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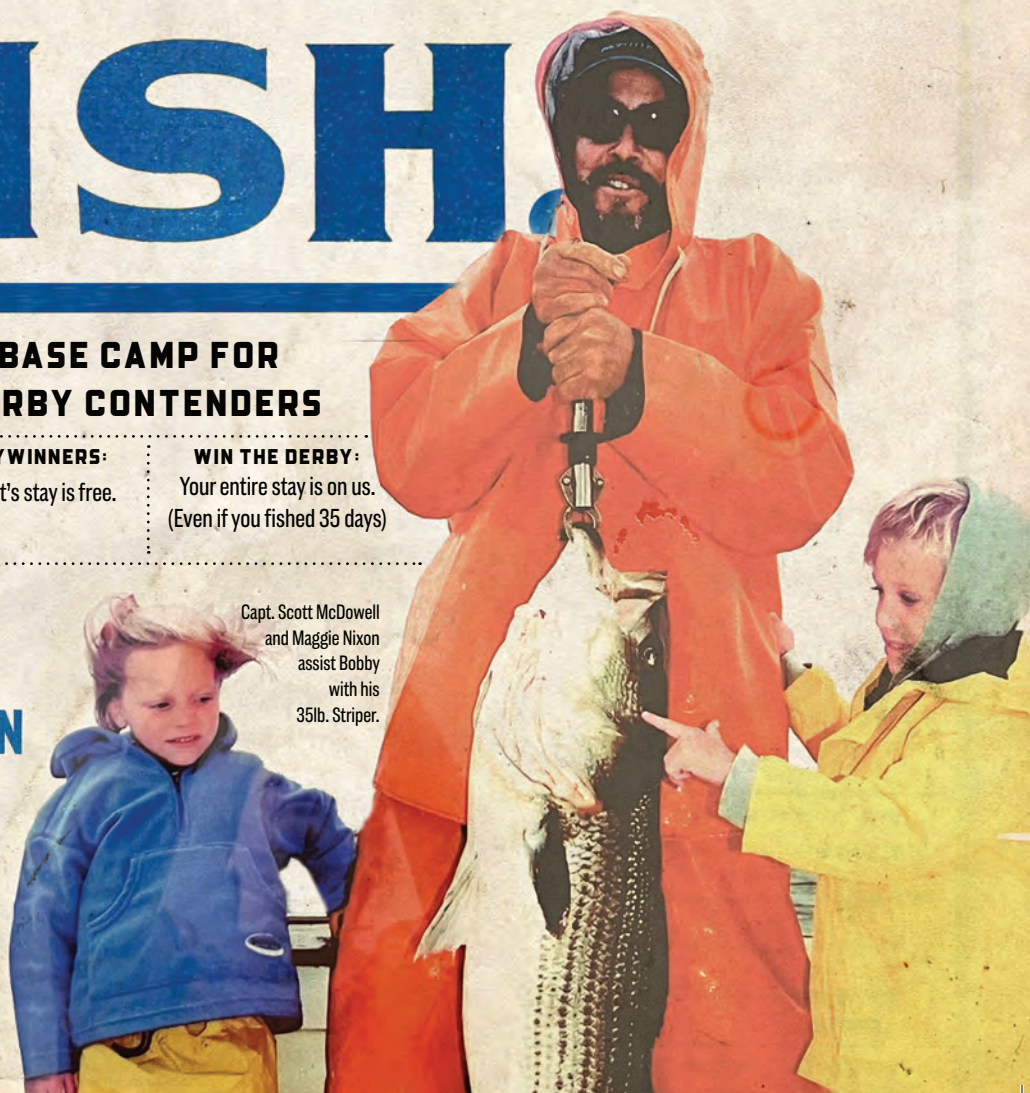
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81ST MARTHA'S VINEYARD • 2026



STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH DERBY

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Photo by Michael Blanchard/The Crossroads Gallery, Oak Bluffs

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Welcome

A Note from the Derby President

81 consecutive years for any event is a noteworthy milestone and evidence of success. In 2025, the Derby celebrated its 80th anniversary, and we recognized this achievement, taking care to acknowledge the support that has allowed the event to adapt and grow. Participants, volunteers, sponsors, and the Vineyard community provide the backing that enables this beloved event to take its place among the most cherished events in our region.



John Custer huddles with Steve and Ed Amaral prior to the bell ringing to open the 80th Derby."

The Derby Committee - a dedicated group of 30 volunteers - meets throughout the year to plan the event. Thoughtful consideration balances tradition, history, science, economics, and other needs and interests ... all to preserve the Derby's mission and seek opportunities to strengthen the organization and event. This is a responsibility that we regard as a privilege, as we understand the Derby's importance to our community, over decades. Along with the weigh station volunteers, the Derby Committee welcomes you to the 81st annual Derby. We know that Derby time on our beautiful Island is unique and special, and we feel privileged joining the 3000+ individuals who participate in the Derby.

Registration income enables the Derby to put on a 35-day tournament enjoyed by thousands, culminating in a festive awards ceremony the day after the fishing concludes. This support also strengthens the Derby's scholarship program, highlighted on page 20 & 21 of this booklet. Derby scholarships are an appropriate, wonderful reminder of the legacy of longtime island educator

and Derby President Ed Jerome. The scholarship program was Ed's vision, and for over 35 years Vineyard high school graduates have benefited from well over \$1 million in awards to continue their education. I remain ever-mindful of Ed's commitment to education and to the Derby, partnering these interests. All who enjoy the Derby owe him thanks.

Among the 3000+ participants, people seek different things from their

Derby experience. Some pursue prizes and/or status among their fellow anglers. Some fish to honor friends or family members who have passed, to keep their memory alive. Some seek to introduce others, including children, to fishing. Some simply soak up the natural beauty of the Vineyard in the fall. Some make it an annual ritual to enjoy with friends, many traveling great distances to make it happen. Some don't even wet a line, but know they are still part of something special. Whatever one's reasons for participating, the Derby Committee knows that registering is a choice, and we are grateful for the continued strong support that demonstrates clearly how much the Derby means to so many people. We do not take this for granted, and feel reassurance that those who opt to join the Derby also value tradition, camaraderie, and sportsmanship. Thank you for promoting these values as you fish the Derby.

Best wishes for a safe, positive, and memorable 81st Derby.

Sincerely,
John Custer
President, Derby Committee

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An advertisement for Island Source featuring a variety of products including Poland Spring water bottles, a water cooler, LeGrande beverages, Twinings tea, a Keurig coffee maker with coffee pods, Glad trash bags, and Countertop paper towels. The background is a light blue gradient.

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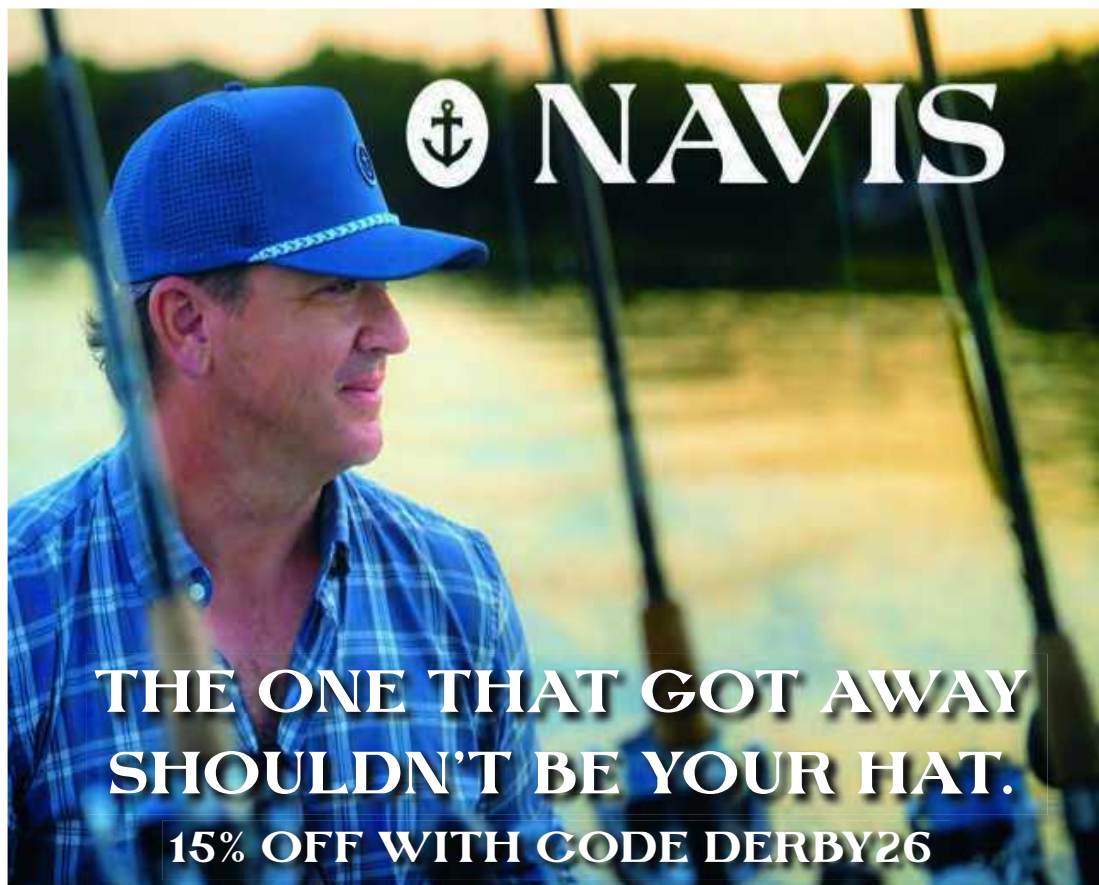
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A Message

From the Derby Chairman

Welcome to the 81st edition of the Derby! I cannot believe it's that time of year again, when locals gather, visitors arrive, and the competition begins. There is truly no better time to appreciate the beauty of Martha's Vineyard and the great outdoors.

There is something magical in the air when the Derby begins. The early mornings on the jetty or along the beach offer an experience that cannot be replicated anywhere else. Those beautiful mornings on the water are exactly what we have all been waiting for since the conclusion of the 80th Derby.

This year, we have some exciting new elements to share:

- **Expanded Boat Boundaries:** We are expanding the boat boundaries to include Buzzards Bay! This will give boat participants even more options to find the big one. Please carefully review the new boundary lines outlined in the rules brochure.
- **Team Competition Changes:** Participants can now sign up for both a Shore team and a Boat team.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Eastern Boat Works for their many years of unwavering support. Although Eastern Boat Works is stepping away as our grand prize sponsor, we take great pride in knowing we have made friends for life. Greg Hopkins, their entire staff, and their families have become a huge part of our Derby family. On behalf of the Derby committee and all our participants, we say a heartfelt thank you to Eastern Boat Works. Your dedication and support are deeply appreciated, and we are forever grateful.

For this year's tournament, we are thrilled to partner with Vineyard Vines as our 2026 Grand Prize sponsor. They are generously donating a 2026 Jeep Gladiator Mojave X custom wrapped with Vineyard Vines' "Vineyard Slam" camo print. What an amazing prize!



Thank you to Greg Hopkins and the entire team at Eastern Boat Works!

The team at Vineyard Vines has been a massive supporter of the Derby for many years, and we are extremely grateful for their continued generosity.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the Derby committee and our incredible volunteers. Their hard work makes this the largest and longest-running saltwater fishing tournament on the East Coast. A monumental amount of work goes into each Derby, much of it happening during the intense five weeks of the competition.

One of the most gratifying nights of the year is Class Night, when the Derby awards its annual

scholarships to graduating students of Martha's Vineyard. Please read about this year's inspiring recipients. This year, we are proud to introduce a new scholarship in honor of Riley Cameron, a 2020 graduate of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. This scholarship is awarded to a graduate pursuing their maritime captain's license. Congratulations to the entire Class of 2026!

As the competition is set to begin, make sure your gear is ready, your hooks are sharpened, and your bosses know you might be missing some time! Get ready for five weeks of hardcore fishing. Please remember to read the rules, pay close attention to the new Buzzards Bay boundaries, and enjoy some of the best days of the year.

We also remind participants to practice conservation by carrying out everything you bring to the beach—and a little extra. Please respect private property, practice good sportsmanship, and most of all, have fun.

Good luck to all participants!

Catch 'em up,
Joe El-Deiry

Chairman, Derby Committee



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2026 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

Maryanne Jerome
Secretary

Joe El-Deiry
Chairman, 1st Vice President

Chris Scott
Director-At-Large

Katie Carroll
Vice Chairman

Leah Fraumeni
Director-At-Large

Chris Reed
Treasurer

Taylor Pierce
Director-At-Large



ENDLESS MEMORIES BY ADRIANA

Left to right: Dave Balon, Taylor Pierce, Chris Scott, Jonathan Herman, Katie Carroll, Chris Reed, Leah Fraumeni, Curtis LaVigne, Joe El-Deiry, Cosmo Creanga, Maryanne Jerome, David Hearn, Stacy Nickerson Hall, John Custer, Adam Darack, Cooper Fersen, Steve Baccelli, Dave Halsey

Committee members not pictured:

Mike Cassidy, Will DeBettencourt, Cooper Gilkes, Phil Horton, Wilson Kerr, Mark Kokoska, John Piekos, Bill Roman, Paula Sullivan

Honorary Members: Steve Morris, Greg Skomal

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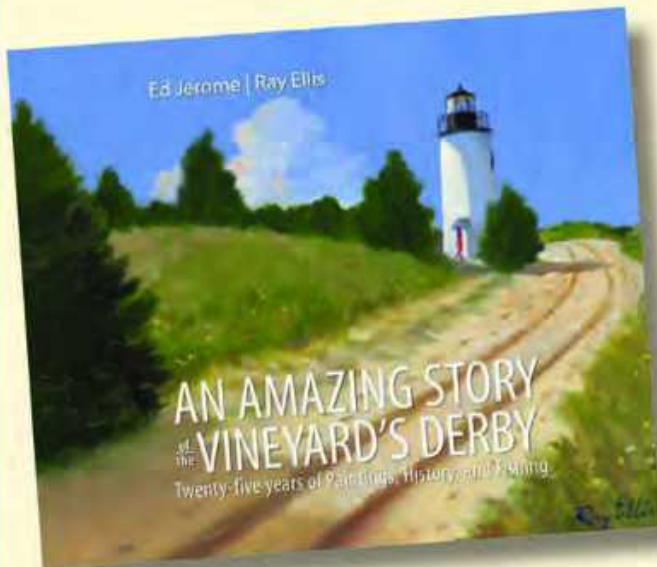
Derby Scholarship Program

2026 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 \$1,148,000. 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 and the Edgartown Board of Trade. In 2026 the Derby awarded \$115,000 in scholarships to the twelve 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. The Derby Committee wishes these graduates success in their educational endeavors.

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.

— MATTHEW STACKPOLE, MYSTIC SEAPORT

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

Ed Jerome	• Cooper Gilkes	• Janet Messineo
Bridget Tobin	• Chris Kennedy	• Matthew Stackpole
Everett Poole	• Bailey Norton	• Spider Andresen
Nelson Sigelman	• Charlie Cinto	• Greg Skomal
Jack Fallon	• Cynthia DeFelice	• Arthur R. Railton
Arthur Gordon	• Je Dando	• Nelson Bryant
Mark Alan Lovewell	• Mike Laptew	• Tom Richardson
Philip Craig	• CK Wolfson	• Kib Bramhall

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Proceeds benefit the Derby Scholarship Program.

**Bailen Darack**

Bailen is the 2026 recipient of the Edward J. Jerome Memorial Scholarship. Ranking academically in the top 30% of her class, she was an Honor Roll student in her senior year at MVRHS and a member of the Girls Varsity Hockey team. In addition to her volunteer work as a tutor at the Oak Bluffs School, she has been a long-time Derby participant and a valued weigh station volunteer staff member. Bailen will attend Nova Southeastern University in Florida where she will pursue studies in Marine Biology.

**Georgia DeRoche**

Georgia is the 2026 co-recipient of the Ray Ellis Memorial Scholarship for students pursuing education in the fine or performing arts. A four-year member of the elite vocal performance group, the MVRHS Minnesingers, she was designated Soprano Section Leader. In addition, she was lead actor in numerous musical productions, performed for four years with the acapella group, the Songbirds, and served as a musical Teaching Assistant. Georgia will attend Bridgewater State College, majoring in Music Education.

**Grazina Biskis**

Grazina is the 2026 co-recipient of the Ray Ellis Memorial Scholarship. With a strong academic record at MVRHS, she excelled in English while also exploring a variety of artistic courses. She received an award for Excellence in Crafts and Sculpture, served as an art Teaching Assistant for two years and participated in the Pottery Club and the Art Club throughout her time in high school. She is also an accomplished gardener. Grazina will attend Evergreen State College, studying Studio Art with a focus on ceramics.

**Rose Levesque**

Rose was an Honor Roll student while at MVRHS, receiving recognition for Excellence in English Language Arts. An award-winning Derby fisherman, Rose has also been a valued weigh station staff volunteer for the past two years. She is passionate about our marine environment and seamanship, operating the family's 31' vessel in coastal waters. Rose plans to attend Cape Cod Community College, pursuing her interest in Marine Science, Safety and Environmental Protection.

**Anthony Smith**

Anthony achieved increasing academic success in his years at MVRHS, enrolling in numerous Honors and Advanced Placement courses. In addition, he explored course offerings in fine and performing arts studies and related extracurricular activities including the Art Club, Minnesingers, and musical performances. As a student leader, he helped revitalize the school's Gender & Sexuality Alliance and served as its President for two years. Anthony will attend the University of Massachusetts, Boston, majoring in pre-Veterinary studies.

**Isabella Bolin**

As a life-long Islander, Isabella feels a deep connection to Martha's Vineyard and its maritime environment. In high school, she balanced undertaking a demanding academic curriculum with after-school employment at several island businesses. Her artistic talents were particularly evident in the three Photography and Graphics courses she completed. Pursuing her love of the ocean, Isabella will attend the University of New England, planning to major in Marine Biology.

**Hunter Bolduc**

Hunter excelled academically at MVRHS, finishing in the top 20% of his class and garnering awards for Excellence in Algebra, Humanities and History as well as three Excellence in Automotive Awards. His mechanical expertise and interest in the sea lead to after-school employment as a Technician at Cars Unlimited and as a Wharfinger with the Chilmark Harbormaster Department. Hunter will attend the New England Institute of Technology, majoring in Marine Technology.

**Grace Bennett-Rock**

Grace was in the top 10% of her class academically, excelling in an impressive number of Advanced Placement courses over several years. Balancing her academic workload with a passion for dance, she was Choreographer and founding member of the MVRHS Dance Team and a performer with RISE Vineyard Performing Arts for many years. Pursuing her keen interest in Psychology and Cognitive Science, Grace plans to attend the College of Charleston, majoring in Neuroscience.

**Esme Colon**

Esme excelled academically at MVRHS, gaining election to the National Honor Society. She was also a stand-out athlete and multi-year member of the Varsity Soccer, Varsity Hockey and Varsity Sailing Teams. Outside the classroom, she volunteered at the Shellfish Hatchery and Island Grown Initiative. Her goal is to pursue studies in sustainable farming and ultimately own a non-profit farm on the Island. Esme plans to major in Plant Sciences at the University of Vermont.

**Katherine Becker**

Katie finished her MVRHS years at the top of an exceptionally strong class, achieving the highest academic recognition and admission to the National Honor Society. A talented violinist, she served as Concertmaster in school and regional orchestras. She also served as Chapter President of Best Buddies, a Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentor, a three-year member of the Unified Track Team and as an Intern/Volunteer at MV Hospital. Katie will pursue a career in medicine, attending the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

**Sampson Mallory**

Sampson has deep family connections to the Vineyard's waterfront. His commitment to working in the marine environment is already well established. During his high school years, he had summer jobs as a dockhand at the Oak Bluffs Marina, and, with the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group, he helped to grow, distribute and maintain the island's supply of shellfish seed in the Edgartown Great Pond. Sampson plans to attend the New England Institute of Technology, focusing on Marine Technology.

**William Simmons**

William is the inaugural recipient of the Riley Ignacio Cameron Memorial Scholarship, established by Cameron's family to assist Island students who are pursuing a marine career. At MVRHS, William received the Marine Studies Award, as well as awards in Swimming and Sailing. During summers, he served as crew on the schooner Alvie, was a lifeguard at the YMCA and taught sailing at the East Chop Yacht Club. William will attend the Maine Maritime Academy, intending to major in Marine Transportation.



THE CROSSROADS GALLERY

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Michael and Brodie

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.

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For more information and to order photographs, calendars and books please visit:
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This year, my annual inspirational calendar is raising money for Vineyard House Sober Living.

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 January through December, 2027. Help support this amazing organization!

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."

This Year's Inductees



Maryanne Jerome

It is nearly impossible to speak about the modern-era Derby without referencing the Jerome family, and rightfully so. Maryanne Jerome was there from the start, as her husband Ed rescued the Derby in the mid-1980s. Her quiet work, behind the scenes, allowed the Derby to grow and flourish. She did not receive, nor seek, attention, but she was so proud to see the Derby succeed and become what it is today. She knew, more than anyone, what it meant to Ed. And he certainly knew how much she supported the Derby. After Ed passed in 2018, the

Derby community would have fully understood if she needed to take a step back. She did the opposite, growing her commitment. Anyone close to the Derby knows how much she gives, and there's far more that nobody sees. She has given for decades, earning Hall of Fame induction.

Jim Cornwell

Jim Cornwell is passionate about family and fishing, and the Derby has provided the perfect opportunity for him to celebrate these together. He remains a dedicated surfcaster, and still looks for opportunities to introduce others to the sport. Sportsmanship is important to Jim Cornwell, and he enjoys helping others and showing grace and stewardship for the island and fisheries. He has rightfully earned respect from fellow anglers for being selfless, responsible, generous, and steadfast. He considers himself blessed for the gifts that fishing, family, and the Derby have provided him. Those who know him are aware that they are blessed, for his gentle nature and positivity represent his genuine character. Jim Cornwell is a rare inspiration, and very deserving of induction into the Derby Hall of Fame.



Ron Domurat

Ron Domurat, having earned over 100 daily pins, can appropriately be considered the epitome of a Derby fisherman. He is fully engaged, committed, and dedicated to fishing. As well, he has served as a mentor to younger generations of fishermen, befriending their interest and offering assistance. He has been and remains a strong advocate for sustainability of fisheries, as well as a champion of public access to beaches. He has given much to the sport fishing community, and Ron's contributions to the Derby have been found in commitment, sportsmanship, advocacy, and preservation. A positive impact, indeed, that supports his Hall of Fame induction.



Shep & Ian Murray

Vineyard Vines has been a major corporate sponsor of the Derby for over 20 years. Over these years, vineyard vines has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars of merchandise, including the hats that accompany all registrations. This amazing financial commitment allows the Derby to preserve its operating account and not take away from the scholarship funds. Brothers Ian and Shep Murray are generous to the Derby, as well as to other island charitable organizations and causes. They demonstrate their care for our community, and the Derby is proud and pleased to continue to partner with them. Their commitment to the Derby is evident, earning Hall of fame induction.

The Derby Hall of Fame Honorees Throughout History *Continues on Next Page*



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 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.



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.



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 & 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.



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.



Joe El-Deiry

Much of the Derby's success and strength in recent years can be attributed to Joe El-Deiry. Characteristically humble, Joe deflects credit and instead praises the Committee and volunteers for this success. However, it is clear to others how much of himself Joe has dedicated to the organization, an event that he loves so much. In his first year as Chairperson, Ed Jerome passed away suddenly, during the Derby. Joe led the Committee through this unsettling time with grace and poise. His leadership during that Derby, and those that have followed, is evidence that he learned much from Ed. Joe has been actively involved in most parts of the Derby, leading many of the efforts. This has included coordinating the souvenir booklet, overseeing Derby apparel and merchandise, facilitating weigh station operations, serving as weighmaster, assisting with the *American Heroes Saltwater Challenge*, establishing financial investment objectives, and selection of scholarship recipients. As well, Joe has always found time to take others fishing, introducing families to the Derby experience and creating special memories. Joe maintains that the Derby has given a lot to him since he moved to the island in the mid 1990s. He has given so much back to it, and continues to do so.



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.



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.



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.

Hall of Fame Honorees *continued on next page*



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.



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 file program to senior citizens of Martha's Vineyard.



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.



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.



Karen Kukulich

Karen Kukulich 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 file 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.



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.



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.



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.



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 surf-caster 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 Surferman." 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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

Hall of Fame Honorees *continued on next page*



Paul Schultz

Paul participated in his first Derby in 1962. However, a pivotal moment unfolded in 1968 when, at the age of 21, he was drafted into the army and deployed to Vietnam. Despite grappling with the challenges of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) upon his return in 1970, Paul displayed unwavering resilience. He seamlessly resumed his active participation in the Derby, a tradition he has steadfastly upheld to this day. Paul served on the Derby Committee from 1981 to 1997. He worked on Chapquiddick for the Trustees of Reservation from 1991 to 2011. Paul's passion for fishing, extended beyond personal enjoyment; he became a trailblazing shore guide, generously passing on his extensive fishing knowledge to a diverse spectrum of individuals, extending beyond his family to encompass renowned sportsmen and politicians. Paul would take people fishing for charity, an example of his commitment to giving back to the community. He volunteered with the Edgartown Fire Department for 40 years including working with the Dukes county Search and Rescue. Paul is a proud member of the "50 pounder" club.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



Arnold Spofford

Arnold Spofford was a member of the Derby Committee for nearly 15 years beginning in 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.



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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PROUD TO SPONSOR:



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EDGARTOWN
27 NORTH WATER STREET
EDGARTOWN, MA

OAK BLUFFS
56 NARRAGANSETT AVE
OAK BLUFFS, MA



Final Results 2025

Grand Prize Winner

EASTERN BOAT WORKS - Sam Bell

All Tackle Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: NED WILLIAMS 10.86 LBS.
SHORE: JOHN M. THURGOOD 9.55 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: DAVID C. KADISON 19.85 LBS.
SHORE: CHRIS W. HALL 17.71 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: SAM BELL 18.66 LBS.
SHORE: EVAN HAMMOND 13.87 LBS.

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: MICHAEL KELLEY 10.20 LBS.
SHORE: BRODY M. VALENTINE 9.47 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: MATT STEDMAN 19.61 LBS.
SHORE: CHRIS TUCCELLI 16.96 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: JULIAN G. PEPPER 18.35 LBS.
SHORE: RUDY SANFILIPPO 13.65 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: SARAH L. KADISON 10.17 LBS.
SHORE: FRANCIS E. FISHER 9.04 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: CHRISTOPHER MORRIS 19.54 LBS.
SHORE: JUSTIN W. POOLE 16.94 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: ZACK STEDMAN 17.97 LBS.
SHORE: JONATHAN KRESEL 13.41 LBS.

Flyrod Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: THOMAS J. RAPONE 7.99 LBS.
SHORE: STEPH S. POND 5.48 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: ROBERT D. MORRISON 14.56 LBS.
SHORE: ADAM M. KNIGHT 4.04 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: THOMAS J. RAPONE 16.28 LBS.
SHORE: W. BRICE CONTESSA 11.56 LBS.

CONTINUED TOP OF PAGE

Flyrod Division Awards

CONTINUED

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: ANDREW G. MOORE 7.84 LBS.
SHORE: TRAVIS J. LYON 5.11 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: THOMAS J. RAPONE 13.52 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: ZACHARY C. HORROCKS 16.26 LBS.
SHORE: TREVOR C. KNOWLES 11.51 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: SARAH KADISON 6.33 LBS.
SHORE: CASEY R. SMITH 5.09 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: KEVIN LUDWIG 13.08 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: HARLEY L. STOWELL 14.50 LBS.
SHORE: ABE PIECIAC 11.47 LBS.

Mini Junior Division Awards

First Place

BONITO

BOAT: RILEY GARDNER 7.23 LBS.
SHORE: CLIFTON M. COLBY 3.89 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: TUCKER SCHAEFER 19.07 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: TUCKER SCHAEFER 14.06 LBS.

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: GRYPHON KURTH 7.17 LBS.
SHORE: THEO CHOQUETTE 3.89 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: ATLAS FAHERTY 18.45 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: CAL STEDMAN 13.69 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: ELIZABETH RIVERS. 6.82 LBS.
SHORE: ISABELLA M. PACHICO 3.59 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: CAL STEDMAN 16.51 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: ATLAS FAHERTY 12.24 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: COLTON STEDMAN 8.91 LBS.

SHORE: CALVIN J. DAVIS 5.10 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: CHRISTIAN E. FISHER 19.04 LBS.

SHORE: CHRISTIAN E. FISHER 11.78 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: LIAM M. KEENE 17.20 LBS.

SHORE: ELI BEFORD 10.67 LBS.

Second Place

BONITO

BOAT: LIAM M. KEENE 8.69 LBS.

SHORE: ELI BEFORD 4.84 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: JOCIE L. SMITH 18.80 LBS.

SHORE: ELI BEFORD 5.23 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: CHRISTIAN E. FISHER 16.69 LBS.

SHORE: OTTO KARBE 8.11 LBS.

Third Place

BONITO

BOAT: CHRISTIAN E. FISHER 8.38 LBS.

SHORE: MICA ZOREF 4.80 LBS.

BLUEFISH

BOAT: HUDSON R. SMITH 18.71 LBS.

FALSE ALBACORE

BOAT: JOCIE L. SMITH 16.15 LBS.

Special Awards

THE THOMAS A. McCAULEY AWARD – DYLAN KADISON

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD SURFCASTERS ASSOCIATION
SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD**

– JIM CORNWELL

BEAULIEU/LOUD MEMORIAL AWARD –

LENNY AND ELI BEFORD

ROBERT "HUFF" LANGLEY MEMORIAL AWARD –

FRANCIS FISHER

CUTLER BIKE SHOP AWARD – CHRISTIAN FISHER (BOAT) ;

ELI BEFORD (SHORE)

DAVID FURINO MEMORIAL AWARD – ALEX AND

LUKE BETTENCOURT

JARED FISHER MEMORIAL AWARD – JOCIE SMITH

"BONITO" ED LePORE MEMORIAL AWARD –

TOM RAPONE

WALTER MORRISON MEMORIAL AWARD – AYLA JACOBS

ROBERTO GERMANI MEMORIAL CATCH AND RELEASE

AWARDS – FLYROD FALSE ALBACORE – DAVID RIMMER

ALL TACKLE FALSE ALBACORE – ANDY VAN ROOYEN

FLYROD BONITO – PATRICK CARSON

ALL TACKLE BONITO – ELIZABETH O'BRIEN

FLYROD BLUEFISH: N/A

ALL TACKLE BLUEFISH – ANNA JACOBS

ALBIES, BLUES AND BONES AWARD –

BONITO: JACKSON J. MUNSON

FALSE ALBACORE: LIAM C. WELCH

BLUEFISH: NO AWARD

DERBY SPECIAL AWARDS DESCRIBED ON PAGE 129.

Triple Crown Winners

Boat - All Tackle

First Place - David C. Kadison 47.46 lbs.

Second Place - Zack Stedman 46.57 lbs.

Third Place - Matt Stedman 44.89 lbs.

Boat - Flyrod

First Place - Thomas J. Rapone 37.79 lbs.

Second Place - Robert D. Morrison 34.04 lbs.

Third Place - Sarah Kadison 33.07 lbs.

Shore - All Tackle

First Place - Joshua Kresel 34.08 lbs

Second Place - Timothy J. Scott 34.07 lbs.

Third Place - John M. Thurgood 33.39 lbs.

Shore Flyrod

First Place - Adam M. Knight 17.54 lbs.

Junior Boat

First Place - Christian E. Fisher 44.11 lbs.

Second Place - Jocie L. Smith 43.3 lbs.

Third Place - Latham Kurth 39.03 lbs.

Junior Shore

First Place - Eli Beford 20.74 lbs.

Mini Junior Boat

First Place - Tucker Schaefer 39.16 lbs.

Second Place - Cal Stedman 36.61 lbs.

Third Place - Atlas Faherty 35.53 lbs.

Team Winners

BOAT

1ST: BLUEWATER (MATT STEDMAN, ZACK STEDMAN) 91.46 LBS.

2ND: RAT BONES (DAVID KADISON, JOSEPH THOMPSON) 88.56 LBS.

3RD: BACON EGG N CHEESE DOCK STREET (CURTIS FOURNIER,
DONALD O'SHAUGHNESSY) 85.25 LBS.

SHORE

1ST: TUNA MELTDOWN
(RUDY SANFILIPPO, JOHN THURGOOD) 62.92 LBS.

2ND: SQUID SQUAD (TIMOTHY SCOTT, LUCAS BREWER) 62.58 LBS.

3RD: KRESEL BOYS (JONATHAN KRESEL, JOSHUA KRESEL) 58.94 LBS.

Senior Awards

ALWARDT AWARD (*bluefish*)

Boat: David C. Kadison 19.85 lbs.

Shore: Robert L. Pistorino 15.71 lbs.

SPOFFORD AWARD (*bonito*)

Boat: David C. Kadison 9.98 lbs.

Shore: Francis E. Fisher 9.04 lbs.

LEONARD AWARD (*false albacore*)

Boat: David C. Kadison 17.63 lbs.

Shore: Steven J. Wood 11.24 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'CONNER, 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 UNIAWOSKI, 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		BONITO	(BOAT) SCOTT TERRY, WEST TISBURY	17.41
1958	BASS	OSCAR FLANDERS, CHILMARK	51	11			(SHORE) PAUL BERGERON, OAK BLUFFS	8.97
	BLUEFISH	WILLIAM E. BLAKE, MELROSE, MA	14	6			(BOAT) PETER BARONE, WEYMOUTH, MA	10.84
1959	BASS	ANTON VAN BREEMAN, MEDFORD, MA	50	12.5	1989	ALBACORE	(SHORE) ROBERT GRAVES, OAK BLUFFS	14.09
	BLUEFISH	LES HEBBLEWHITE, SO. BOSTON, MA	16	10		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) JOEL GRAVES, OAK BLUFFS	15.90
1960	BASS	PHILIP BARON, WOLLASTON, MA	45	9			(SHORE) SERGIO RADOSSI, RIDGEFIELD PARK, NJ	16.07
	BLUEFISH	ALBERT KEINBERG, EDGARTOWN	17	10		BONITO	(BOAT) MICHELE ROGERS, EDGARTOWN	15.92
1961	BASS	ADAM KURPAT, NEW YORK, NY	51	14			(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		BLUEFISH	(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			(SHORE) DAVID HEARN, BURLINGTON, MA	18.28
	BLUEFISH	FRANK VALOIS, FARGO, ND	12	10		BONITO	(BOAT) MICHELE ROGERS, EDGARTOWN	18.81
1964	BASS	SERGE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	54	14			(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		BLUEFISH	(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		BONITO	(BOAT) SCOTT H. TERRY, WEST TISBURY	18.50**
1967	BASS	FRED KIENER, VINEYARD HAVEN	52	6			(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		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) DOMINGO CANHA	14.23
1969	BASS	SERGE DE SOMOV, HAMPTON BAY, NY	51	6			(SHORE) LARRY A. MERCIER	17.35
	BLUEFISH	DOUGLAS GINGRAS, VINEYARD HAVEN	18	11		BONITO	(BOAT) ERNEST L. DAMAN	16.77**
1970	BASS	GORDON LINGBERG, FAIRHAVEN, MA	42	10			(SHORE) MARK F. BUDRESKY	9.92
	BLUEFISH	GLADYS FLANDERS, CHILMARK	19	14	1993	ALBACORE	(BOAT) CARLOS T. BARTHOLOMEU	10.43
1971	BASS	ALBION ALLEY, WEST TISBURY	49	12			(SHORE) ROBERT MILNE	13.46
	BLUEFISH	FRANK SIMMONS, OAK BLUFFS	21	10		BASS	(BOAT) MARILYN SCHEERBAUM	13.62**
1972	BASS	WAYNE IACONO, VINEYARD HAVEN	56	9			(SHORE) BUCK MARTIN	54.74
	BLUEFISH	JEAN HANCOCK, CHILMARK	23	4.5*		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) AARON CORSETTI	46.86
1973	BASS	ROBERT BLACK, SOMERVILLE, MA	54	7.5			(SHORE) MICHAEL TINUS	17.08
	BLUEFISH	FREEMAN WILLOUGHBY, EDGARTOWN	19	9		BONITO	(BOAT) EARL PETERS	18.04
1974	BASS	RAYMOND METCALE, EDGARTOWN	51	14			(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		BASS	(BOAT) THOMAS GOODALE	15.20
1976	BASS	RICK CONNELL, VINEYARD HAVEN	48	0			(SHORE) RICHARD MORRIS	54.48
	BLUEFISH	DICK CUDMORE, W. BRIDGEWATER, MA	19	6		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) DONNA NAGLE	53.52
1977	BASS	AL DOYLE, EDGARTOWN	56	6			(SHORE) DANIEL BRYANT	16.56
	BLUEFISH	KEVIN HALL, VINEYARD HAVEN	20	3		BONITO	(BOAT) MATT LAKSO	17.26
1978	BASS	DICK HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	60	2*			(SHORE) DAVE DESMARAIS	10.43
	BLUEFISH	GARY LEWIS	17	9	1995	ALBACORE	(BOAT) GARY LOOK	12.44**
1979	BASS	DICK HATHAWAY, EDGARTOWN	55	3			(SHORE) ERIC BROWN	13.15**
	BLUEFISH	BERNIE ARRUDA, EDGARTOWN	19	0		BASS	(BOAT) MARK E. DRINKWATER	12.01
1980	BASS	FRANCIS BERNARD, OAK BLUFFS	49	5			(SHORE) MIKE ALWARDT	57.82
	BLUEFISH	LEE WELCH, EDGARTOWN	20	0**		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) FRANK T. DOUGHERTY	50.42
1981	BASS	RICHARD LANDON, NEW HAVEN, CT		56.14			(SHORE) LORI VANDERLASKE (FLY ROD)	18.69
	BLUEFISH	ERIC PACHICO, VINEYARD HAVEN		20.10		BONITO	(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			(BOAT) STEVEN WOOD	9.12
	LITTLE TUNNY	JOHN WATERS, HAMILTON, MA		13.37	1996	ALBACORE	(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		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) FRANK NUOVO	49.11
	BONITO	DENNIS SANIDAS, FALMOUTH, MA		9.43			(SHORE) DENNIS WILLIAMS	18.47
	LITTLE TUNNY	STAN POPOWITZ, EDGARTOWN		14.25		BONITO	(BOAT) DONALD BALLOU	18.80
1983	BASS	STEVE MORRIS, OAK BLUFFS		49.96			(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		BASS	(BOAT) PHILIP LOFGREN	13.26
	LITTLE TUNNY	CHARLES WITHAM JR., GAY HEAD		15.36			(SHORE) DICK HATHAWAY	50.75
						BLUEFISH	(BOAT) DICK T. LEESON	40.62
							(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. GOF, 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. ALTERI	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 CAPEN	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 BOTTARY	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

(digital) Lbs. CONTINUED

2019	ALBACORE	(SHORE) SHAWN A. EMIN	12.13**	2022	ALBACORE	(BOAT) MARK LEONARD	19.21
		(BOAT) ISAIAH L. SCHEFFER	10.06			(SHORE) MATT STREM	14.67
	BLUEFISH	(SHORE) ROBERT BOTTARY	12.17		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) ELIZABETH S. O'BRIEN	16.41**
		(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	17.49			(SHORE) PETER HESS	16.15
	BONITO	(SHORE) LEWIS C. COLBY	6.43		BONITO	(BOAT) PETER CRABTREE	10.60
		(BOAT) GREG G. CLARK	11.62			(SHORE) MARK CAMPOS	10.02
2020	ALBACORE	(BOAT) STEPHEN W. LUCE	11.40	2023	ALBACORE	(SHORE) JOSEPH T. CEFALO	14.67
		(SHORE) RUDY S. SANFILIPPO	13.70			(BOAT) BILL POTTER	19.21
	BLUEFISH	(BOAT) CHRISTOPHER BELEZOS	17.86		BLUEFISH	(SHORE) JUSTUS CONANT	16.15
		(SHORE) PETER C. SHEPARDSON	12.98			(BOAT) ELIZABETH S. O'BRIEN	16.41
	BONITO	(BOAT) GREG G. CLARK	12.34**		BONITO	(SHORE) RICK ZAPPALA	10.02
		(SHORE) JOHN THURGOOD	10.48			(BOAT) DAVID C. KADISON	10.60**
2021	ALBACORE	(BOAT) DAVID C. KADISON	14.76	2024	ALBACORE	(BOAT) PAIGE SMITH	17.12
		(SHORE) KATHI M. PAGODA	12.31			(SHORE) JACOB A. CARDOZA	14.84
	BLUEFISH	(BOAT) RICHARD WOOD	20.11		BLUEFISH	(BOAT) NICK SMITH	18.37
		(SHORE) ZACHARY MAGID	16.65**			(SHORE) BRAD HOLLEY	15.85
	BONITO	(BOAT) JOE W. THOMPSON	13.10*		BONITO	(BOAT) CURTIS J. FOURNIER	11.22
		(SHORE) GAVIN SMITH	8.43			(SHORE) CARMELO TORRES	8.13***

THE 2025 GRAND LEADERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 30.

Junior Division Winners

SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1991 THRU 2024 • 2025 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) JEREMY P. MERCIER	9.80
2012	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	9.28
	(SHORE) HUNTER B. PONTE	7.93
2013	(BOAT) MICHAELA BENEFT	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) TEDDY ROSBECK	12.38
	(SHORE) EZRA MCGINLEY-SMITH	8.71
2022	(BOAT) CUYLER G. FISHER	14.38
	(SHORE) LATHROP J. KEENE	10.96
2023	(SHORE) MACALLAN J. MORAN	10.54
	(BOAT) CHRISTIAN E. FISHER	13.30
2024	(SHORE) CAMERON A. LAVIGNE	8.57
	(BOAT) LUKE BURR	15.86

STRIPED BASS

1994	(BOAT) DERECK PETERSON	38.72
	(SHORE) WOLFE 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) WOLFE 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

* JUNIOR RECORD

2001	(BOAT) SPENCER A. SASS	6.83
2002	(BOAT) SARAH L. KADISON	5.86
2003	(BOAT) D. J. POTHIER	9.04
2004	(BOAT) KASSIDY R. BETTENCOURT	6.42
2005	(BOAT) ERIC K. RIEDEL	8.11
2006	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	6.96
2007	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	7.35
2008	(BOAT) SARAH J. WILLISTON	8.24
2009	(BOAT) WYATT A. JENKINSON	9.71
	(SHORE) EVANDRO MEDICI, JR.	4.45
2010	(BOAT) GUS N. HOY	7.33
2011	(BOAT) WYATT A. JENKINSON	7.78
2012	(BOAT) CHRISTOPHER A. MAYHEW	8.32
	(SHORE) TOMMY WHITE	7.65
2013	(BOAT) ELIZABETH S. O'BRIEN	9.05
2014	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	9.17
2015	(BOAT) QUINN C. KEEFE	8.40
2016	(BOAT) ZAK POTTER	8.17
2017	(BOAT) VOLKERT KLEEMAN	8.79
2018	(SHORE) ANTHONY HERN	3.94
	(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	10.23
2019	(SHORE) SEAMUS P. MCKEON	4.01
	(BOAT) AUBREY WARBURTON	8.08
2020	(SHORE) GREY W. GRAHAM	5.90
	(BOAT) ELIZABETH R. THOMPSON	11.68
2021	(BOAT) ELIZABETH R. THOMPSON	11.68
	(SHORE) MASON WARBURTON	4.49
2022	(BOAT) ELI BEFORD	10.46
	(SHORE) LATHROP J. KEENE	5.00
2023	(SHORE) CORRICK SLAVIN	4.92
	(BOAT) NATHAN J. REZENDES	8.78
2024	(SHORE) TEGAN R. PEPPER	5.98
	(BOAT) HUDSON SMITH	8.40

BLUEFISH

1991	(BOAT) RYAN PIERCE	16.24
	(SHORE) FRANCIS FISHER	13.67
1992	(BOAT) JOSEPH PETERS	16.17
	(SHORE) GARRETT WOJTKIEWICZ	13.34
1993	(BOAT) LEV WLODYKA	16.17
	(SHORE) MILES WHYTE	11.44
1994	(BOAT) RYAN PIERCE	16.66
	(SHORE) SHARON OH	10.07
1995	(BOAT) RYAN PIERCE	17.54
	(SHORE) STEVEN COSTAS	15.13
1996	(BOAT) ROSS McDOWELL	14.19
	(SHORE) ELI J. BONNELL	13.66
1997	(BOAT) CHRIS STEFANOS	14.41
	(SHORE) TIM J. LUCE	12.37
1998	(BOAT) MARC LEVESQUE	15.57
	(SHORE) SHANA MONTESION	8.29
1999	(BOAT) NIKOLAS PAPASTRATIS	13.46
	(SHORE) OLLIE BECKER	10.28
2000	(BOAT) TAYLOR PIERCE	19.05*
	(SHORE) CODY BREWER	11.82
2001	(BOAT) D. J. POTHIER	15.14
	(SHORE) JACK C. STEPHENSON	5.51
2002	(BOAT) CODY J. BREWER	14.38
	(SHORE) ASA P. BERNARD	10.56
2003	(BOAT) LAUREN A. WILLISTON	13.60
	(SHORE) MICHAEL E. ROBINSON	10.23
2004	(BOAT) KASSIDY R. BETTENCOURT	12.72
	(SHORE) LUCY BENEDETTO	9.77
2005	(BOAT) JESSE L. THOMAS	11.82
	(SHORE) MIA G. BENEDETTO	11.61
2006	(BOAT) EMILYANNE A. WILLISTON	13.12
	(SHORE) CHRIS A. MORRIS	9.66
2007	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	14.31
	(SHORE) CHRIS MORRIS	11.70

2008	(BOAT) WILLIAM C. KADISON	14.25
	(SHORE) CURTIS J. FARRELL	15.55*
2009	(BOAT) ALEC B. COBBAN	12.66
	(SHORE) JEFFREY S. CIMENO, JR.	10.55
2010	(BOAT) VICTORIA T. SCOTT	14.77
	(SHORE) JACK G. MURRAY	11.20
2011	(BOAT) MICHAEL B. HABEKOST	13.57
	(SHORE) BRENDAN R. MORRIS	11.33
2012	(BOAT) CHESCA POTTER	14.59
	(SHORE) MICHAEL J. GIBSON	11.27
2013	(BOAT) DYLAN C. KADISON	12.60
	(SHORE) EMMA A. TOOMEY	14.18
2014	(BOAT) BRENDAN R. MORRIS	13.51
	(SHORE) ABIGAIL E. O'CONNELL	9.37
2015	(BOAT) VICTORIA T. SCOTT	15.36
	(SHORE) JACK A. O'CONNELL	10.11
2016	(BOAT) SEAMUS P. MCKEON	15.45
	(SHORE) RILEY CAMERON	11.83
2017	(BOAT) MASON WARBURTON	18.81
	(SHORE) JACK A. O'CONNELL	9.48
2018	(SHORE) MAYA TOMKINS	5.94
	(BOAT) VOLKERT KLEEMAN	15.49
2019	(SHORE) CUYLER G. FISHER	4.30
	(BOAT) AUBREY WARBURTON	20.19**
2020	(SHORE) AUBREY N. WARBURTON	16.39
	(BOAT) CUYLER G. FISHER	6.76
2021	(BOAT) CHRISTIAN E. FISHER	15.85
	(SHORE) DYLAN WALDMAN	13.03
2022	(BOAT) PAIGE SMITH	17.71
	(SHORE) JOHN CHO	15.02
2023	(SHORE) SHANE M. HARDING	12.74
	(BOAT) EMMETT R. SYLVA	14.99
2024	(SHORE) SHANE M. HARDING	6.63
	(BOAT) JOCIE SMITH	19.60

* 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

- Justus P. Conant
- Lucy Cox
- Robert J. Boyhan
- Janet Messineo
- Don Mohr

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

- Mail a check (\$100 minimum, payable to "MV Derby") to Chris Reed, Derby Treasurer, PO Box 2101, Edgartown, MA 02539 no later than June 1, 2027

- Include a note stating the name of the individual the contribution honors (please specify if it is in memoriam)

Thank you for your consideration



Best Fishes to all.

Best Fishes to all.

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Awards Ceremony 2025



Walter Morrison memorial award winner Ayla Jacobs



Derby HoF inductee
James Cornwell



Derby HoF inductee
Ron Domurat



(L-R) Chris Scott, Joe ElDeiry, Greg Hopkins (Eastern Boat Works),
Sam Bell, Ellie Hopkins, and John Custer



Crowd celebrates with Grand Prize winner Sam Bell



Derby Grand Prize winner Sam Bell



First-place Junior winners



Derby HoF inductee
Maryanne Jerome

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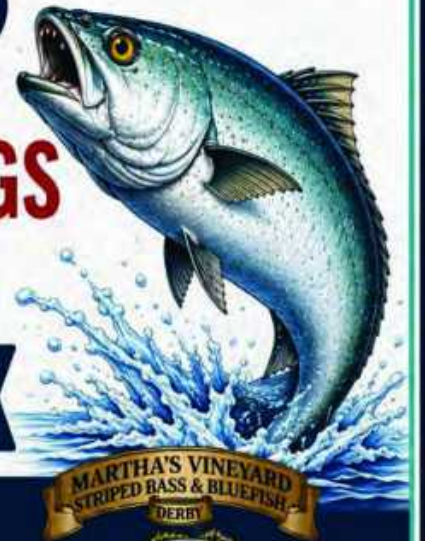


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LIVE STANDINGS





Remembering Shirley Craig by Jamie Craig

At the start of America's involvement in WWII, Albert Prada of Edgartown contracted tuberculosis, so was consigned to a Sanatorium in Pocasset rather than joining his peers overseas. To make ends meet, the family home was rented to sailors training at the Island's air base, and they moved to Al's parents' dairy farm on Clevelandtown road. Shirley, then six years old, also contracted the disease, and completed her schoolwork from home while she recovered. These were lean years, and Shirley learned how to live off of the land, and the importance of sharing resources and helping neighbors in need.

When Al finally returned, he sought to make up for lost time and began taking Shirley along when he went surfcasting. As Mom recalled, female surfcasters were few and far between in those days, and her presence amongst the seasoned fisherman was often viewed with skepticism. But Al Prada's mantra was "If something's worth doing, it's worth doing right", and he coached Shirley in every aspect of surfcasting, most especially the customs and protocols of the venture. First-come, first-served, keep a proper distance from other anglers, know your currents and position yourself appropriately, and above all, cast straight and true. The surest way to run afoul of another fisherman is to err in these rules and cross their line. Shirley loved surfcasting and paid careful heed to the sage instruction of her father, slowly earning the respect of the veteran anglers. Eventually, when one of the most experienced and respected fishermen apologized to her for crossing her line, she knew that she'd been accepted as a peer.

My parents married in 1957 and began spending summers thereafter on the Vineyard. My father, Philip Craig, had been raised on a cattle ranch in Colorado, and was also accustomed to living off of the land. Pa had fished a bit out west but was unimpressed by the effort required to catch fish too small to constitute a meal. Mom taught him how to surfcast, and he immediately developed the same passion as she for the endeavor. She tried to instill the same enthusiasm within me, and I briefly



Shirley & Phil Craig

made a go of it. But how early one has to rise some mornings to catch the perfect tide at Wasque, I began to lose interest. Mom, however, never did.

She relished the time she got to spend fishing with her father in his later years, but eventually she and Pa wanted to fish even more than Al was up for, so they began acquiring 4x4 vehicles of their own. These were usually derelicts that had been abandoned at Chauncy Maury's place out in Katama, that could be fixed up well enough to become beach vehicles. Our powder blue 1973 Toyota Land Cruiser was later canonized as the preferred vehicle of fictional detective J. W. Jackson in my father's long series of Martha's Vineyard mystery novels. Later came a blaze-orange 1976 Ford Bronco that Pa patched up with sheet metal from an old washing machine. These jalopies were always festooned with spring-clips on the roof to hold their long surfcasting rods for travel, and home-made holders fashioned from PVC pipes on the front bumpers to hold their rods at the beach. As was Al's tradition, beach permit stickers were never covered over, but affixed side by side on the vehicle to demonstrate how experienced the driver was in over-sand vehicle operation. CB radios kept my parents in touch should only one be out fishing while the other was stuck at home, but most often they fished together.

Summer mornings I would hear them rise at ungodly hours to head out with fresh muffins and a thermos of

coffee to catch whatever tide at Wasque had been determined to be the ideal time for the bluefish to gather. The competition between them was fierce and bragging rights were afforded to the one who landed the most or biggest fish on any given day. The catch would be brought home and cleaned on a bench set up in the backyard, and whatever fillets beyond what we could use ourselves would be distributed to people who needed them. Pa converted an old refrigerator into a smoker, and much of the fish was smoked there and used in a variety of recipes. Shirley's recipe for

Smoked Bluefish Pate (page 24 in our cookbook "*Delish!*"), won numerous awards and maintains legions of fans to this day.

Mom did not limit herself to surfcasting alone and was particularly excited about the times she was invited to go swordfishing with Ed Prada, a legendary local fisherman. A far cry from surfcasting for bluefish, swordfishing entailed heading far out to sea and catching fish weighing up to 200 pounds. When trips were successful, Pa would fashion the pointed upper jaws of the fish into actual swords with wooden handles. When my parents retired to the Vineyard year-round in the late 90's, Janet Messineo recruited them to join the Derby Committee, and both became very active members. I would stop by the old Jr. Yacht Club building nights and find Mom cheerfully working at the weigh station while Pa cleaned fish out on the adjacent dock. Once cleaned and packaged, these fillets went to families in need.

Fishing and participating in the Derby became a way of life for my parents, a shared passion that allowed them to spend time relaxing, engaging in friendly competition, feeding their family and neighbors, and enjoying the company of other anglers. After my father passed, Mom still fished whenever able and had Walter Lison fashion my son Riley's first surfcasting rod, so as to usher in a new generation. She passed away in January at the age of 90, and though dementia took much away from her, she continued to beam brightly whenever her memories returned to stories about her lifetime of fishing.

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The 2025 Derby: Some Ups, and a Few Downs

Synopsis by Phil Horton, Derby Committee

Derby registration in 2025 reached 3,314 participants, a 4% increase from the 3,177 registrants recorded in 2024. Total fish weigh-ins rose to 1,830, representing a 15% increase over the 1,592 weigh-ins in 2024, though still 22% below the 25-year record high of 2,354 set in 2007. These figures exclude striped bass, which have been removed from the Derby twice, most recently in 2020.

The following summary and accompanying figure provide a comparative overview of 2025 Derby results relative to the past 37 years.

Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*):

From 1990 to 1996, bluefish weigh-ins declined sharply from a peak of 1,700 fish to just 665. Between 1997 and 2008, totals gradually rebounded to levels last seen in the late 1980s. A steady decline then followed from 2009 through 2019, before weigh-ins increased again from 2020 to 2022. However, the downward trend resumed in 2023 and continued through 2025.

In 2025, a total of 706 bluefish were weighed, representing a 7% decrease from the 761 recorded in 2024 and a 51% decline from the 2008 peak of 1,438. Boat-based weigh-ins fell from 577 in 2024 to 528 in 2025, while shore-based totals decreased slightly from 184 to 178. Shore anglers accounted for 25% of all bluefish weighed in 2025, somewhat below the long-term average. The average bluefish weight has also shifted over time. Average weights were approximately 10 lbs. from 1987–1997 and 8 lbs. from 1998–2008.

In 2025, the average bluefish weighed 11.7 lbs., well above the 2009–2024 average of 8.8 lbs. Most weigh-ins occurred on weekends, although weekly totals remained relatively consistent throughout the Derby. Worth noting that 7 out of the top 10 heaviest shore bluefish weighed in during the Derby, including the 3 division leaders, were all weighed on the same day/weigh-in period.

Atlantic Bonito (*Sarda sarda*):

Over the last 25 years, annual bonito weigh-ins have ranged from 142 to 701 fish, with much of the variability driven by dramatic swings in shore-based catches. The long-term average during this period is 328 bonito weighed in annually. In 2025, a total of 701 bonito were weighed in—the highest total in 25 years and a 73% increase over the 405 recorded in 2024. Boat landings more than doubled, rising from 198 fish in 2024 to 435 in 2025, while shore landings remained relatively steady at 266 fish compared with 254 the previous year.

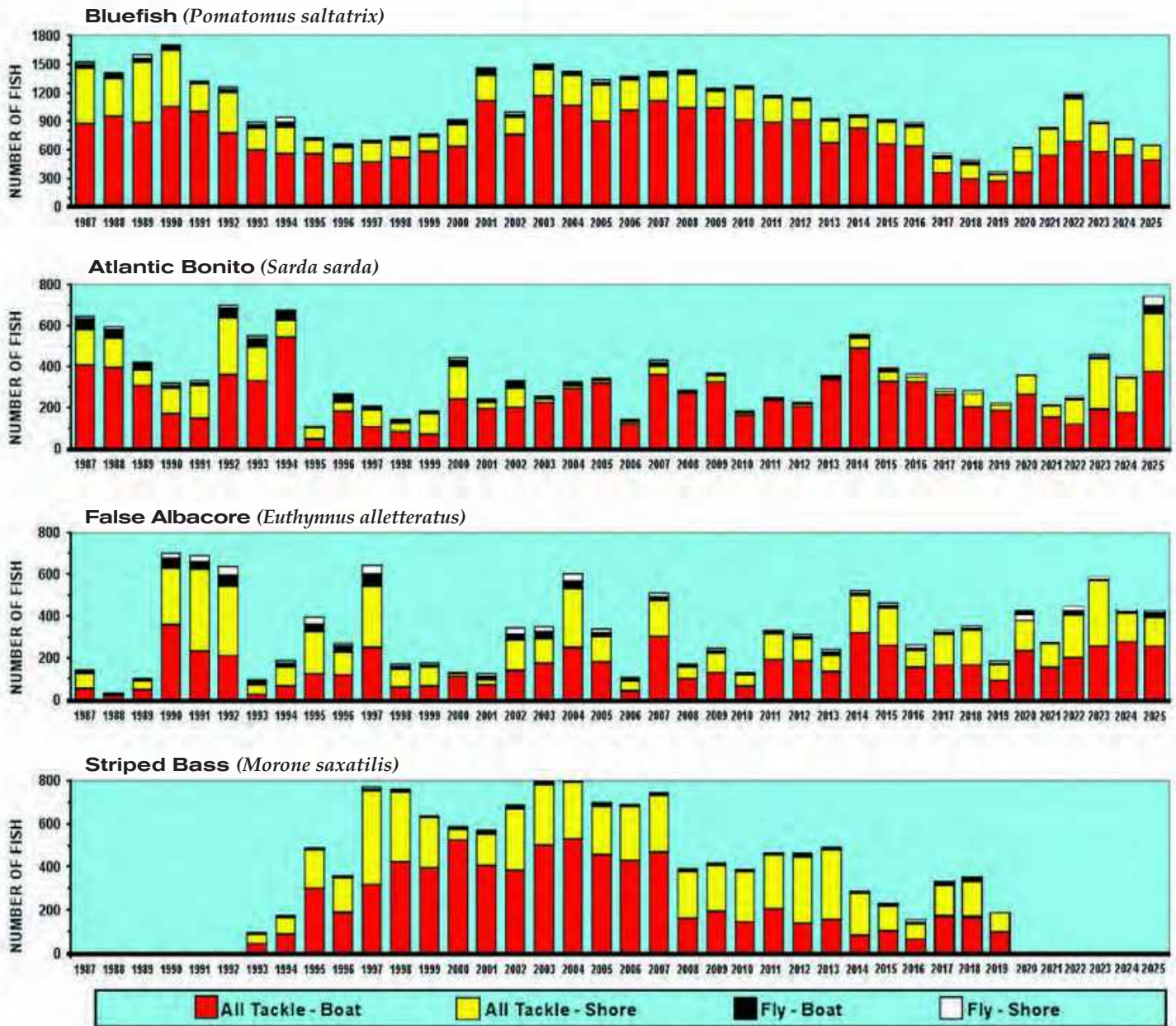
Although shore-based anglers have accounted for just



JOHN PIEKOS

20% of bonito landings on average since 2000, they contributed 38% of the total catch in 2025, representing a significant departure from the long-term trend. Shore landings have fluctuated dramatically over the past two decades, ranging from a single fish to as many as 254. Despite several strong recent seasons for shore anglers,

boat fishermen have historically maintained the advantage in targeting bonito. The average bonito weighed in during 2025 was 5.1 pounds, consistent with the long-term range of 4.7 to 6.9 pounds. As in many previous years, bonito availability during the five-week Derby varied considerably. Fish appeared sporadically, with periodic bursts of action throughout the event.



False Albacore (*Euthynnus alletteratus*):

Long-term trends for false albacore are difficult to interpret because Derby rules have changed over time. Even so, the available data shows dramatic variation in weigh-ins since 2000, ranging from a low of 107 fish in 2006 to a high of 614 in 2023. In 2025, anglers weighed in 423 albies, nearly identical to the 2024 total of 426.

Although the shore-to-boat ratio has averaged roughly 50/50 in recent years, 2025 favored boat anglers. Of the fish weighed, 279 were caught from boats compared with 144 from shore. The average weight of false albacore has also

increased steadily over the past decade, rising from 7.6 pounds in 2015 to 11.1 pounds in 2024. That trend continued in 2025, when the average weight climbed to 11.5 pounds. Daily weigh-in records further indicate that false albacore were present throughout the full duration of the Derby.

Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*):

Beginning in 2020, striped bass were removed from the Derby's prize structure after Atlantic coast conservation rules introduced stricter slot-size limits intended to help rebuild declining striped bass populations 🐟

All Hail the Volunteers

Behind every Derby, there is a team of dedicated volunteers. These quietly sung heroes are the ones who are behind the scenes making the daily magic appear easy. They fold t-shirts, enter data, hand out pins, mop the floor, fill out fish and help guide participants. They ensure a smooth flow and flash a smile. They cheer with excitement equally for small fish, big fish, first fish and last fish. They are the backbone of the moments that make a difference.

For the eighty-first year, we thought we'd share a little insight from many of our dedicated volunteers. Here is a glimpse of their stories...



Joe, Robyn, Linda, Stacy, and Polly

KATIE HALSEY

“2025 was my first year volunteering for the Derby and I look forward to helping out in years to come. I volunteered a few nights and to see the folks - of all ages - come in and weigh their fish was so much fun. The sheer enjoyment of all the folks present was amazing. The fisher-folks, the locals, the visitors, the other volunteers - I've never experienced anything like it. All gathered together and supporting and cheering for each person weighing in.

The most memorable moment for me was at the pre-Derby volunteer dinner. We've lived on the island for just over nine years and it was the first time I felt

like I was part of the community - there is something so special on the island of being a part of something bigger than one's self. Again, all there to pitch in and create a memorable event. And to think that is something that will happen year after year just makes my heart sing.

It is a pleasure and an honor to be part of the Derby. Can't wait until next year.”

TRISH LYMAN

“What initially sparked me to volunteer with the Derby - I got to know Martha Smith through a real estate transaction, and she invited me to join the weigh station crew. Martha and Char-

lie were staples at the shack- at that time Charlie was weighmaster seven nights a week- and are wonderful people. It was such an honor to be invited to join the exclusive crew!

What brings me the most joy when I am volunteering is seeing the excitement and joy on everyone's face as they come in after a long day on the water - especially the kids. And, of course, hanging out with the other volunteers for a couple of hours every evening.

The most unforgettable moment I've had during my time as a volunteer is winning in 2017 with the biggest Albie and the weigh station crew having a bottle of champagne on ice at the final bell.”



The knife sharpener plying his trade

BRADLEY CARROLL

“My journey into volunteering began at home, watching my mom, Katie, serve as a committee member. Seeing firsthand the pure joy and fulfillment she got from giving back is what initially sparked my own desire to get involved. As a teenager, the prospect of joining the Derby family and contributing to such a vibrant community was incredibly exciting to me. Today, that passion hasn’t faded, and I make it a priority to dedicate as much time and energy to volunteering at the weigh in as my schedule allows.

The Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby isn’t just a tournament; it’s a generational heartbeat for the Island. Wanting to move from a spectator or participant to a volunteer shows a deep appreciation for the “Derby Magic” that keeps that weigh-in station running. The sounds of the bell ringing, the cheering, the banter and the feeling of the docks at

night is something I wanted to be a part of.

There is a special kind of excitement and joy of witnessing someone else’s “fish of a lifetime” rather than catching your own. It doesn’t matter whether it’s a kid, an adult or a senior or if it’s from a boat or shore or all tackle or fly rod. The thrill of sharing that experience for me, the other volunteers and those who happen to be lucky enough to be in the weigh in at that time is palpable.

What makes this volunteer community truly special is its ability to foster connection. I have stood side-by-side with veterans, lifelong Islanders, and visitors, all united by a love for the ocean and a dedication to the sport. I saw that volunteering here means you are part of a team that keeps this 80-year tradition alive, passing on fishing etiquette and island history to a new generation. This group is a family, and like all families, it thrives on collective effort.



Fillet Master David Merry and Jon Wilson

In down time, things can get silly at the weigh station. There was one particularly slow evening and, to bring some laughs, we brought a goldfish cracker to the scale and weighed it in. Joe even cut the tail fin off with the shears. We do all take this seriously, but every once in a while there is a very comical, entertaining and laughable moment. ”

MARTHA KLEIN

“When I first arrived on the island in 2015 I took a job managing a store in Edgartown and met Ed and MaryAnn Jerome who quickly became two of my favorite customers. Anyone that has had that pleasure understands why! I was new to fishing and had no idea of what I was doing. Ed would come by the shop and was so encouraging and generous with his knowledge that before I

continued on next page



A busy night on the fillet dock



Beka El-Deiry: the fillet-master



Bradley, Kristy and Polly on duty

knew it I had signed up for my first Derby and was lucky enough to weigh in my first fish. I was totally hooked but being new to fishing I was unaware of the veil of secrecy that fishermen live by. I naively thought if I volunteered at the shed I would be able to gather intel on all the best spots to fish and which lures to throw when (wishful thinking). Ultimately it was my friend Leah who is a committee member and was kind enough to introduce me to Joe and the rest is history.

I love my time at the Shed. The camaraderie and sense of community is incredible. Meeting and greeting fellow volunteers, fishermen, families and friends of the Derby makes every shift an adventure. You never know when a new Grand Leader will arrive or a first fish pin will be given or an old friend will walk through the door. A visit to the shed is a truly unique experience that I feel lucky to be a part of.

This past Derby was a highlight for me as my fishing partner and dear friend Chris Hall landed a Grand Leader Shore Bluefish and I was working that night at

the Shed. There were a total of four separate Bluefish Grand Leaders in the last half hour of the night and the shed was filled with excitement. I texted Chris to let him know that there had been three fish over sixteen pounds. When he arrived we all held our breath and then the scale hit 17. The place went crazy. What a gift it was to be able to be there and celebrate with him. I will never forget it ”

BEKA EL-DEIRY

“ Legacy is strong with the Derby. I grew up around the great shore fishermen of Wasque when Bass was king. Janet Messineo and my mom were waitresses together in 1977 and that’s how we ended up driving over the sand and heading to the gut before sunset. It’s also the place I learned over the years to filet fish, first on schoolie blues and slowly moved to bigger species. Much later I became the designated filet-er of our family when the catch arrived every weekend.

When Joe became the chairman, I offered to be a substitute on the filet deck

and, seven years later, I have weekly time slots during the Derby as Filet Master that I share with two other people. This is an honor and a responsibility to the tournament. The joy comes in different ways. The best part is watching the kids grow up in the Derby, just like ours did.

I’m a people person and I’m blessed to grow up on an Island where everyone knows each other. We all help our community in a variety of ways, that is just what we do. The filet program makes no waste of the fish we receive. Big love to those of you who care for and ice your catch - you know who you are!!! Every night at the weigh-in is different and I don’t mind the slow nights because I get to go in the shed and catch up with my Derby friends: We are family. “When I see them at the grocery store or on the boat we all know the months or weeks counting down to the Derby,” we don’t small talk too much but we shout out, “six more weeks,” or whatever the count-down time is. Then, it is five full weeks of making more Derby memories.”



AM weigh station crew: Barbara Rogers, Michelle Scarpone, Katie Halsey, Robyn Joubert

BARBARA ROGERS

“It almost seems like I can’t remember a time when the Derby hasn’t been part of my life since my husband has been a participant for many years. Even before he was my husband! And 2025 was the best year because he was inducted into the Derby Hall of Fame. I know how much time and effort he has put in over the years on beach access and fisheries issues. It was very rewarding to see him be recognized for that work as well as his Derby accomplishments.

I was looking forward to becoming part of the volunteer crew and signed up when I retired in 2017. We have so many friends and acquaintances who are fishermen or volunteers that it’s been fun to see a lot of those friendly faces at Derby Headquarters over the years.

Many days the morning crew is the same as it’s been for years and Robyn Joubert is the glue that holds it all together. Robyn is as dedicated as they come, manning the computer every day of every Derby for more years than even she can remember.

Since striped bass were suspended as an eligible derby fish being on the morning shift is a lot slower than the evening weigh in. But folks come in just to check the board, have a cup of coffee or to see who’s hanging around. For me, the fun part of the morning weigh in is when kids

come in to weigh a fish before school or pick up a pin from a previous weigh in. They are so happy and excited - it’s a great way to start the day!

I also love talking to visitors who come in just to see what’s going on. They may or may not know anything about the Derby but they always have a lot of questions. It’s fun to find out where they’re from, what they do, or where they’re staying, whether it’s their 1st visit or their 10th. A couple years ago I talked to a man and found out his family came from my little hometown in northeast Pennsylvania!

The Derby means so much to so many and brings so much to our Island community. I hope to be a part of it for many years to come. ”

ALEXANDRA BLANCHARD

“I moved back to the Vineyard about sixteen years ago and married a fisherman. I had a few friends here when I had lived here before (many years back). My husband mentioned that it would be fun for me to see if I could get involved with the Derby and I thought...why not!

This decision was made approximately thirteen years ago and I haven’t looked back. It is a very welcoming place and I didn’t have to know all the rules because

everyone there was happy to explain how everything worked. There were friends that I knew from my past as well as new friends and we worked, laughed and all for such a great cause and awesome Vineyard tradition.

Every fall when the Derby begins, it is like a reunion. At the end of the Derby, we come together and celebrate not only the winners but everyone involved at the Derby Awards Ceremony. Total blast! There is something special when the summer comes to an end and the autumn begins because you know that the Derby Days are ahead!! ”

MIDGE JACOBS

“In 1981 a friend drove me out to Wasque to show me the surfcasting fishing scene. Well, that’s where I first saw Janet Messineo slinging that big surf casting rod in the waves! I was so impressed with her and knew that it was just something I had to do! Fortunately for me, I was able to meet her and she became my mentor but most importantly my friend. Well, fishing and Derby go hand in hand. My first Derby registration pin is dated 1981 and the headquarters was located at the Oak Bluffs pier.

There was such a wonderful, almost magical feeling when you walked into the headquarters. It was fascinating watching

continued on next page



PM staff- Linda Coutinho, Polly Conway, Stacy Nickerson-Hall, Midge Jacobs, Leah Fraumeni and Molly Reed

the Weigh Master and the ladies volunteering beside him. It looked like the kind of community I would love to be part of.

There are two aspects that bring me great joy when volunteering. I love the interaction of the people coming in with their fish, their expectations of the big one, and the support to all the anglers whether they get the big one or not. I love the first fish pins! The volunteers enjoy giving support and encouragement to seasoned anglers, young anglers, first time anglers with applause and a "Nice fish" shout out. And a, "Don't forget to take your picture with the fish outside in front of the Derby Banner!" Watching the active fishing families come in every evening with their smiles and excited kids getting their names and leading fish on the board is also pretty special!

The second aspect that brings me enormous joy is the camaraderie among the volunteers inside the Weigh Station and on the filet dock. We become a Derby Family during those 5 weeks. Some of us see each other and/or keep in touch during the year, but when we get to the Weigh Station it's as if we've never left. Like Andy Williams sings, "It's the most wonderful time of the year." That camaraderie also includes the committee members who, come wind, rain or shine, spend many hours in the Weigh Station with the volunteers and filet dock, too.

There are so many special and unforgettable moments that it would be hard to single one out, but here are a few high-

lights: I loved being at the Weigh Station when Elizabeth O'Brien brought in her Derby winning bluefish! It's pretty fun to watch Mr. Kadison come in quietly and weigh in Derby contending fish. Seeing the joy on Coop, Danny and all the Gilkes' faces when the grandchildren weigh in fish. Watching my granddaughter, Ayla, weigh in her first fish was pretty special.

Many years ago Coop and Danny used to voluntarily take some of the volunteers fishing. That day, most of us on the boat had to be on duty at 8:00 for the Weigh Station. Well, things were slow and Danny and Coop turned to us and said, "How about going to Nantucket?" We did just that and pulled in front of the Weigh Station right on the dot with some really nice fish! It was a bonding memorable trip and, to cap it off, there was this enormous full moon following us as we pulled into Edgartown Harbor."

MOLLY REED

"I started volunteering at the weigh station in 2017...Stacy had been encouraging me to join in the fun. Many of the same people are still there, year after year, and even though the island is small, I'm not sure I would have met a lot of them otherwise. Fishing is a common thread but not necessary to be a part of the derby, but if you are lucky enough to catch a fish worthy of weighing in, there's so much enthusiasm and support from fellow volunteers on duty!



David Pothier and pup providing volunteer morale

(Maybe not as much as when the kids bring in their catches, but still a great feeling!) There's just a great camaraderie amongst the volunteers and all who enter the weigh station and I really look forward to the 5 weeks every fall.

It can be extremely chaotic as well, but everyone just seems to jump in and do whatever needs doing. Shout out to Committee member Taylor Pierce. After a particularly busy night when we were short-handed, he stepped up to man the prize table so we could keep everything else moving smoothly. Not sure he ever got to look up from the table but at the end of the night, he said he had no idea how much the volunteers did every shift! No one does this for recognition, but it's always nice to be appreciated.

Most memorable nights: veterans' events, Make a Wish participants and pretty much whenever someone weighs in their first fish. It's just a great place to be where everyone can forget whatever stresses that they may have in their day to day lives and get caught up in the excitement of what might be!"

KEVIN SEARLE

"As a native islander, it feels like a calling to volunteer for the Derby. 2026 will make my seventeenth year volunteering. I was an avid fisherman and, after my dad passed away in 1985, I began thinking of ways to keep his memory alive. I settled on volunteering with the Derby. Headquarters is where I spend



Molly Reed and Stacy Nickerson-Hall

many of my fall mornings.

I buy a pin with the same number every year in his memory. I'll be volunteering again this year. I love the people I work with and look forward to the camaraderie and island spirit it brings.

RICHELLE (SHELLY) O'NEIL

“Here is how I got involved. I was weighing fish throughout the past Derbies and saw how exciting the Derby Headquarters gets and really enjoyed the energy. My friend Amy Coffey was running headquarters and wondered if I would like to volunteer.

I joined the crew and about ten years have passed since that first day I began donating my time. I started helping with various duties- selling Derby gear, handing out the weigh slips and, of course, applauding fishermen as they weighed in the catch. After that, I had the opportunity to help with inputting weigh data on the computer.

I am very grateful for my Derby family. They are very supportive always and even more when I was going through my second battle with breast cancer. Everyone is there to support each other. That is what I love about volunteering.

I love seeing all the returning faces and

seeing the new ones. My favorite is when a new person weighs in their first fish. To see that smile just warms my heart. Even better is when the kids come in with their first fish. The wide eyes and the smile get me every time. I think this is a wonderful Family to be part of and I look forward to it every year. ”

BECKY HEGARTY

“I started volunteering with the Derby about four years ago. I truly don't know a thing about fishing, but I love the sense of community it brings to both the local community and beyond. I have met some really interesting people along the way, and I especially appreciate that the Derby helps support scholarships for local high school graduates.

What brings me the most joy when volunteering is the atmosphere of the Derby itself — the crisp fall air, the change of seasons on Martha's Vineyard, and the excitement that builds when someone comes in with a fish to be weighed. It's always fun to see the pride and anticipation from both the anglers and the crowd, and being part of that energy each year is really special.

One of the most unforgettable moments I've had while volunteering with the Derby was last year when three differ-

ent anglers came into the weigh station one after another, each taking the lead with a heavier fish. Every time someone walked in, there was a rush of excitement as the crowd gathered around and their name was written at the top of the chalkboard. Then, just moments later, another angler would arrive with an even bigger catch and the name would come down to make room for the new leader. The energy, anticipation, and excitement in the room during those moments was incredible to witness. ”

JUSTEN WALKER

“Trish Lyman invited me to join the volunteers at the Derby shack a number of years ago and here I am coming back annually for more. I enjoy seeing some of my current students and former students come in to weigh fish. A memorable moment was when Eli Bonnell, fillet master at the time, was on the filet barge lying down holding a striped bass in the water. He managed to revive it and we watched it swim away. ”

DJ POTHIER

“What sparked me to begin volunteering for the Derby was growing up in the midst of it all. My dad has

continued on next page



Headquarters staff (Kristy, Trish, Midge and Leah) with their weigh-ins

been a committee member for as long as I can remember and I spent my childhood at headquarters watching. Being filletmaster was the one thing I really wanted to do.

When I turned seventeen the time was right and I got to put my skills to the test on the fillet barge. The fact that people donate fish for us to cut and share with those who can't physically catch them anymore or with seniors who simply enjoy fresh fish is pretty amazing.

Although I moved away for a spell, the one thing I did when I came back was start cutting fish for the Derby again. Sometimes the job can be challenging, but most of the time it is really enjoyable. My son David (*page 48*) gets to spend time at headquarters with me just like I did with my dad. ”



Who's next?

SARAH CONNOLLY

“Volunteering often begins with a simple push, and for me, that came a few years ago from my friend Robyn Joubert. As an active volunteer, she

convinced me to get involved.

The most striking part of the experience is the sheer variety of people involved. Collaborating with a diverse group builds immediate teamwork and camaraderie. Working toward a shared goal makes the environment high-energy, making it easy to form strong, genuine friendships with people I might otherwise never have met.

Seeing the immediate, positive reactions on the kids' faces is incredibly rewarding and offers a clear reminder of why the Derby is so important.

Robyn's invitation did more than just fill my free time; it connected me to a motivated community and a purpose that delivers genuine fulfillment. Excitement, joy, camaraderie and teamwork are some of the many reasons I volunteer annually. ”

Behind each Derby lies an invisible foundation of dedicated volunteers. While some helpers are public-facing, many of the most impactful contributors work entirely out of the spotlight. These individuals do not seek recognition, awards, or public praise; instead, they are driven by a simple, quiet love for what they do.

The value of these unsung heroes cannot be overstated. From organizing awards and merchandise to sitting at the computer to filleting fish to sweeping the floor, their actions keep the Derby running smoothly.

They demonstrate the purest form of altruism—giving entirely for the benefit of others without expecting anything in return.

Ultimately, gratitude belongs not just to those whose stories we hear, but also to those who serve in silence. A community's true strength is measured by this collective, quiet generosity. We owe a debt of appreciation to every volunteer, visible or unseen, who silently makes the world a better place.

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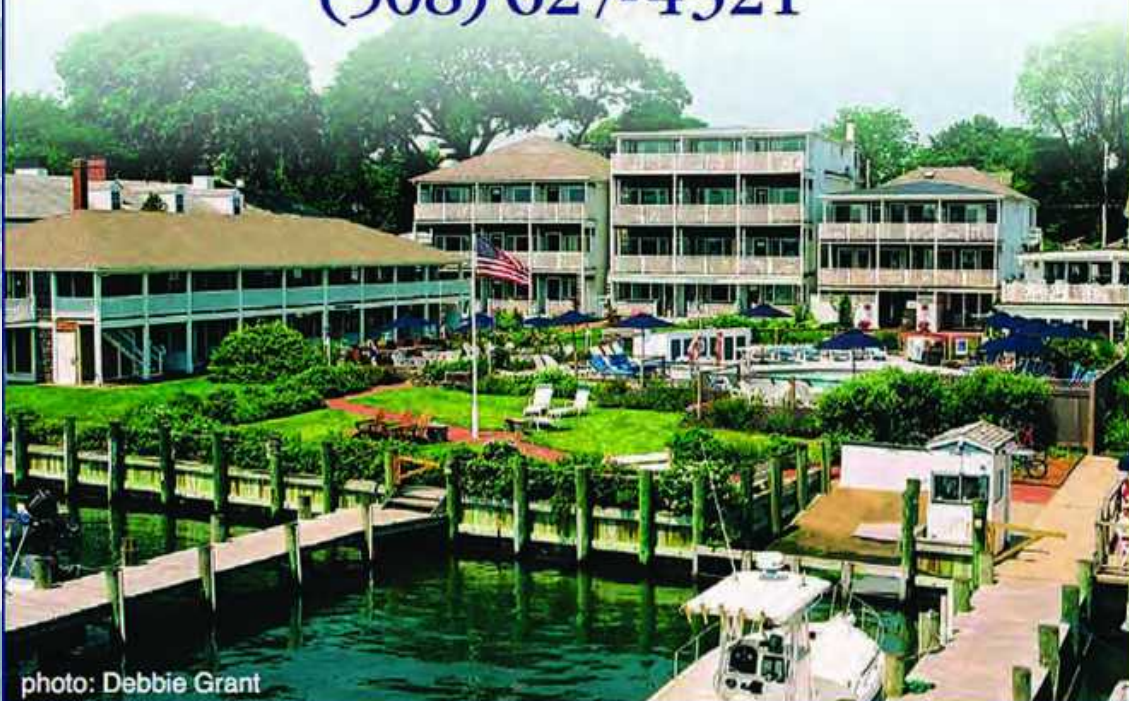


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In memory of my parents Michael and Susan,
who made this possible for me, and in memory of
Don Mohr, Abe Williams and Peter Johnson,
three of MVSA's finest, who were always willing
to teach and share their knowledge.

Thank you,

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Snippets from 2025 Hall of Fame Inductees

The Derby Hall of Fame was created to recognize individuals and organizations, including government bodies, 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. Inductees must have demonstrated "good sportsmanship, honesty, integrity," and exhibited a concern for fish and the environment. We are extremely proud of these individuals and the significant contributions they have made to the success of the *Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby*.

The Hall of Fame celebrates individuals with integrity, good sportsmanship, and a commitment to the environment and the Derby. The first members inducted into the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby Hall of Fame, established in 1999, were Kib Bramhall, Serge deSomov, Ed Jerome,

Howard Leonard and Ben Morton. The honor is bestowed every other year, and, although the honorees stand up and share their thoughts about the experience verbally, those words are rarely set in print. What fun we thought it would be to share some of the heartfelt words spoken at the 2025 Awards Ceremony.

To see all of the Derby Hall of Fame Honorees throughout the years check out pages 24 thru 28 in this booklet



Ron Domurat

“I have a few thoughts to share and some people to thank so please bear with me for a few minutes! This is a special day for me and ranks right up there with some of the most important days of my life. It is such an incredible honor to be inducted into the Derby Hall of Fame and join the ranks of so many people who have made the Derby special. How good is it to be recognized for doing something you love, in a place that you love, and for an event you care deeply about.

It's also especially gratifying to be inducted on the 80th Anniversary of the Derby and inducted with my good friends Jim Cornwell and Maryanne Jerome. And I am honored to join some of my friends in this exclusive club, namely my old buddy Don Mohr, Ed Jerome, Karen Kukulich, Janet, Bob and Fran Clay, Paul Schultz, Ed Amaral, and Nelson and Coop.

I have a long list of people to thank but first and foremost my wife Barbara, also known as the *MVfishingwidow.com*, who for almost 40 years has listened to at least a thousand boring fish stories, put up with all the highs and lows, and me being Derby Dumb! She's never once complained about my mistress. Thank you Barbara!

Thanks to my family for understanding my need to almost completely disappear from your lives for five weeks every fall, and thank you to Ron, Chris and Kari for making the long trip to be here today. Thanks also to my good friends Phil Henning

and Patty MacDonald for being here. For the last 35 years Phil has spent time here fishing the Derby with me. He says he taught me everything I know about fishing.

Thank you Mike Carotta for nominating me. This wouldn't have happened if it hadn't been for you. And thank you Bob & Fran, my McRat teammate Keith McCart, and Lisa Belcastro for submitting support letters....and thank you Dave Balon!

Thank you to the Derby Committee for considering me worthy of this honor. I can't begin to tell you how important and special this is to me

And finally, thank you for what you do every year.

I'd like everyone to take a minute to think hard about what we have here because *it doesn't happen by accident*. It happens because of an incredibly dedicated group of committee members and volunteers who do this because they love and enjoy it, and understand the Derby's importance to us as participants as well as the community. Think about the friendships that are made and renewed every year. Picture the Derby headquarters and the work that goes into putting it together. Look at the work that went into setting this up here today. Think about the Kids Derby and what went on here this morning with the kids awards. Look at all these prizes and awards and what's about to happen with the key ceremony. There is something for everyone! I would put this event up against any fishing tournament in the country. And it continues to get better!

This is our *Super Bowl* - and we get to play in it every year. Not only is it a celebration of our wonderful sport, it's a celebration of the special life we have here on Martha's Vineyard. We are blessed to be a part of it! ”

“This is the greatest day of my life. My dad would be so happy. He was the one that started me on this journey 75 years ago. I thank him and I lift him up in memory. I want to thank the Derby committee for their support and guidance and direction. I want to also thank my family for their letters of nomination, in particular my 10 year old grandson who could not be here, but I felt that his letter of nomination helped me go over the top.

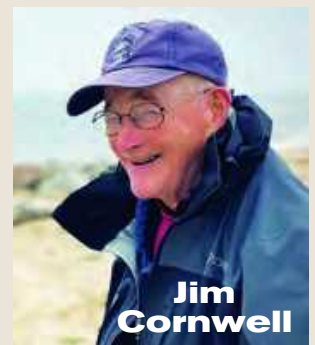
I also, at this time, recognize my wife of 64 years who has put up with me through thick and thin. As I said at the museum a few weeks ago, divorce has

never been in our vocabulary, but murder has.

At this time, I'd like to recognize two important people in my life; my friend and neighbor Ron Domurat, he taught me how to lie, but to lie acceptably. He is a great, great fisherman.

And second, I'd like to recognize someone that you all know, Maryanne Jerome. In my opinion, she is the First Lady of this great organization.

And lastly and most important, I'd like to thank my heavenly father who has guided me and taken care of me through 75 years of fishing on the Vineyard. Thank you, thank you, thank you. ”



Jim Cornwell

“ We are so proud to participate in and support the Derby year after year. The incredible work done by the Derby committee and countless others is just awesome. From “weighing-in” our newborn kids on the scales, to seeing them win daily and weekly awards, the Derby fills us with joy. It’s a time for us all to fish with friends from on and off Island and the stories and relationships built on the shore and at sea all around the Island are everlasting. We are grateful to be a small part of the Derby story.

To be able to come together as a community and pursue the passion of fishing in the most beautiful waters in the world with an incredible group of people *AND* doing good with some competition is a pretty amazing thing! There is nothing like the Derby anywhere in the world.

Personally the friendship and mentorship we have received from Derby greats like Ed Jerome, Coop Gilkes, John Custer, Chris Scott, Ray Ellis and many current and future Derby greats are gifts we will carry with us forever and pass on to the next generation. Talking on the benches at the finger piers, the



Shep & Ian Murray

weigh-ins, Dock Street Diner breakfast, chatter on the VHF, banter on text and of the camaraderie that comes with it are what the relationships and Derby is all about. And to have that much fun and also help the community simultaneously is incredible.

Our most sacred belongings are the Ray Ellis derby prints which Ed and Maryanne Jerome always helped us with. Right before our Dad passed away he asked Ed and Ray for a favor and our Dad got 3 artist’s proofs of *Bonito at Edgartown Light* which was the last thing he gave us and our

brother Graham before he passed away. Those prints hang proudly in our homes and are a reminder of our Dad and all things Derby.

We’re always looking forward to another Derby. In the world we live in, the Derby is something that everyone can get behind and fish shoulder to shoulder, have fun and let their shared passion for fishing bring people together and this world we live in needs more of that. Thanks to all that give so much to make the Derby the Derby! ”

“ Thank you John (Custer), and congratulations to my 2025 Hall of Fame classmates. It is truly an honor to be inducted alongside dear friends Jim Cornwell and Ron Domurat and sponsors Ian and Shep Murray, men who have given so much to the Derby, this wonderful Island community, and sportfishing.

I am incredibly proud of the work the committee members do month after month, year after year and in some cases decade after decade, and the commitment they all have to the Derby and its participants. I am incredibly honored and proud to work alongside each one of you to host this INCREDIBLE FISHING TOURNAMENT! You don’t get to 80 years without a tremendous, dedicated team along the way, and this year is no exception!

I am forever grateful to John Custer and Joe El-Deiry for their thoughtful, steady, and passionate leadership, and to my fellow committee members and volunteers who make this tournament such a success.

My husband Ed Jerome’s vision when the Derby was purchased from the Chamber of Commerce, was to create a non-profit tournament with the proceeds going to establish a Derby scholarship program for MVRHS seniors. I would like to thank Chris Scott, our dedicated treasurer, for his steady and thoughtful leadership these past three decades to make Ed’s vision a reality. This year the Derby awarded our highest amount ever at \$115,000 and has surpassed awarding \$1,000,000 in scholarships to 165 students since the program began in 1987. Chris, thank you for your commitment and dedication to the scholarship program.

I’m standing here today because of a chance meeting with my parent’s neighbor Ed Jerome and a 40 lb. striped bass he caught during the Derby that my little brothers wanted to see. Little did I know that fall Derby day, that a guy with a fish would forever change my life. Three years later Ed and I married and my involvement with the Derby began in earnest. Don Mohr,



Maryanne Jerome

then newly elected chairman, needed some help and Ed asked if I “wouldn’t mind helping out a little bit with administrative tasks.” Don was a college football coach and not one to type and take minutes. Well... 40 years later, I’ve worked alongside 11 chairmanships who have guided the tournaments and over 150+ dedicated committee members. I have to say, the hardest part has been trying to read the handwriting on all the registration cards.

To say the Derby was a family affair for me is an understatement. You see Ed managed to “hook” my dad, Roy Langley, and my dad became the longest serving weigh master and was also inducted into the Hall of Fame. Lisa Brown, the Derby photographer one year, soon after became my sister-in-law, and my

sister Jackie Driscoll took over my dad’s mission to keep the morning volunteers well fed, picking up donated treats each morning and delivering them to HQ. Ed sure had a way of reel-ing folks into the Derby family.

I would especially like to thank my son Nick for his years of understanding and support while both his parents were completely immersed during the Derby, for years of us out at night at meetings, constant phone calls to the house regarding derby questions, 25 years of folks coming over for Ellis prints and this year for his help with creating and implementing a new logo concept. Thank you to my daughter-in-law Kathleen for her help and technical support setting up our new retail program.

My biggest thanks go to my wonderful husband Ed, whose passion for the Derby and the Island community got me involved so many years ago. He always stated that the Derby is more than just a fishing tournament, and he was so right. The Derby teaches sportsmanship, a passion for the environment, teamwork, volunteering, giving back to your community, and most especially, spending cherished time with family and friends. Thank you so very much for the honor. ”



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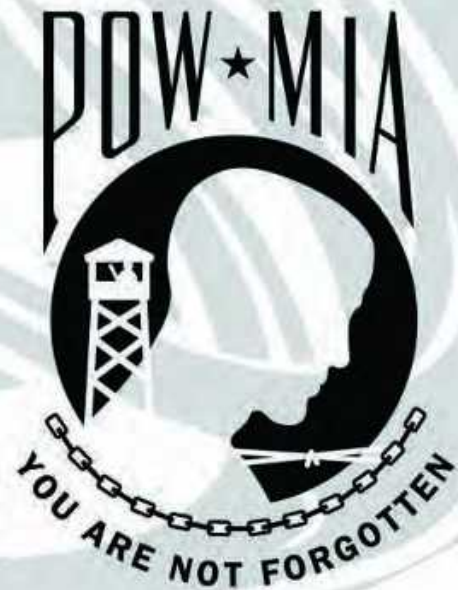
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FIRST FISH

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby is often measured in pounds and ounces, but its true weight lies in moments. On the beaches and jetties, the boundaries of age, origin, and expertise melt away into the Atlantic mist. An Islander whose family has fished the Vineyard for generations stands shoulder-to-shoulder with a first-time visitor. Neither the ocean nor the leaderboard cares how long you have held a rod. Instead, the Derby thrives on a collective spirit—a shared camaraderie built on the magic of “firsts.”

Every angler remembers the distinct electricity of their

first cast. That initial cast opens the door to a lifetime of exploration. It forces you to navigate a new stretch of shoreline, to feel the slick, dark rocks of a jetty underfoot for the very first time, and to learn the unique rhythm of the island's tides.

The culmination of this journey happens at the weigh station. Walking up to the Derby scales with your first fish is a rite of passage. It is not about the size of the catch, but the validation of the effort, the cheers from the crowd, and the shared joy of the community. At that moment, whether you are four, forty or ninety-four, you become a permanent part of the Derby's living history.

Here Are a Few of Those First Fish Stories:

NEVILLE BROAD

My Virgin MV Derby Experience

“I try to make an annual pilgrimage to Martha's Vineyard to fish for striped bass on the fly in late spring to coincide with the striper migration/arrival. But I had an urge to return in Autumn to fish the MV Derby having heard and read so much about it. I booked a short holiday to coincide with a guided boat trip with *Kismet Outfitters*. Once I arrived on the Island I then went to *Kismet Outfitters* to collect my assigned badge and welcome pack (which was awesome – love my official MV Derby Baseball cap and an 80th Anniversary commemorative booklet). I could see the attention to detail was meticulous from the years of improvements and changes to the festival.

That evening, I went to the Weigh Station for the first time and took in all the positive vibes of the festival and witnessed various bluefish, bonito and false albacore submitted to the official scales. It was such a pleasure meeting the volunteers working that night and

also listen to anglers stories of Derby's past. It was truly a welcoming atmosphere with international anglers warmly received.

Totally psyched up after another superb breakfast from *Dock Street Coffee Shop*, I was ready the next day with my 9 and 10 weight outfits to join Captain Abbie Schuester and *Kismet Outfitters* manager Stephen D'Angelo on Abbie's *Boston Whaler*. We started off along the shores fishing for stripers to get my arm in using mainly small deceiver patterns (chartreuse being a winning colour). After an hour or so of fun, we moved into the Edgartown harbour to take shots at False Albacore and Bonito. There are various ways to track their location but the most fruitful are to follow a group of diving birds or to find where other boats

are congregated. The latter option was not desirable for us and we moved away from other boats in the confidence that sooner or later a pod of feeding hardtails would show near us.

The saying is that the false albacore is ‘a fish of a thousand casts’ and it was certainly frustrating as they were very finicky that day. A move to the beach along Vineyard Haven proved more fruitful as Stephen D'Angelo hooked up with a large hardtail. Renowned for taking you down to the backing in a matter of



Sydney Goldstein with her first fish!



Vincent Torboro proudly holds his first fish!

seconds, it gave him the runaround and snapped off after 10 minutes. As one can imagine his disappointment was palpable, losing what could have been the winning fish in the fly section for that day.

Determined, I eventually hooked into a Bonito which also took me down to the backing. We landed that beauty and after quickly dispatching it kept it on ice for the evening's weigh in.

I got to the evening's Weigh Station early, second in the queue with excited anticipation that I was weighing in my first ever Derby fish and possibly in with a chance of a prize. The process was seamlessly managed by the volunteers, and my fish hit the scales at 4.43lbs. A bell rang out, followed by cheers and applause from the anglers and volunteers for weighing in my first ever MV Derby fish. What a rush that was. But the best was yet to come in that I ended up winning the largest fly caught Bonito that day. So



Jemma Edelbach proudly displays her first fish!

not only did I collect a pin (badge) for my first ever MV Derby fish, but I also won a prestigious Gold MV Derby pin for a fly caught Bonito Day winner.

The whole operation is so professionally managed with an unmatched vibrancy. I can't wait to come back to fish the 81st this year."

Neville can be reached on Instagram

@nevbroadswff, he

currently holds the Norwegian fly caught record for Halibut and has written for various journals including *Surfcaster's Journal*, *Fly Fishing* and *Fly Tying*, and *Sea Angler*.

JEMMA EDELBACH

Jemma weighed in her first Derby fish and when asked by her aunt, Kim Klaren, what the experience was like, she said, "I was lucky to catch the fish and surprised when I won a prize. I loved the pin and my dad took me out for ice cream to celebrate."

VINCENT TORBORG

"For years, I've made the trip to Martha's Vineyard to fish alongside my good friend Gus Leaf, soaking in the salt air and with the hope of catching many fish. But 2025 marked a milestone, my first time officially competing in the MV Derby.

While my catch didn't quite reach the trophy size I was hoping for, the experience itself more than delivered. The energy, the anticipation, the camaraderie, and especially the moment of the weigh-in, were every bit as exciting as Gus had always promised.

Safe to say, I'm hooked now. And next year? I'll be coming back for that bigger fish."

BEN PALAISA

"My wife and I have been coming to the Vineyard each September for several years, but only in the last few has fishing the Derby become an obsession. Each year more tackle is packed, more stops are made at *Coop's* and *Larry's*, and more time spent on the beach. There had been plenty of fish the first couple years, but all shorts. This year I had caught a number of nice fish the week before the Derby then once the bell rang on opening day it sounded the end of my luck! Fishing the shore became a grind and I was racking up more skunks than fish. I was down to my last day on Island when I finally got the hit, as I was dragging the fish up on the beach, I thought this might be it. Three reassuring measurements later I was heading to Derby Headquarters! The volunteers were as excited as I was and they made it really fun. The atmosphere that takes over the island during the Derby is something all fishermen should experience."

CHRIS FRANCESCO

"While having fished Martha's Vineyard in prior years, I had never been around during the Derby. My girlfriend's family, The Van Calcars, have been going up for decades. John, my girlfriend's father, has been fishing in the tournament for longer than I have been alive. He loves to tell us stories

continued on next page



Chris Francesco with the first shore albie caught in the 80th Derby and his first fish ever weighed in!



Ben Palaia with a nice shore bonito, his first fish!



of him and his "Jersey Boys" crew fishing 24 hours a day, for days on end, surviving on nothing but burgers and beers in search of the one that will win them the prized boat.

Having grown up fishing in New Jersey waters on a boat my whole life, surf fishing took some time getting used to. As we all know, it is about having your rod ready and keeping your eyes on the water while half listening to your girlfriend's story.

It was Monday Sept 15th,, the first week of the Derby. Having just gotten up to Chappy the day prior I had no idea what the fishing report was. I would later learn that the False Albacore bite had been dead. The Van Calcars & Co and I were sitting on the beach enjoying the sun when I saw some breaking in the water about twenty yards off. Naturally I grab my rod and begin the chase down the shoreline. John remarks, "you'll never catch when you chase" and continues sipping his beer. After about five minutes of casting, I hooked up. When the fish came in, I did not think much of it, just another false albacore on the smaller side. It was when Jim, who was fishing next to me, said I should go weigh in the fish that I put on ice.

That night we went to weigh-ins, and being completely honest, I thought I was going to get laughed out of the room given the size of the fish. The locals were playing a

prank on the out of towners...

I walked into the weigh station with the fish, and there were about twenty five people in the room. I pulled the 9.36 lb Albie out of the bag filled with ice and everyone in the room stopped and stared. Somewhat confused, I handed the fish to the man behind the counter, and he asked "This was caught on the shore?" I nodded and the room began to applaud, for it was the first False Albacore caught during the Derby! Having anticipated being laughed out of the building, I was both amazed and embarrassed by the reception but will never forget the feeling. It is a huge reason I will continue to fish in the derby for years to come.

A huge thank you to everyone who runs the derby and a special shout out to John Van Calcar for showing us all how effective the *Deadly Dick* can be!"

SYDNEY GOLDSTEIN

"Growing up every summer on Chappaquiddick I'd always fish off our dock but it was very basic fishing. I had always wanted to get into a more advanced type of fishing, but I never had the right people to teach me until I met my best friend Bobby. He showed me everything, how to tie knots, what bait to use, what equipment to use, and where to go. I got the hang of it and we were going

out almost every day fishing.

I had heard about the Derby before but I didn't know a lot and didn't have much interest in joining at first. After a few months of fishing and getting more comfortable, I started to think it might be something I would want to try to compete in. As the Derby start date got closer, I knew I was ready to sign up and I didn't want to miss out on all the fun.

A few days before the Derby started I went to *Dick's Bait and Tackle* in Oak Bluffs where I picked my favorite number to be mine for the Derby. Doug has always been helpful with giving me great advice on what lures and stuff to get. Once the Derby started I went out fishing every morning and night and for a while I had no luck. I caught plenty of fish, but none were close to a weighable size, and toward the end I even thought about giving up.

Then one day near the end of the Derby I felt a strong pull on my line. I reeled it in and finally it was a big fish that was weighable at nearly 10 pounds. I was so excited to bring it into the weigh station and receive a certificate as well as my first fish pin.



Joe McPherson weighs in his first fish!



Super Saturday's first blue! Jacob Trautner with his first fish, a 4.21-pound shore bluefish

I even placed for that day and got another pin that sits proud on my Derby hat along with the other two. Going from someone who didn't like touching the fish at first to proudly bringing in my fish (in a beach towel) to the weigh in was something I never thought of.

The excitement for bringing in just one weighable fish was enough to make my summer. All three of those pins and fish certificates now sit proudly in my room on Chappy reminding me of how much fun I had last summer."

AYLA JACOBS (photo below right)
(Summary by her dad, Drew)

Since Ayla was born, she's always been a part of her dad and mom weighing in their fish at the Derby. Even though going to weigh-in meant staying up well past her bedtime, we regularly brought her to help weigh in our fish (even though it could mean a very tired kid the following day).

2025 was the first year she was eligible to enter and she was really excited about it. She had to pick a

derby pin that had the number 4 in it because she was 4 years old (makes sense). She was excited to do her first derby fishing with her dad and not just because he promised her donuts on the boat if we could get out of the house as early as possible (still didn't hit the water until after 9am).

She ended up catching a perfect sized bonito on a lure she picked out.

I asked Ayla what she thought about her first Derby fish. She really loved catching it because it was green and green is her favorite color.

This first derby fish was important so she had to get dressed up in order to go to the weigh station and put on her favorite sparkle skirt and rainbow muck boots. She told me that she loves going to the station because "everyone there is nice and Bubbee is there sometimes too".

Everyone cheered for her first fish which really added to the excitement.

She earned a first place daily on her first weighed fish! A very proud moment for the Jacobs family.

JAKE TRAUTNER

"I have been summering on Martha's Vineyard my whole life so

the derby was something I always was aware of but I never thought I would be able to weigh anything in, so I never entered. However at the end of last summer the fishing bug got me and I made it my mission to weigh in a fish. Going to *Dick's Bait and Tackle* almost daily picking out new lures and baits as well as picking the minds of the locals in the shop in hopes to get some good intel. I decided to hit the oak bluffs pier one night with some cut bunker and tossed it out. I was hoping for a striper as I had heard of some 30 pounders being caught. After a few hours of nothing but listening to music and sipping on a beer something hammered my rod. When I saw it was a blue I was a bit surprised but thrilled as it looked weighable! Barely slept that night due to excitement and got to the weigh station first thing. Barely made the length requirement but I was the only from shore weigh in that morning. After refreshing the derby leaderboard all day I was shocked that I was still the lone shore weigh in! An amazing experience I will never forget. Can't wait to get back out there."



Richard Gilland and his first fish, a shore bonito!



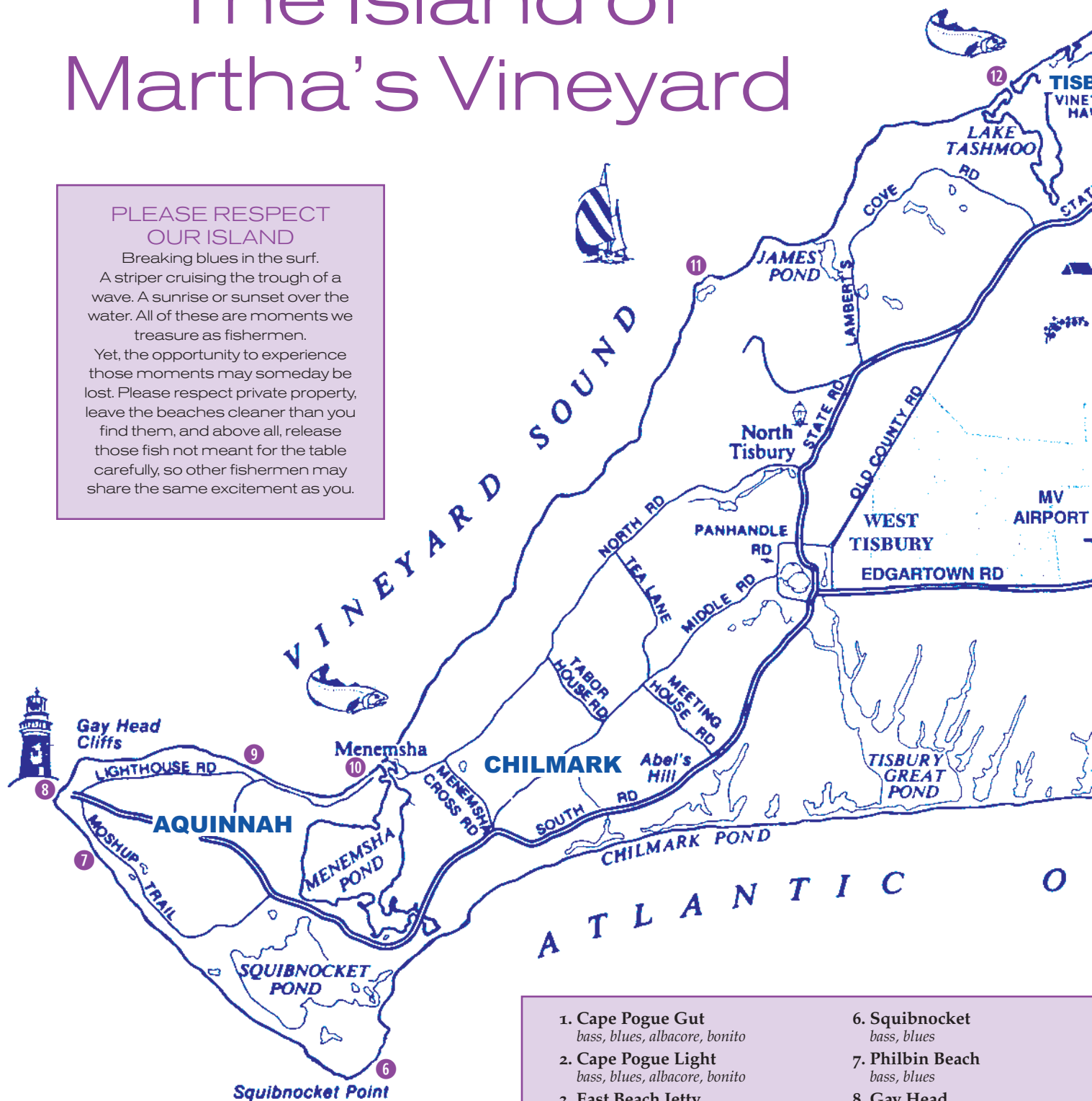
Ayla Jacobs's first fish: a nice 4.30-pound boat bonito

The Island of Martha's Vineyard

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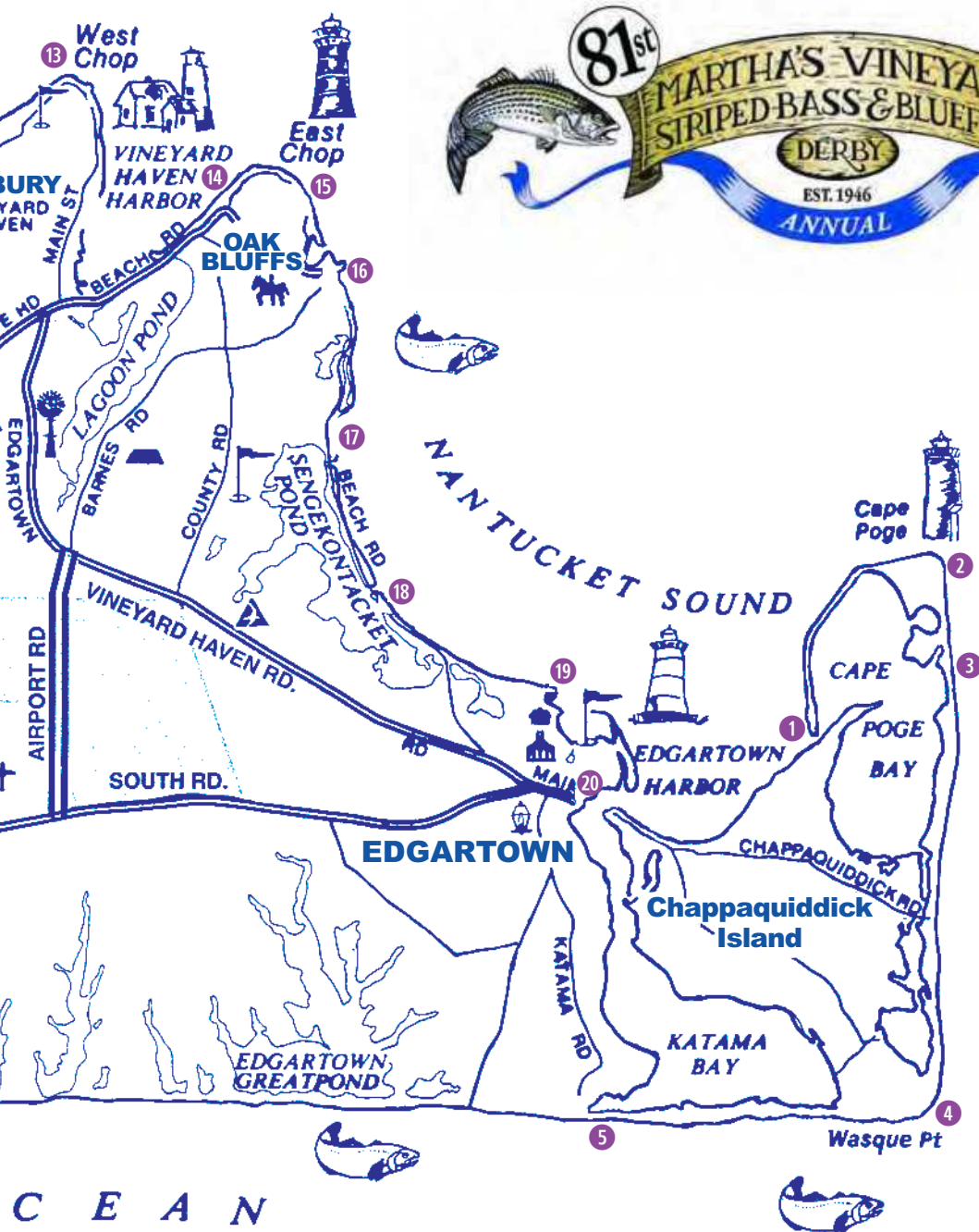
Breaking blues in the surf.
A striped cruising the trough of a wave. A sunrise or sunset over the water. All of these are moments we treasure as fishermen.

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
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
2. Cape Pogue Light
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
3. East Beach Jetty
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
4. Wasque Point
bass, blues and anything else
5. South Beach
bass, blues

6. Squibnocket
bass, blues
7. Philbin Beach
bass, blues
8. Gay Head
bass, blues
9. Lobsterville Beach
bass, blues, albacore, bonito
10. Menemsha Jetties
bass, blues, albacore, bonito



81ST

MARTHA'S VINEYARD
STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH
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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 Regulation: bag limit of 5 fish per day, per angler.



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. Massachusetts Regulation: bag limit of 5 fish combined Atlantic Bonito and False Albacore per day, per angler.



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 four fish per badge. Massachusetts Regulation: bag limit of 5 fish combined Atlantic Bonito and False Albacore per day, per angler.



STRIPED BASS are an historic part of the Derby tradition. The species has been suspended from the Derby 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
bass, blues | 16. Oak Bluffs SSA Wharf
bonito |
| 12. Tashmoo Opening
bass, blues, bonito | 17. Little Bridge
bass, blues |
| 13. West Chop
bass, blues, bonito | 18. Big Bridge
bass, blues |
| 14. Vineyard Haven Jetty
bass, blues, bonito | 19. Edgartown Light
bass, blues, albacore, bonito |
| 15. East Chop
bass, blues, bonito | 20. Edgartown Dock
albacore, bonito |



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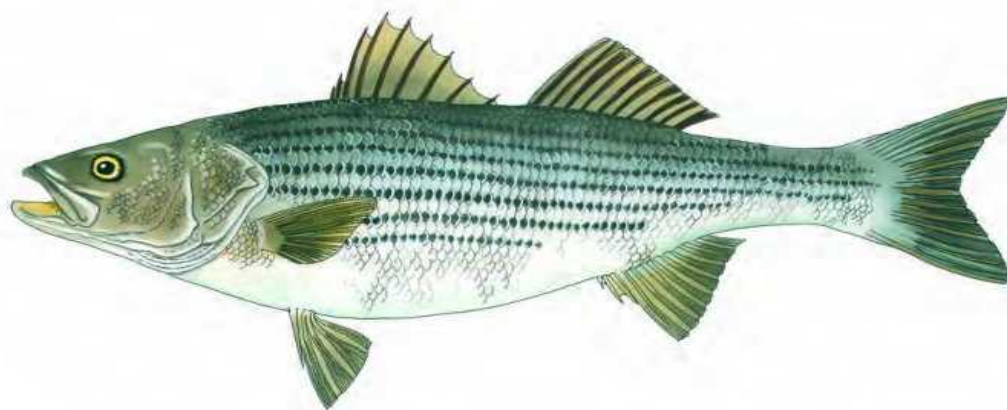
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MAGIC MOMENTS

Throughout the Booklet we'll show you many "Magic Moments" from the 2025 Derby — some are identified, others . . . well, speak for themselves. Enjoy, and send us your "Magic Moments" from this year's 2026 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.

MICHAEL BLANCARD



First week of the Derby + Baby's naptime = No problem!



"SANDOG" by Moe Baneville

Paul Schultz coined the nickname "Sandog" for me many years ago when he taught me how to fish for Bonito over on Chappy. My first Bonito was off Leland's about 25 years ago, but this one was special. It was a very quiet and slow day and, after fishing for five hours of an incoming tide, I thought I had the winner for Bonito Saturday. Alas, it was not to be. I have fished the Derby for several decades and will keep coming until I can't.



DANIELLE VAN CARCAN

Chris Francesco with the first shore albie caught in the 80th Derby and his first fish ever weighed in!



DAVE BALON

Joseph McLaughlin with a nice boat blue



CURTIS LAVIGNE

Keith Krogslund enjoyed an East Chop sunrise on the rocks



BILL MOODY

A happy trio on the final day of the Derby: Jack Cushman, Alan Landry, and Whitney Moody



DILLON BISSELL

In 2018, while living in Vermont, I met a girl from Oak Bluffs. As I got to know her, she shared a lot about her life growing up on the Vineyard, but the thing that intrigued me the most were her stories about the annual Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. In the years that followed, I fished the Derby with her father and with little to

show for my efforts. In 2025, I married that girl from Oak Bluffs and later the same year I weighed in my first fish of the Derby; a respectable, but somewhat unremarkable, 13.5 pound bluefish. Fishing in the Derby has become a fundamental part of my summers and an event I look forward to every year.



DAVE BALON

Mark Wrabel keeping his buggy out of the water



JOE EL-DEIRY

A leaper!



DAVE BALON

Which one is bigger?



CURTIS LAVIGNE

Cameron LaVigne had her hands full one derby morning at Wilfred's Pond Jetty



BILL MOODY

The Moodys enjoying a day on the beach



JENNA-LYNN BEAUREGARD

Steph Pond with a pair of hardtails



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to All Derby
Participants

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LIFELINE IN THE FREEZER:

Collaboration Saved Our Catch

by Katie Carroll

The Derby's fillet program allows anglers to donate their catch to provide fresh, locally caught fish to the Island's elderly. The program, a core part of the Derby's mission, ensures that thousands of pounds of high-quality fish are processed and distributed in coordination with local senior centers.

In the Derby world, part of our success is about how effectively we can get that catch to dinner tables. In 2025, our operations faced some logistical challenges and, when our primary disbursal system fell short, we were left scrambling to keep the supply chain intact. Cue the Martha's Vineyard Seafood Collaborative. After a couple of texts and phone

calls, their team came to our aid and helped us turn a potential disaster into a success story.

After one very late night of borrowing their refrigerated truck, loading fillets, transporting them from Edgartown to Menemsha, and depositing them in their walk-in for flash freezing the following morning, a well-organized partnership was born. By stepping in to pick up and transport fish fillets to senior centers across the Island, the Collaborative proved that agility and shared purpose can overcome any institutional breakdown.

Partnering with the Collaborative changed the trajectory of our fillet program. They did not just provide a service; they offered a life

line. By utilizing the staff they already had in place, they quickly processed and delivered a quality product to those we serve without any noticeable disruption in the supply chain.

The result of this partnership was profound. By partnering with the Collaborative, we gained access to a team of specialized carriers that understood the delicate nature of our product. By bridging the gap the Collaborative did more than just deliver fillets to senior centers; they reinforced a vital community safety net, demonstrating that when formal systems fail, collective action and local solidarity can seamlessly fill the void.



MV Seafood Collaborative – Tegan Gale, Isaac Richards, Brooks Carrol processing the first batch of fish for IGI.



Passing along the first batch of flash frozen fish to IGI.

WE CAN'T TELL YOU WHERE THE FISH ARE, BUT...

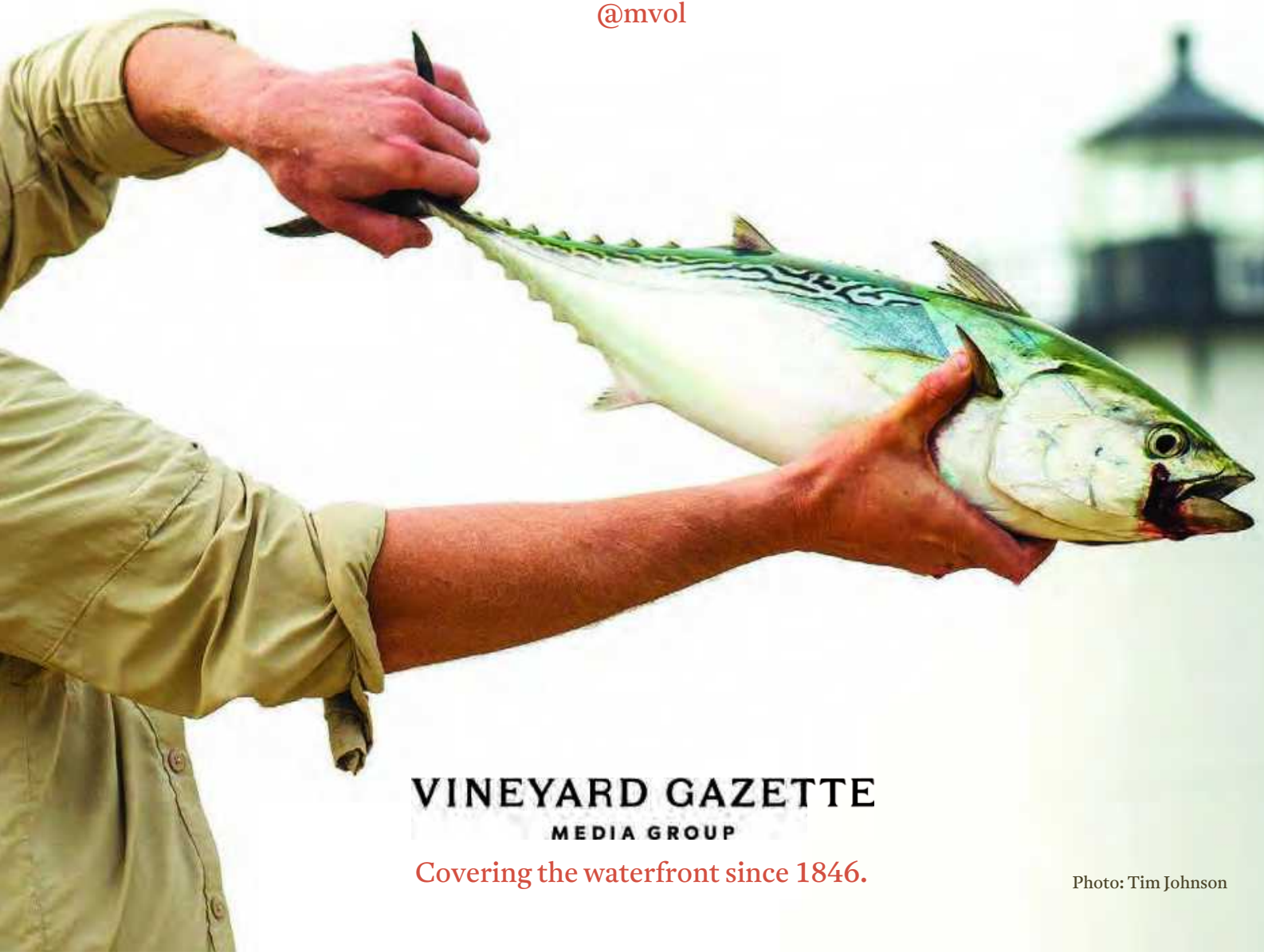
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Covering the waterfront since 1846.

Photo: Tim Johnson

MAGIC MOMENTS



KATIE CARROLL

Emmett, Tillie and Isaac Taylor celebrate registering for the Derby!



KATIE CARROLL

Fish and smiles



KATIE CARROLL

Maya and Vera Scheffer-Lew ready for the 80th!



KATIE CARROLL

A young angler's first registration



KATIE CARROLL

Rob Schrieber and grandson Louie Ives



JOHN PIEKOS

Brad Holly with his trademark cigar



JAMES JOYCE

Boat blue heading to weigh-in



Bass In The Grass

A Fall Art Initiative by the Edgartown Board of Trade
Benefiting local artists, the Derby Scholarship Fund, and the Edgartown Board of Trade.

Bid On Your Favorite Bass
Visit bassinthegrassmv.com to bid on the bass that are up for auction.

A Community Collaboration
For over 70 years, The Derby has been a time to renew friendships, share a cup of coffee and create memories that fuel the winters exaggerated fishing stories.

Bass In The Grass is Visit Edgartown's celebration of this great tradition - bringing businesses, artists and anglers together in support of the Derby's contribution to the Vineyard community.

bassinthegrassmv.com

Visit [The Carnegie Heritage Center](#) to view this year's school of fish beginning September 26th.



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KEVIN SEARLE

Brice Contessa with his first-place Shore Fly Rod False Albacore, a whopping 11.56-pound beauty



KATIE CARROLL

Brothers register and celebrate with ice cream



KATIE CARROLL

Jigging for squid at Menemsha Texaco



KATIE CARROLL

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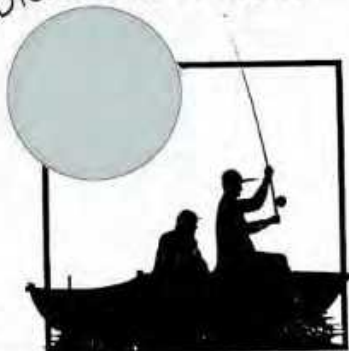
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DERBY FIRSTS

By Wilson Kerr

One might reasonably assume any column about

"Derby firsts" would involve stories of catching fish. A hard-won first shore bonito. Or the right-place-at-the-right-time experience of a first bluefish blitz. Maybe the first long run in the boat to a distant rip on a hunch, and the memorable action found there.

But the real magic of the Derby—the snapshots in time that create memories that stick—are usually forged from first experiences that often have nothing to do with catching a fish.

On an empty, dark stretch of beach, one might look up at the stars and start to ponder. The night sky is different on the Vineyard. With no cities, it's possible to see our galaxy clearly—the Milky Way. The gentle rhythm of the waves at your feet and the sense of calm that comes with a night alone with rod and reel can facilitate a pause—a contemplation—that is no small thing in our busy lives. Staring up at 100 billion stars and knowing that their light has taken thousands of years to reach you can really put things into perspective.

Becoming aware of the small place you occupy in time and space can be emotional. I suspect many anglers reading this can recall achieving this humbling sense of perspective for the first time while

fishing the Derby.

Teaching loved ones to fish offers a litany of inaugural moments. The first time your child feels the rod load properly and all the casting lessons come together. The first time they beg to "stay a little longer" because their optimism has exceeded yours. The first rain-soaked, conspiratorial plan to explain why you both missed some family event, reaffirmed later with a wink and a smile. Every parent or caregiver who has passed along the Derby tradition likely has a mental scrapbook of these firsts to cherish.

For non-residents and seasonal visitors, being welcomed by more experienced local anglers is a Derby first that is usually earned slowly—with incremental progress gained over days of casting. Careful observation is a key ingredient to success, and it takes fishing sense to know where to stand and how to gently earn the respect of others.

The first nod of approval or tip from a Derby legend has meant the world to many a newcomer. Done well, these firsts can lead to lifetime friendships and bonds that are renewed annually. It is this element of the Derby—the friendly camaraderie shared by those who fish it—that provides the building blocks of what makes the Derby so special.

Derby firsts can be subtle, and disproportionately meaningful.

Maybe you can recall the first time you looked back, away from the ocean and over the dunes, on a cold, gray, rainy day and saw the lights on in a snug beach cottage. You imagined a fire in the woodstove and steaming mugs of coffee, and for the first time realized that you were choosing to be out there on that lonely beach, in the drizzle and wind, because it offered you something vitally important.

A break from technology. Time alone to think, to refresh, and to breathe. A dose of careful observation of nature's rhythms—the subtle changes in tide and current.

It would have been easy to call it a day, walk back to the car, fire it up, turn on the heat, and take a break. Tempting, but not enough to offset the knowledge that on your next cast, or maybe the one after that, the unimaginable might happen.

That sudden tug, seemingly out of nowhere. A once-in-a-lifetime first. A grand leader key fish on a cast you might not have made. That chance, that possibility, no matter how unlikely, is what turns you back toward the water.

You snug up your jacket zipper a bit further against the wind and smile because, for the first time, there on a lonely stretch of Vineyard beach, by yourself, in the fall, during the Derby, you realize there is nowhere else you would rather be.



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MAGIC MOMENTS



MICHAEL BLANCHARD



Dawn magic



RON DOMURAT

Bob Clay with a mini bonito



TONY D'AGOSTINO

Jared Stobie with a nice bonito



WHIT HOLDEN

Eli Beford's last day of the derby bonito to complete the only junior shore triple crown!



RON DOMURAT

Ralph Peckham is ready for the weather



BILL MOODY

Whitney Moody at the weigh-in with a shore bonito



JONATHAN HERMAN

Jim Cornwell with the third-place Senior Shore Albie



RON DOMURAT

Mark Zydanowicz with a nice shore blue



KEVIN SEARLE

Jake Waters-Maciell battled the rocks to land this nice false albacore!

KIDS DAY MOMENTS



Reel cute!



Hook, line, sinker, fish on!



A couple of reel cool fishermen!



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Making fin-tastic memories!



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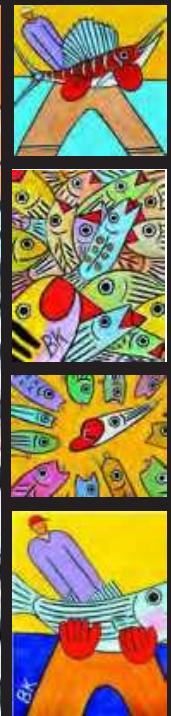


Sunrise is the best time for fishing crowds.

All photos this page by: Endless Memories by Adriana

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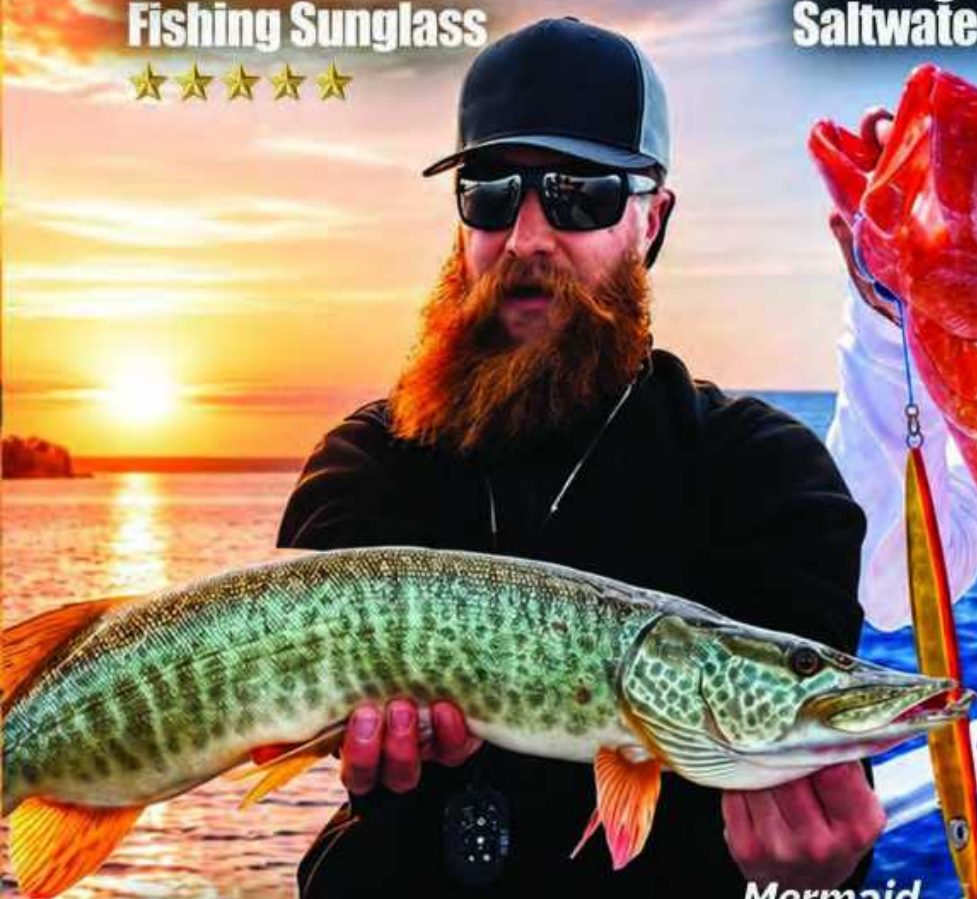
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MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Cooper Gilkes and Aaron Cascone chase the evening bite



JOHN CUSTER

Jeff, Bennett, and Matt - the Connecticut College alumni fishing team



KATIE CARROLL

Elisha Weisner's sunset silhouette



JOHN PIEKOS

Crit Perreten brings in a blue

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JOHN PIEKOS

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DAVE BALON

Anna McLaughlin with a couple of nice boat blues

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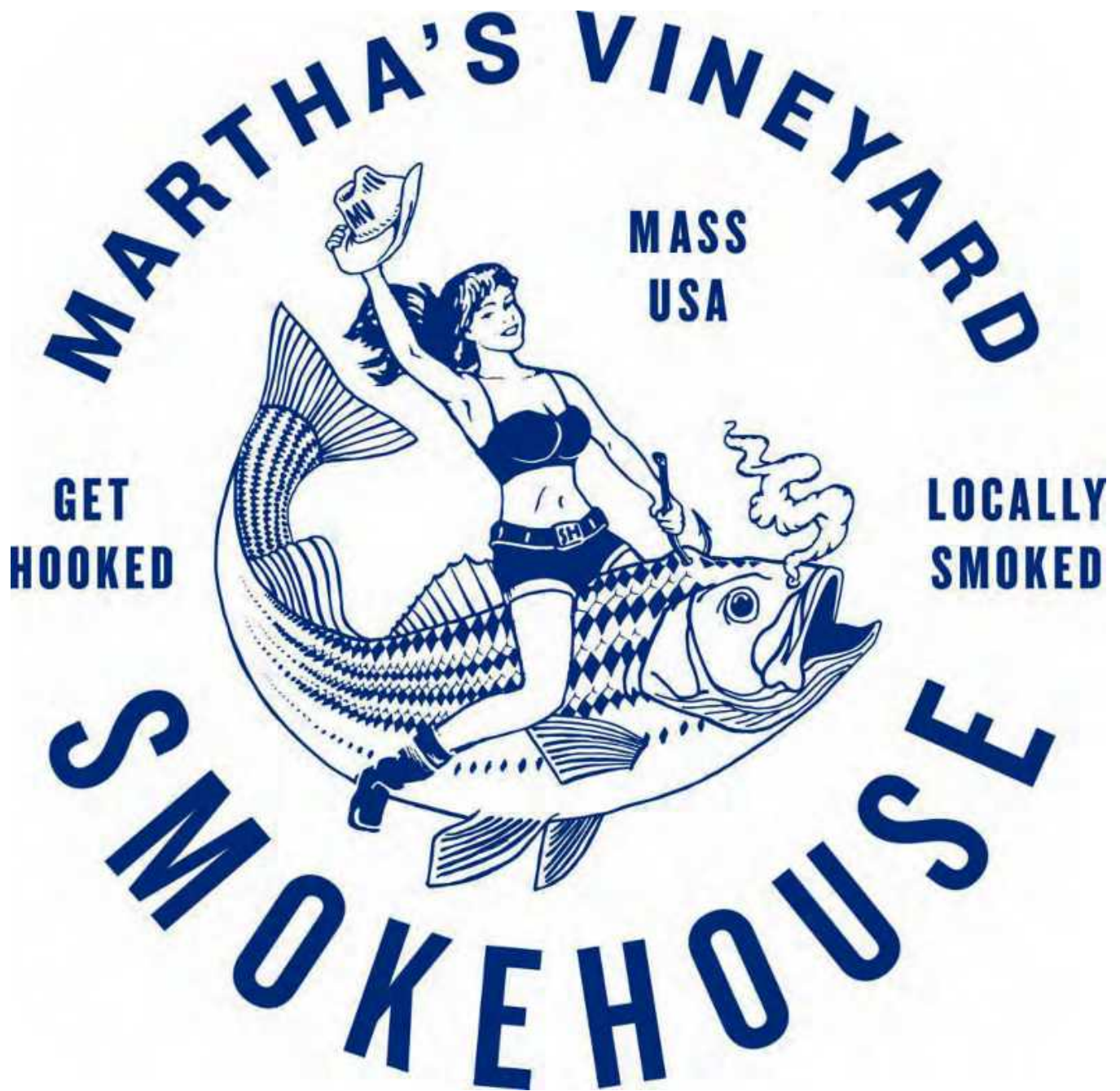
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MAGIC MOMENTS



LISA BELCASTRO

Dave "Shore Fisherman" Balon on a boat?



JOHN PIEKOS

Ned Williams with his grand leader
10.86 lb. boat bonito



JONATHAN HERMAN

Bill Thompson gets his weigh-in with a
nice boat bonito



SANDY FISHER

Christian Fisher did well with shore and boat blues!



MICHELE HEDLEY

Junior angler Peter Hedley boats a bonito



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Boat, Birds, Blitz!



vineyardseafood.org

A photograph of a man with a beard and a camouflage cap, wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and khaki shorts, sitting on a boat. He is holding a fishing rod and looking out at the ocean. The boat has a wooden deck and a blue life vest is visible. The background shows a vast blue sea under a clear sky.

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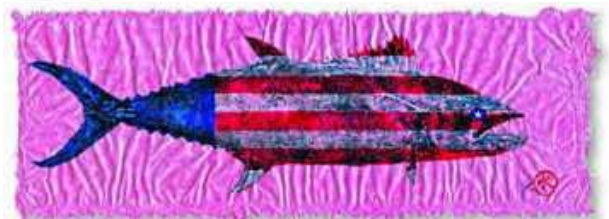
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PETER ONEILL

Spirit of the Derby Photo Contest Winner – Photo by Peter O’Neil!



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Mass Audubon



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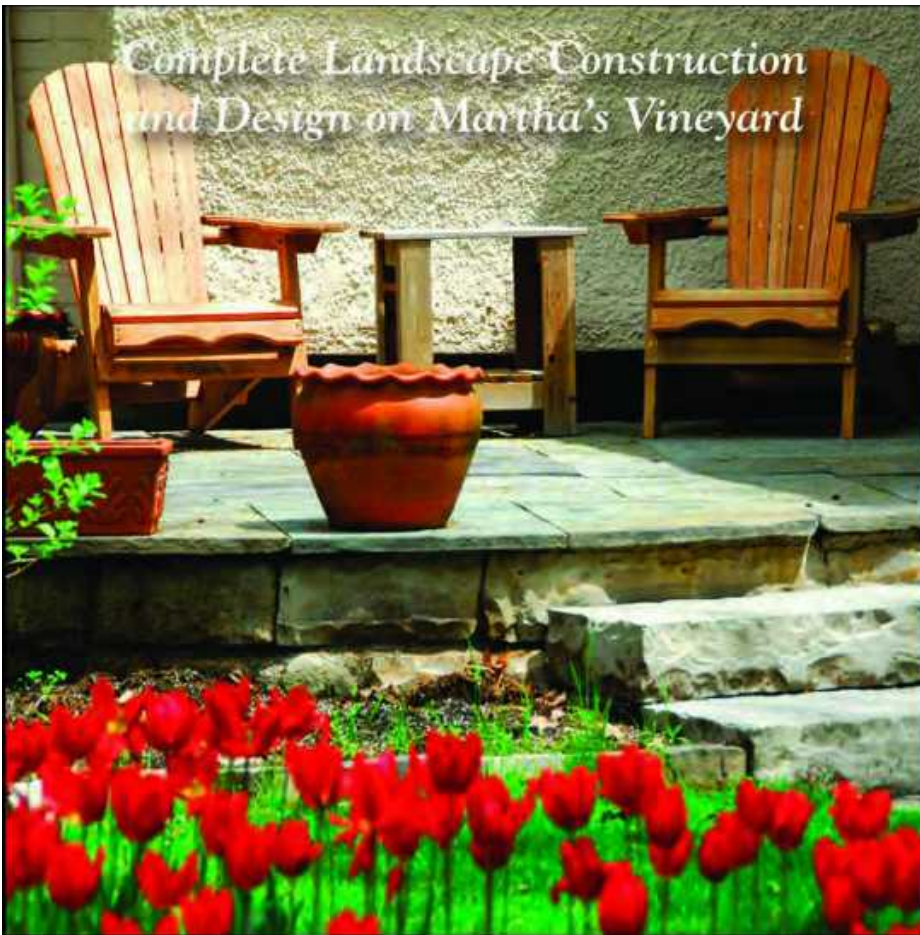
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TONY D'AGOSTINO

Derby sunrise on Chappy



RYAN ROSSI

Jack Rossi headed to weigh-in



RYAN ROSSI

3/5 of the Rossi family weighs in!



RYAN ROSSI

Sloane Rossi with a nice boat blue



ROB PRELI

Thumbs up from some happy anglers



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Kevin Shea Painting at Chappy Ferry

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MAGIC MOMENTS



ROGER SCHAEFER

Tucker leeeeeeans into it



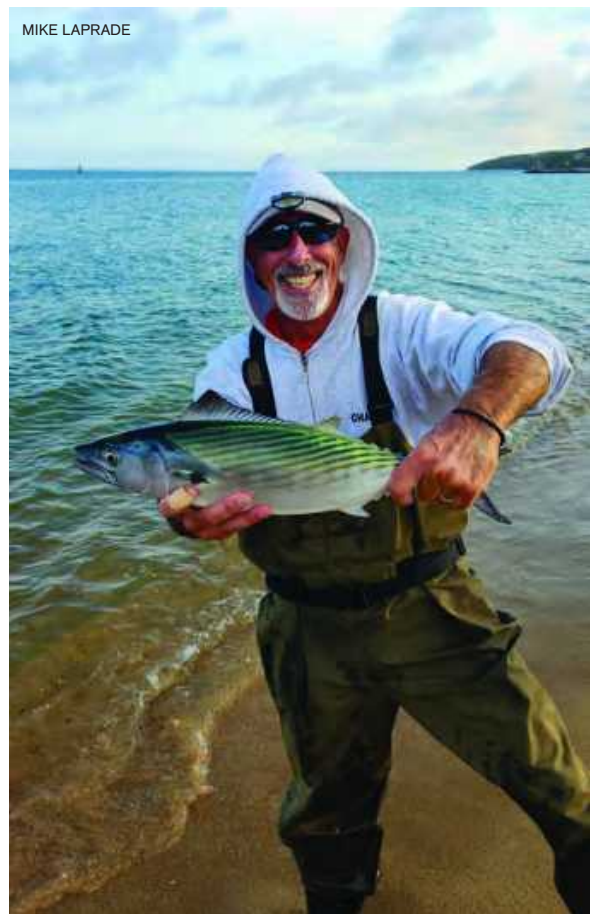
TONY D'AGOSTINO

Dodi Klingensmith with a nice shore bone



SANDY FISHER

Heading to weigh-in



MIKE LAPRADE

Tony Thompson with a shore bonito!



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MAGIC MOMENTS



BEN PALAISA



Casting into the sunset

BUDDY D'AGOSTINO



Tony D'Agostino with a unicorn, er... shore albie

DAVE BALON



Derby sponsor and photographer extraordinaire Michael Blanchard with a boat blue

BILL MOODY



Bill Moody with a nice shore bonito

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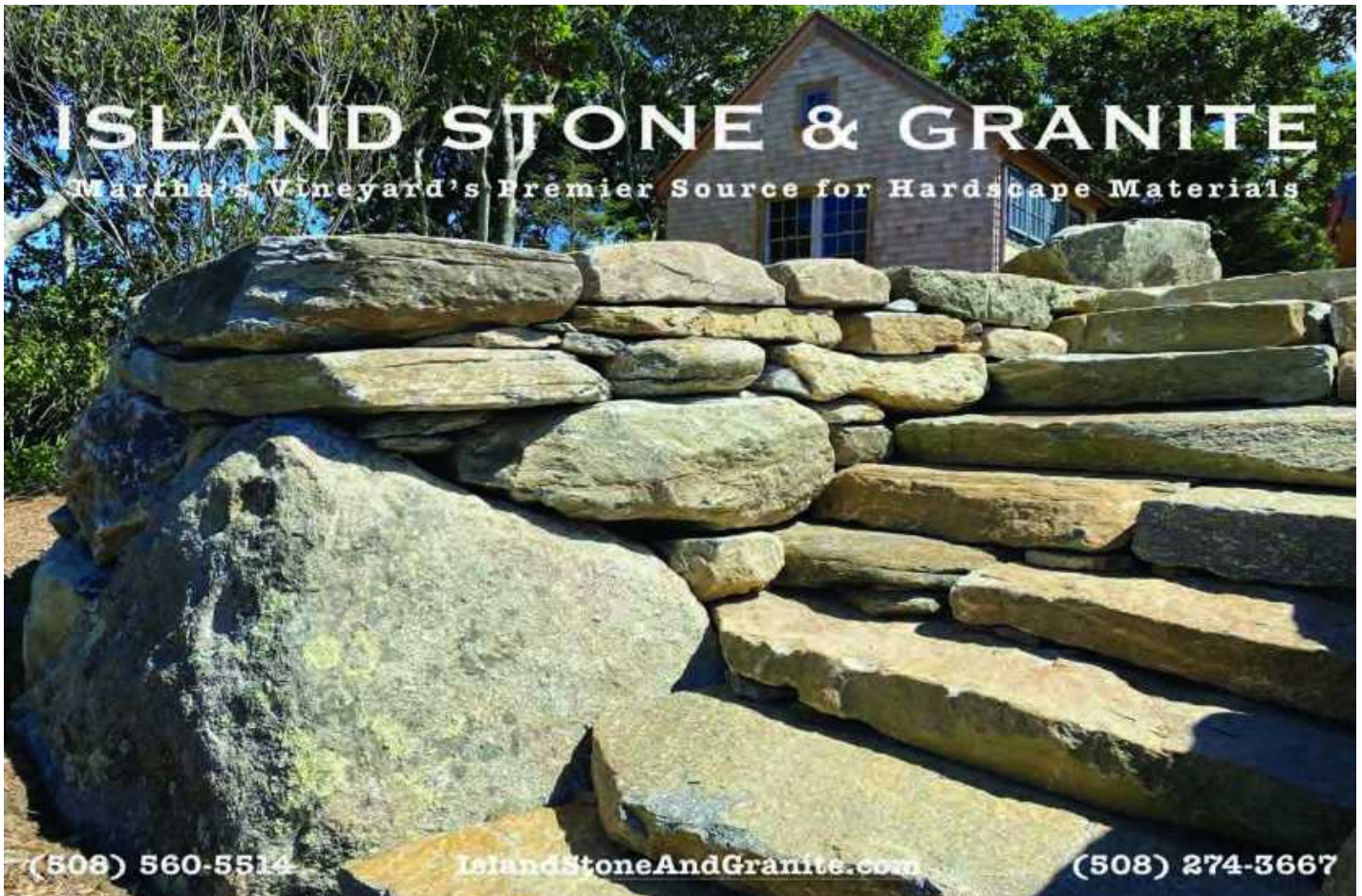


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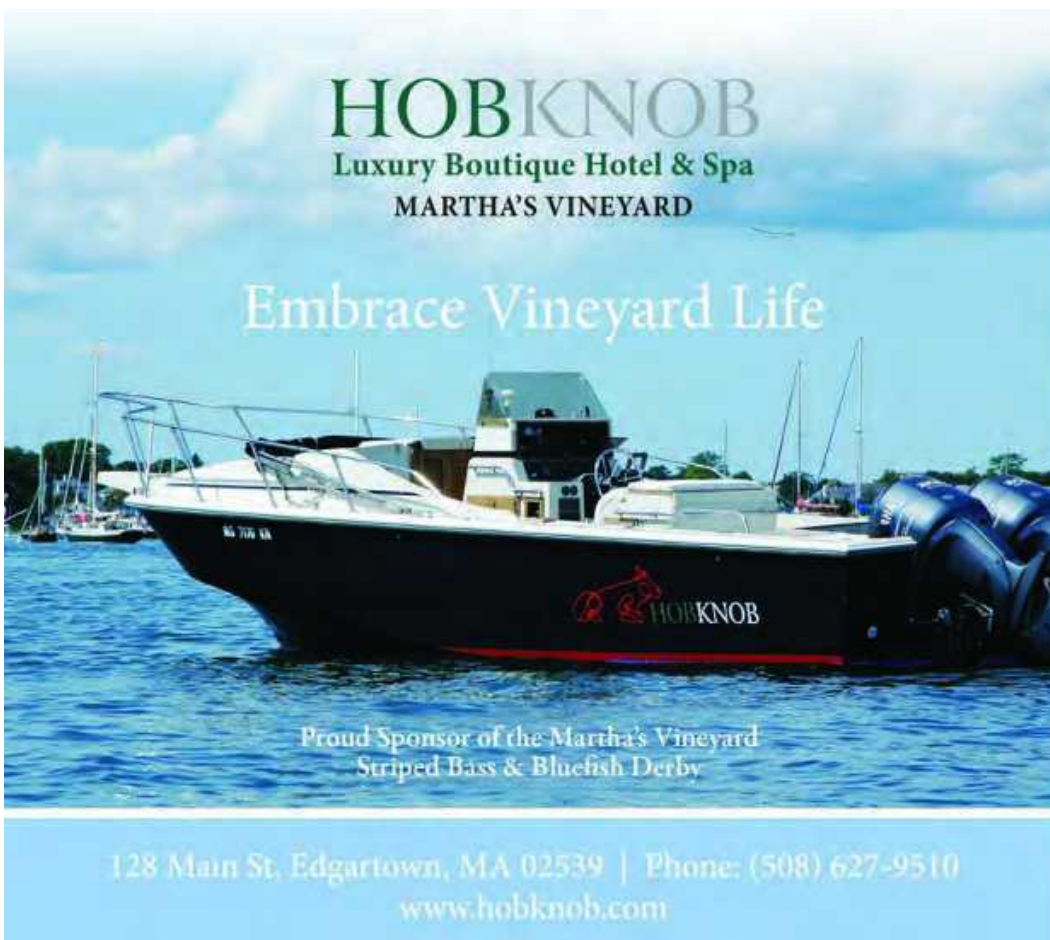
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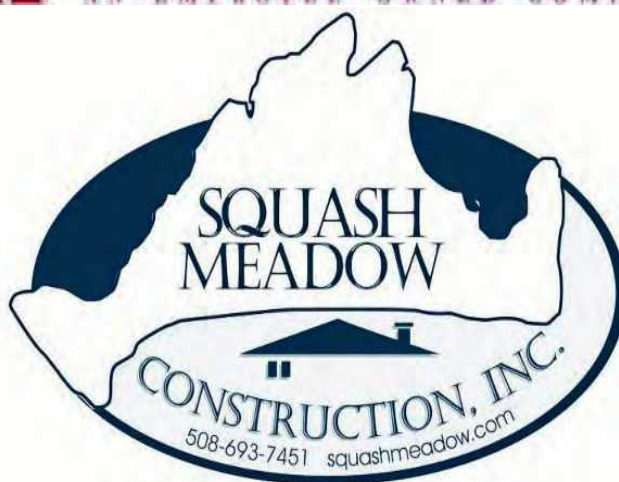
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MAGIC MOMENTS



Chris and Bill Thompson with a double-bonito hookup



Junior angler on the rocks



Father and son — Jim and Jim Cornwell, Jr

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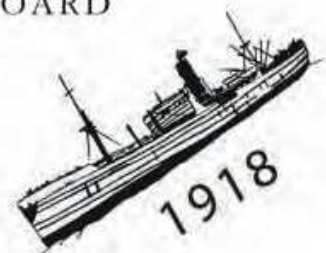
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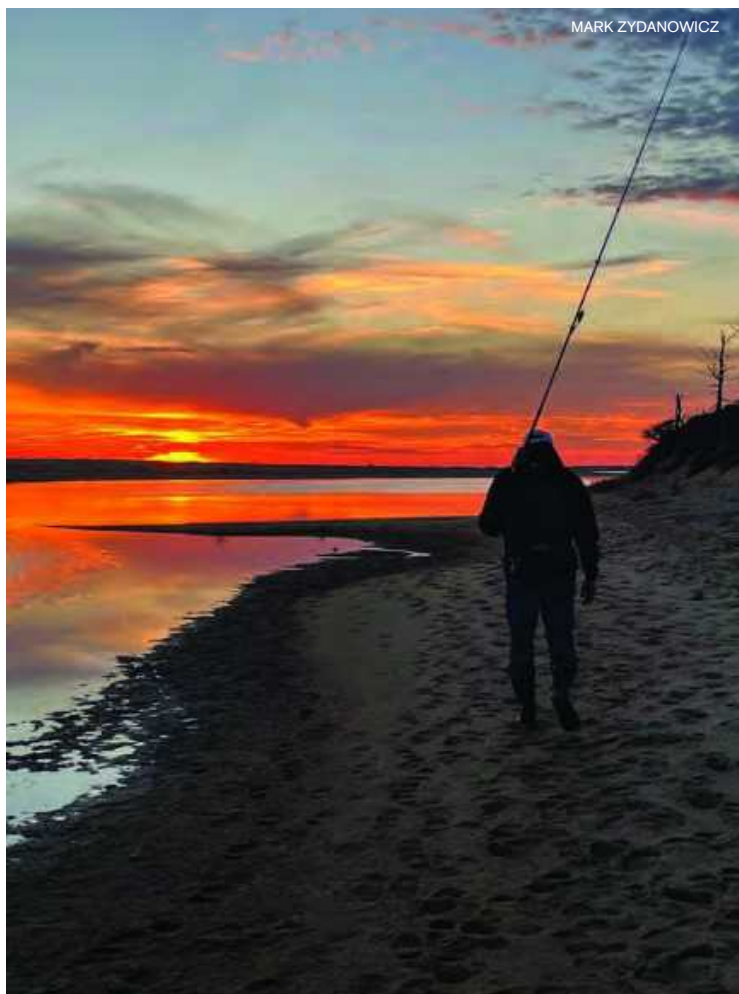
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MAGIC MOMENTS



MARK ZYDANOWICZ

Day is done.



KATIE CARROLL

A well dressed angler



JASON PATTERSON

Chantale Patterson is all smiles, nice blue!



SANDY FISHER

Christian Fisher and his 3rd place junior boat bonito



KATIE CARROLL

Ellie Hopkins and the vets celebrating their catches of the day!



JENNA-LYNN BEAUREGARD

Julian Pepper with the 2nd place boat albie



MAGIC MOMENTS



MICHELLE SYLVESTER

Heading out to the dock



MICHAEL BLANCHARD

Chris Morris weighs in a beauty



KEVIN LORD

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MAGIC MOMENTS

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MICHELE HEDLEY

A handful of bonito!



PAM SCOTT

Chris Scott with a daily winning boat blue



PAULA SULLIVAN

Eli Bedford with a hefty shore albie — First-Place Junior



PETER SLIWOWSKI

Theo Choquette with his first ever weigh-in, and 2nd place mini shore bonito



BOB DOMURAT

Bob Domurat with an experienced guide



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Legends of the Line:

The MV Museum and Derby Partnership to Recognize 80 years of Derby History

To help celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, the Derby Committee was pleased to collaborate with the MV Museum on a speaker series, featuring a handful of legendary island anglers whose long-time connections to the Derby are profound. These long-time Derby participants shared their experiences, memories, and insights, offering a unique perspective on how this beloved event has shaped the Vineyard community over eight decades. This series honored both the individuals who have dedicated years to the Derby and the countless participants they represent, celebrating a cherished tradition that continues to connect generations.

The series was well-received and well-attended, and we thank Laurel Redington and the MV Museum for their continued support of the Derby. The series featured the following individuals:

ED & STEVE AMARAL – *Brothers on the Vineyard Waters*

Longtime fishing brothers Ed and Steve Amaral shared stories from decades on the Vineyard's waters. Growing up in Oak Bluffs, the Amarals have been part of the Derby community for generations, with Ed known for his meticulous tackle techniques and Steve celebrated for landing some of the Derby's most memorable striped bass. Beyond their catches, the brothers have been fixtures in the local fishing scene, mentoring younger anglers and helping preserve the traditions that make the Derby a cherished Island institution. Their talk offered a firsthand look at the Derby's enduring impact on the community, along with the humor, camaraderie, and life lessons that come from years spent on Vineyard waters.

JIM CORNWELL – *A Lifetime of Derby Tales*

Jim Cornwell, a dedicated participant in the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby since he was 12, shared his rich history with the event. In 2023, Jim had the honor of ringing the opening bell for the 78th Derby, reflecting his deep-rooted involvement in the fishing community. Over the years, he has earned accolades including the Howie Leonard Memorial Award for the heaviest false albacore caught from shore in 2008. Known for his quiet dedication, Jim often fishes alone to protect his favorite

spots, and fondly recalls early Derby days with his father. In this special talk, Jim recounted remarkable catches, cherished traditions, and the enduring friendships that have made the Derby a cornerstone of Island life.

COOPER GILKES & NELSON SIGELMAN – *Fishing, Friendship & the Derby*

Longtime friends and Derby veterans, Cooper "Coop" Gilkes and Nelson Sigelman, have spent decades casting lines and sharing stories on Martha's Vineyard. Coop, owner of Coop's Bait & Tackle, is a fixture in the fishing community and has been instrumental in organizing the Derby and the Catch & Release Tournament. Nelson, a former editor at *The Martha's Vineyard Times*, is an award-winning outdoor writer whose fishing columns have captured the essence of Island life. Together, they've not only fished the waters but have also shaped the Derby's legacy. Their talk delved into unforgettable catches, the camaraderie that defines the Derby, and the community it fosters. It was a celebration of both the sport and the enduring friendships that make the Derby a cherished tradition on the Vineyard.

SHIRLEY CRAIG – *Decades of Derby, Fish, and Friends*

Shirley Craig, joined by her son Jamie, shared her decades-long experience with the Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby. From memorable catches to the

traditions and camaraderie that make the Derby a Vineyard favorite, Shirley offered a unique, firsthand perspective on this beloved Island event. Fun fact: Shirley once caught a record-setting striped bass that became the talk of the Derby for weeks, a story she loved to recount with her signature humor and enthusiasm. She spoke sincerely and passionately about the positive impact sportfishing has had on her family.

HONORING JANET MESSINEO – *A Legacy of Surfcasting and Community*

Concluding the series was a special evening celebrating the life and legacy of Janet Messineo, a pioneering figure in Martha's Vineyard's fishing community. For over 50 years, Janet was a dedicated participant in the Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby, earning a place in the Derby Hall of Fame in 2005. Beyond her impressive fishing skills, she was also the Island's only taxidermist for many decades, known for her traditional skin-mount techniques. Her memoir, *Casting into the Light*, published in 2019, offers a window into her life and passion for fishing. This event featured reflections from longtime Derby participants and friends, sharing stories that honored Janet's extraordinary contributions and the lasting impact she has had on the Vineyard fishing community. Her dedication, kindness, and pioneering spirit continue to inspire anglers and community members alike.

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Fish must be caught, measured, promptly released alive, and entered online with the Derby **within 14 hours**. Open to registered 2026 Derby anglers only. Derby rules apply. Catch & Release fish entered are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for any merchandise/cash awards and 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 up or down 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.



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Special Presentations and Awards

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

Committee Scholarships

For more information about the scholarship program, see page 20.

The Bob "Hawkeye" Jacobs Memorial Award

Awarded to the first Shore Team where both team members record a shore 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

Awarded to a family whose participation demonstrates sportsmanship and commitment.

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 in Memory of Janet Messineo

Honoring the true meaning of good sportsmanship 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

Awarded to a Junior or Mini Junior who enters a fish (any species) in the catch and release competition.

The Albies, Blues and Bones Award

Awarded for the heaviest shore False Albacore, Bluefish and Bonito caught by participants between the ages of 15 to 18 years old. Three awards, one for each species.

Justus P. Conant Award

Awarded to the angler weighing in the heaviest shore fish caught on October 9th.

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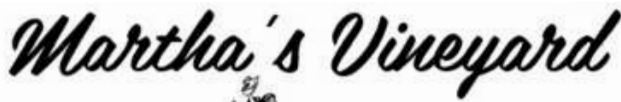
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Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby Corporation Charitable Giving

The Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass and Bluefish Derby extends its deepest gratitude to all participants, sponsors and volunteers as we celebrated our 80th Anniversary in 2025. For eight decades, this beloved Fall Classic has brought our community together on the water, transforming a shared passion for fishing into a powerful force for good. Thanks to your dedication

and support our annual charitable giving program continues to directly fund college scholarships for local high school graduates and provide vital assistance to island community organizations. Thank you for eighty years of camaraderie, conservation, and making every single cast count towards a brighter future for Martha's Vineyard.



Sancy Pachico

Corporation Grants, 2025

Red Stocking Fund	\$ 2,000
Sancy Pachico Memorial Youth Scholarships	\$ 4,000
Community Donations	\$ 1,100
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Total

\$ 122,100



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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



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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 2025, 3314 anglers participated in the 80th anniversary of the contest, weighing in a total

of more than 1,800 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 2025, the Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby awarded \$115K in scholarships to graduates of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School as well as \$4,000 in scholarships for Island youngsters to attend summer camps.

Please Contact Us at: MVDerbyCommittee@gmail.com

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Modern Energy into the Traditional Derby Apparel Lineup.

For more than eight decades, the Derby has stood as a cornerstone of Island culture, bringing together thousands of anglers for a month-long celebration of camaraderie and the sea. To honor the milestone of an 80th anniversary, the Derby Committee decided it was time to inject a fresh, modern energy into the traditional apparel lineup.

The vision was to go beyond the classic, standard-issue Derby logo and create an exclusive capsule that appeals to both seasoned legacy fishermen and the younger generation of Island enthusiasts.

With the help of Nick and Kat Jerome, Zak Martellucci, and Jordan Shavarebi, we crafted a cohesive, limited-edition line of hoodies and T-shirts. These designs cleverly reimagined traditional Derby emblems without losing the nostalgic spirit of the tournament. Anglers eagerly wore the new gear on the docks and out on the boats, creating a highly visible buzz around the 80th anniversary.

Ultimately, this creative collaboration did exactly what it set out to do: infuse excitement into the merchandise lineup while celebrating a legendary Island tradition. It successfully proved that historic milestones can be celebrated with fresh, modern styles that resonate with the entire community.

**Our intent was to spark excitement and we think we did.
You'll be able to find those fun designs again this year.**





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Salute to Robyn Joubert

By Maryanne Jerome

AS the quiet months settle over the island, the work behind the scenes of the annual MV Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby continues. Each month, the committee gathers to review rules and protocols, connect with wonderful new sponsors, and find meaningful ways to make our next tournament even better. At each of those meetings, as we both reflect and look forward, our hearts are anchored in deep gratitude for the people who truly make the Derby possible: our amazing volunteers.

When August comes to an end, and the sun sits a little lower in the sky, the committee turns its attention to September and the start of yet another fall season of fishing. The Derby takes the stage and, once the opening bell rings, it's Robyn Joubert that takes the helm of the fabled weigh station on Dock Street for the fol-

lowing five weeks.

Robyn began volunteering several decades ago and now oversees the daily operations of the weigh station which include; daily, weekly and mystery prize distribution, running the computer for the fish weighed in that morning, and making sure things run smoothly with the myriad of details and overall procedures including the fillet program.

Her humble, calm, friendly, helpful and steady demeanor along with her subtle wit and sense of humor generate the heartbeat of this eighty-plus year tradition ensuring a positive experience for our partici-

pants and curious onlookers. It's not an easy task assisting over thirty-five committee members, fifty plus volunteers and 3,100+ registrants, but Robyn manages to make it look easy.



Robyn Joubert on duty at the Derby Headquarters Weigh Station

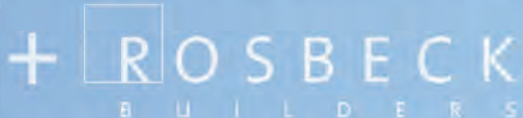
We extend our deepest gratitude to Robyn for her unwavering dedication, commitment, and resilience. Her profound love for this tournament has left an enduring impact on us all.

As far as the committee and participants are concerned, she's the best catch at the weigh station.



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*Rendering, prize may vary.

GRAND PRIZE

Bragging rights aren't the only thing at stake. We're giving away a custom Derby-themed 2026 Jeep® Gladiator Mojave X, from Premier Cape Cod, to this year's Grand Prize winner.



EVERY DAY SHOULD FEEL THIS GOOD.☺