optimism for our Bay Scallop Fleet"** published in March 2023 and an interview with *Nantucket Today*: **"A Harbor Full of Scallop Seed & Questions for the Future"** published in Fall 2023.



THE SCALLOPERS BALL

Thank you to everyone who made The 2023 Scallops Ball a wonderful success! As the principal fundraiser for the Nantucket Shellfish Association, this event is made possible by generous support of our community.

Special thanks to our Host Committee for their dedication planning the best event of the year! We extend our gratitude to our sponsors for supporting the work of the NSA, the many local businesses who generously donate to our raffle and auction, and our amazing volunteer team who make the night possible.

We are proud to present the largest raw bar on island, featuring six raw bars with local oysters and quahogs:

- Emil Bender of Pocomo Meadow Oysters
- Simon Edwardes of Fifth Bend Oysters
- Mac Raith of Island Oysters
- Matt Herr of Grey Lady Oysters
- Sean Fitzgibbon of Devils Creek Oysters
- Frank Dutra, quahog fisherman

And thank you to our members who enthusiastically support the Nantucket Shellfish Association and join us at the Ball!



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Rebecca Becker
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Cheryl Emery
Sofia Flores-Boynton
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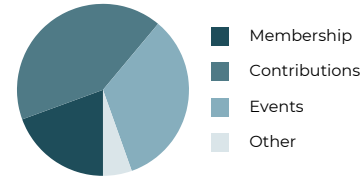
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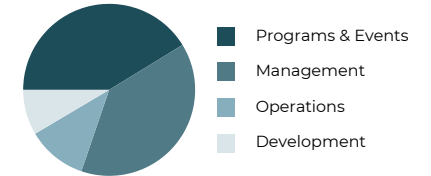
FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal year January 1 - December 31, 2023

REVENUE



EXPENSES



REVENUE & SUPPORT

Memberships	\$90,930
Contributions	\$195,015
Events	\$156,776
Other	\$25,453
Total Revenue	\$468,174

EXPENSES

Programs & Events	\$142,626
Management	\$134,795
Operations	\$38,905
Development	\$29,353
Total Expenses	\$345,679

OPERATING INCOME

Net Operating Income, After Expenses	\$122,494
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SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all of the volunteers who who helped make our events not only possible, but successful, impactful, and enjoyable for all.

Thank you to our scallop fishery and oyster farmers for all of their support on the water.

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Thank you to our community and peer organizations for your support and partnership.

Thank you to the talented photographers in our community for capturing the beauty of Nantucket and our shellfishery and sharing it with us:

Tucker Finerty	Dan LeMaitre	Henry Michaelis	Grant LaButte	Barbara Zachary
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