

The Fish Locally Collaborative is anchored by a give and take process where individuals and groups work together over the long term toward common goals by sharing knowledge and building consensus. Traditional leadership is not required in a collaborative process and can sometimes bring better results through the full and equal participation by all collaborators.

### **WHO ARE WE**

The Fish Locally Collaborative is a group of community-based fishermen and their families, community-focused marine and social scientists, food activists and fishery + marine conservation advocates. Our mission is the recovery and maintenance of marine biodiversity through community-based fisheries.

### **HISTORY OF THE FISH LOCALLY COLLABORATIVE**

The FLC builds upon a 2005 Fleet Visioning Project, which united over 300 people from fishing communities throughout New England to create a shared vision. Challenges to achieve the vision are many and are not unique to New England. In fact, similar challenges are shared by fish & food communities around the world.

### **THE FLEET VISION**

A diverse, economically viable, and environmentally resilient fleet that is managed through a participatory governance structure.

### **STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES + OUR FOOD SYSTEM**

By working together we build socio-economic and political power. With power we create change. The FLC unites our fishing community members and recognizes the unique skills we bring to the table: fishermen bring expert knowledge and direct experience; advocates bring support and resources; and scientists, sociologists, and other academic experts provide important insights useful in talking to policy makers. Through a dynamic and flexible collaborative we achieve both policy that works and socio-economic-political power that lasts.

### **WHO MAKES THE DECISIONS**

FLC members make the decisions. We seek to model a genuine participatory governance structure that is bottom up. The local fishermen and fishing communities who are most impacted by policies, changing markets, and ocean conservation are at the center of the decision making table.

### **CHANGE IN ACTION**

We are working to transform both fisheries policies and markets for seafood. The FLC is currently focused on policy to ensure a level playing field for small and mid-scale fisheries and to ensure that access to the fishery be in the control of communities and not large-scale outside interests. On the market side, FLC members are working to build alternative marketing programs that bring more value to the fishermen, the ocean, local communities, and our food system. Programs include CSF, fish to school, and partnering with institutional buyers.

**JOIN THE FLC – contact Brett Tolley at [brett@namanet.org](mailto:brett@namanet.org) or 718-570-2377.**