



Photo by Brooke Bartletta

MV SEAFOOD COLLABORATIVE

Our Success and Our Future

This was our second season running the Martha's Vineyard Seafood Collaborative, the wholesale seafood market in Menemsha that your support in 2021 helped us purchase, renovate, and re-open. This year our Seafood Collaborative purchased \$395,000 of locally caught, locally landed fresh seafood from 54 individual fishing businesses. By providing a market for our small boat fishing fleet and the infrastructure to catch, unload, and store seafood on the waterfront, we fulfill our mission to help our local commercial fishing businesses and to keep our waterfront working. The top five species we purchased this year were: quahogs (193,168 count), oysters (81,286 count, wild and farmed), black sea bass (35,055 lbs), summer flounder (9,905 lbs), and sea scallops (7,024 lbs).

We then turned around and sold that product to 47 local restaurants, caterers, and markets, providing community members and visitors more options to enjoy fresh, high quality and locally landed seafood. Helping consumers access local catch supports the men and women who work hard to harvest and grow it.

Over the course of this season, we made over 250,000 lbs of ice from our new 5-ton ice machine, generously funded by the Martha's Vineyard Bank Charitable Foundation. This flaked ice was essential in keeping our fishermen's harvests fresh and ready for your plates. Thank you MV Bank Charitable Foundation!

As we look to next year, one of our main goals is to find the right business model and programs to stabilize this wholesale seafood business, allowing it to further its mission of supporting, promoting, and prioritizing our local seafood businesses. The positive economics of landing fish locally is under constant threat, and we see the Collaborative as a potential bulwark against losing our thriving and authentic island fishing operations and the essential infrastructure needed to keep our waterfronts running. We look forward to expanding the services of this program and its positive impact on the community.



Photo by Meg Higgins

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