



Community Mural Design: Jackie Reeves



Introduction

Hermit crabs change shells as they grow. It can be as often as every few months. Get bigger, get a new shell. Get bigger, get a new shell. Just like our favorite member of the tide pool populus, the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation keeps growing. Instead of new shells, we keep adding more to our agendas. In the past year, we built up our Wave Makers Employer Forum and launched the Coastal Characters podcast. These are in addition to organizing our annual WaterWORKS career day and Big Blue industry conference.

Our organizational growth comes from the trust and support of our board of directors. I have never worked with a board as enthusiastic and insightful. Collectively, you bring perfect balance to our approach. Mission driven, adventurous, and open-minded while always carrying a proverbial first aid kit and extra snacks just in case.

We also owe thanks to the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce for the security and staff support afforded to the Foundation. Special thanks go to Dina Lyons Howell. I am deeply grateful for your compassion, for your fresh perspectives, and for your abundance of good strategies that keep us all on course.



Katy Acheson

Executive Director

Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation

Dropping Anchor

In September 2025, we welcomed our new administrative assistant, **Dina Lyons Howell**, to the team. She dove right in and began working on researching updates for what will become the 2024 Blue Economy Project Report, alongside event planning activities for WaterWORKS 2026 and Big Blue, Green Tomorrow 2026.

In November 2025, we welcomed incoming board member **Catherine Clark**, VP of Community Engagement at Housing Assistance, and **Patrice Pimental**, First Vice President and District Manager at Rockland Trust.



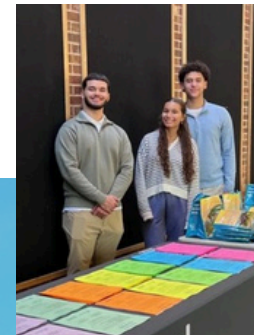
Dina Lyons Howell



Catherine Clark



Patrice Pimental



Caitlin Ward-Prior
(center)



Nicolas Barcelo

Casting Off

As we welcomed Catherine and Patrice onto the board, we bid fair winds to outgoing board member **Alisa Magnotta**, Chief Executive Officer of Housing Assistance, and **Christin Marshall**, Executive Director of CapeTide Economic Development Corporation, the latest 501(c)3 launched by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce. We sincerely appreciate their contributions of insights and time to CCBEF.

In May 2025, after a productive school year supporting the Blue Economy Foundation, we said goodbye to intern **Caitlin Ward-Prior**, a rising freshman at Clemson University, and intern **Nicolas Barcelo**, an aspiring pilot attending his first year at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Best of luck to you both!

Ports of Call

Community Engagement Activities

October 2025

CARE Summit Harwich

Blue Future Conference Plymouth

Climate Beacon Boston

EForAll Blue Economy Pitch Contest Falmouth (Judge)

WHOI Celebration of Ocean Science Campaign Launch Woods Hole

November 2025

MIT Club of Cape Cod Luncheon Hyannis (featured presenter)

Word Tourism Forum Dennis Port (Panel Sponsor/Moderator)

January 2026

MA Lobstermen's Association Annual Weekend & Trade Show Hyannis

Barnstable High School Career Day Hyannis

March 2026

Blue Ocean Symposium Kittery

MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board Retreat Harwich (Speaker)

April 2026

Cape Coastal Conference Hyannis

IFAW exclusive screening: The Right Whale Cape Cinema, Dennis

May 2026

CARE Day at Farming Falmouth Falmouth

June 2026

MassHire CIWB Annual Meeting Hyannis

Quahog Day Falmouth

Ongoing/monthly

Cape Cod Technology Council Breakfasts West Barnstable, MA



"The Future is Nye"



Celebration of
Ocean Science
Campaign Launch



MassHire Cape & Islands
Workforce Board Retreat



Blue Ocean Symposium

Charting New Waters

Wave Makers

Launched in November 2024, in the form of two listening sessions, Wave Makers is a collaboration between the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation and Center for Community and Professional Education (CCAPE). The goal is to build on the challenges and opportunities experienced by Blue Economy employers, and which align with the Cape Cod Commission's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and related initiatives.

The refocused forum was relaunched in October 2025 and focused on exploring employer challenges within regionally identified economic challenges. Over two more forums held in February and June 2026, participants continued honing in on topics identified in the Fall to refine common themes from which to start working together towards viable solutions.

Learn more at bluecapecod.org/wave-makers-blue-economy-employer-forum



Coastal
Characters

with
Katy Acheson

In November 2025, we launched our new podcast series, **Coastal Characters**, where we talk with local entrepreneurs, scientists, and community leaders about how Cape Cod's ocean shapes their work, their challenges, and their successes. Since November, we've launched 9 full episodes, featuring characters such as **Stephen Cole**, Director of the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, **Chris Cataldo** of Cape & Coast Bank, **Nicolas Barcelo**, an intern with the Blue Economy Foundation (and co-producer of this series!), **Paulo Paraguay**, President of the Board of Directors of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce and local business owner, **Tracy K. O'Neill**, founder and CEO of Two Crows Creative Group, and **Ryan & Annie** from the Center for Coastal Studies. Total number of downloads since launch is 388.

*Co-produced by Katy Acheson and Nicolas Barcelo
with support from Cape Media Center.*

*Hosted by Katy Acheson with guest host Nicolas
Barcelo. Edited by Nicolas Barcelo.*



Our Flagship Events

WaterWORKS Cape Cod Blue Economy Career Day

Nearly 220 high school students from 11 schools in the Cape & Islands region visited the campus of Cape Cod Community College on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 for a fun-filled day interacting with 40+ exhibitors representing the best of what the Blue Economy has to offer. Students engaged with exhibitors across all Blue Economy sectors in for-profit, non-profit and government sectors, and had the opportunity to listen in on panel discussions organized by Cape & Islands Workforce Investment Board.

WaterWORKS 2026 was sponsored by Cape Light Compact, Cape Cod 5, Housing Assistance, Cape Cod Community College, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, Cape Cod Regional STEM Network, Cape Cod RTA, MassHire Cape & Islands Career Center, MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board, WHOI Sea Grant, CARE for Cape & Islands, IFAW and Massachusetts Marine Trades Association.

Big Blue CONFERENCE

On April 28 and 29th, we welcomed over --- guests and 44 speakers to Falmouth High School for "Big Blue, Green Tomorrow: Connecting the Dots." This year, we partnered with the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative to present Green Tomorrow. Together we drew organizational leaders, researchers, blue- and green-economy employers and employees, educators, students and artists to Falmouth for talks about how we work, live and create a sustainable environment on, in and around the waters of Cape Cod.

Big Blue 2026 was sponsored by Cape Light Compact, Enbridge, Eversource, Beacon Marine Construction, Veregy, Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance, Cazeault Roofing & Siding, Green Energy Consumer's Alliance, Heritage Museum & Gardens, Law Office of Eugene R. Curry, Massachusetts Marine Trades Association, MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board, Family Table Collaborative, A.R.C. Shellfish Hatchery, Cape Cod Native Shellfish, CARE for Cape & Islands, Chatham Harvesters Cooperative, Iris Hotel Cape Cod, Kandy Korner, Roche Brothers Supermarket, Shaws, Snapple and Stop & Shop.



Flying Our Colors

RECOGNITION & CERTIFICATIONS

In the Fall of 2025, Katy Acheson was appointed to the Seaport Economic Council, which helps coastal communities develop and improve local assets to facilitate economic growth. Additionally, Katy completed the **US Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Institute of Organization Management (IOM)**.

In May 2026, Katy graduated from the **Institute for Nonprofit Practice (INP) Core Certificate Program - Cape Cod & Islands cohort**. Congratulations Katy!

In June, CCBEF was awarded **2026 Economic Development Partner of the Year** by MassHire Cape & Islands Workforce Board.

Social Media Performance: Facebook (7/1/25 - 6/24/26)

863
+361.5
Interactions

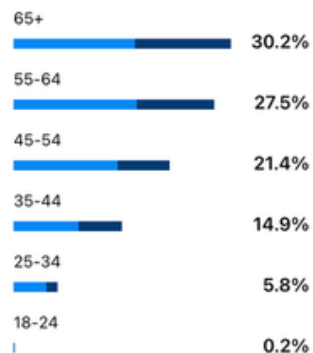
914
+7.7%
Followers

2,000
+82.4%
Visits

Age & gender

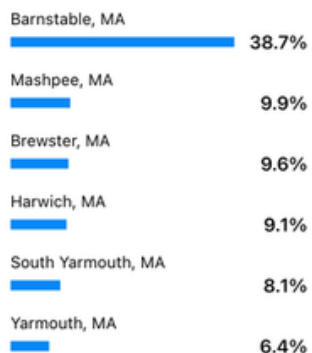
Lifetime

● Women ● Men ● Unknown



Cities

Lifetime



New Merch!



Keeping engagement fresh with new merch from Cape Clasp.
Visit bluecapecod.org/shop to purchase.

Looking Ahead



BLUE ECONOMY PROJECT REPORT UPDATE

In the Fall of 2025, thanks to a grant from MassTech Collaborative, we kicked off the research efforts required to update our 2017 Blue Economy Project. The first phase of this research involved digging into local and regional 'blue' economic data from Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket and Plymouth Counties. We also contacted Town offices to obtain lists of DBAs. Both efforts were conducted with a goal of acquiring the data needed to learn what's changed since 2016.

At a high level, we're seeing great signs of stability:

For Barnstable, Dukes, Nantucket, and Plymouth Counties Combined	2016	2024
# of Blue Businesses	11.88%	11.07%
# of Blue Jobs	12.43%	12.72%
Blue Gross Regional Product	11.57%	11.75%

PLOTTING OUR COURSE FOR 2026-27:

July 15: Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance Speaker Series Panelist, "Small Boats. Big Science: Protecting Cape Cod's Working Waterfronts: A Path to Resiliency."

July 25 - August 1: 35th Annual Woods Hole Film Festival For the first time, CCBEF is a proud sponsor of the August 1st film block "Spirit of Massachusetts," which includes several 'blue' themed short films.



July 29: Summer Salon at Chatham Bars Inn: Panelist, "Big Ideas, Great Stories and the Future."

August 7: New England Aquarium Workforce Development Roundtable

August 8: Find us at the **Woods Hole Science Stroll**

August 20: Celebrate Provincetown Carnival's Deep Sea Disco

October 29: Plymouth Futures Conference

Fall 2026: CCBEF is organizing a WaterWORKS panel at Martha's Vineyard High School (date TBD).

Try to keep up with us by checking bluecapecod.org/events

ALL ABOARD!

Collaboration is key to success.

We're expanding our partnerships with other blue economy and environmental organizations such as ARii, Climate Beacon, MA Marine Trades Association, and WHOI.

Summer intern Caitlin Barker is diving into the world of podcasting. While she's in the office, six high school students from across MA are completing a 4-week program with us through the Work-Based Learning Alliance.

Waves of Gratitude for our FY26 Sponsors & Partners



Event Sponsors, Educational Partners and Hospitality Sponsors

A.R.C. Shellfish Hatchery
Beacon Marine Construction
Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce
Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen's Alliance
Cape Cod Community College
Cape Cod Native Shellfish
Cape Cod Regional STEM Network
Cape Cod RTA
CARE for Cape & Islands

Cazeault Roofing & Siding
Chatham Harvesters Cooperative
Family Table Collaborative
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Heritage Museum & Gardens
Housing Assistance
IFAW
Iris Hotel

Kandy Korner
Law Office of Eugene R. Curry
Massachusetts Marine Trades Association
MassHire Cape and Islands Career Center
MassHire Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board
Cape Cod RTA
WHOI Sea Grant
Veregy



Water As Our Way of Life™

About the Blue Economy Foundation

The Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation, Inc. was established in 2017 to provide support for the Cape Cod Blue Economy Project. Launched in 2015 by the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, the Blue Economy Project is a regional initiative to promote and sustain a maritime focused economy on Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, and Plymouth. The mission of the Cape Cod Blue Economy Foundation is to grow the region's economy in a sustainable and balanced way, focusing on protecting and promoting our water and coastal resources.

Board of Directors

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Vice President & Clerk

Scott Vandersall
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Catherine Clark
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Katy Acheson
Executive Director

Dina Lyons Howell
Administrative Assistant

Nicolas Barcelo
Caitlin Ward-Prior
2025-26' Interns



Learn more: bluecapecod.org

Photography: Big Tree, Wayne Earl Chinnock and Cape Cod Chamber Staff

Logo design: Carol Mcleod Design

Report design: Dina Lyons Howell

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