



TRIPLE-BOTTOM-LINE SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

Community Fisheries Network members agree to adopt sustainability standards that address ecological, social equity and economic issues. Our goals in each area are met through continuously improving practices and specific strategies to meet the standards.

ECOLOGICAL STANDARDS

Goal: improve or sustain ecosystem and species health

Stewardship

- Voluntary Conservation
 - We strive to practice precautionary fishing to minimize bycatch, waste and habitat impacts.
- Improving Best Industry Practices
 - We share ideas and information in an effort to improve fisheries resources and marine habitat health as well as the quality of the catch.
- Promoting Diversified Fisheries
 - We commit to being ever-observant of both opportunities and challenges that may surface as a result of changing ecological and economic conditions. Syncing fishing efforts with seasonal changes in fisheries promotes resilience of the food web and fishing communities.

Participate in Fisheries Research

- Innovation and Core Capacity to Experiment
 - We want to “fish smarter, not harder” and experiment with gear and hull design.
- Collaborative Research to Inform Stock Assessments
 - We work with marine researchers and share our own observations made about the health of fish stocks.
- Reduce Carbon Footprint
 - We are investigating and plan to implement —where possible —innovative gear designs in an effort to conserve fuel and save money.

Policy Engagement

- Participation in Fisheries Management
 - We share ecological knowledge about fisheries resource observations made while monitoring harvest and are engaged with resource managers at local, regional and federal levels.
- Advocate for Ecosystem-based Management
 - We pay attention to the health of the whole marine ecosystem, not just individual species we catch.
- Compliance with Fisheries Regulations
 - We work within the rules and regulations of the local, regional and federal management systems, as well as those of the Coast Guard.

SOCIAL EQUITY STANDARDS

Goal: Ensure that communities have equitable access to fishery resources and provide intergenerational opportunities

Fishing for Future Generations

- Access to Fisheries/Fishing Rights
 - We take steps to establish and facilitate fair and balanced transfers of fishing access rights that benefit community based fishermen.
- Mentoring
 - We are committed to fostering professionalism of our crewmembers, and we share our knowledge and boat skills gained from our time on the water.

Engage and Benefit the Local Community

- Community Access to Local Seafood
 - We are working to ensure that people who live in ports where seafood is landed can purchase and eat the local catch.
- Consumer Education and Community Outreach
 - We strive to be the best information sources about local seafood because we care about the fish and our future.
- Support Local Businesses
 - We look to work first with other local business for services and goods.

Political Viability

- Organizational Structure
 - We are individual owner/operators, and each CFN member group determines the best organizational structure to support our fleet.
- Equitable Governance
 - We advocate for rules that protect and promote long-term community well-being, and for a stronger voice in fisheries governance.
- Pride and Respect
 - We take pride in our work and seek to build respect for commercial fishing and related jobs in our communities.

ECONOMIC STANDARDS

Goal: Improve the economic performance of local fisheries businesses and associated community infrastructure.

Resilient Fishing Businesses

- Refine Business Operations
 - We work to improve the "bottom line" of businesses by developing business plans, managing accounts in responsible manner, keeping books in order, ensuring tax compliance, and reporting on a regular basis.
- Business Stability
 - We strive to stabilize the other aspects of our fisheries through participation in fisheries management processes, and by giving attention to the local, state and federal laws that impact our businesses.

- Maintain or Grow the Number of Shore-side Jobs
 - We take actions to maintain or restore our working waterfronts to vibrant hubs that contribute to the local economy on and off the docks.

Promote Local Fisheries

- Branding and Marketing
 - We strive to deliver high-quality products that the seafood consumer trusts and seeks out.
- Traceability of the Catch
 - We are working to implement accurate, cost effective, and easy to use traceability tools which ensure truth and transparency in seafood sourcing.
- Creating Increased Value
 - We believe that attention to quality at every step of harvesting will result in higher value for our landings and produce quality seafood; we explore participation in the processing sector in different ways.

Support Working Waterfronts

- Represent Interests
 - We engage in regulatory process and advocate for rules that protect and promote the long-term well-being of fishermen and their communities.
- Address Infrastructure Needs
 - We look for solutions to rebuild lost infrastructure to suit the future of our businesses and provide jobs in our communities.
- Strengthen the Fishing Community
 - We build leadership and organizational capacity to participate in management for healthy local fisheries that are the basis of the fishing economy.