



P.O. Box 96 Menemsha, MA 02552

March 9, 2017

Chilmark Selectmen
401 Middle Road
Chilmark, MA 02535

Subject: Fishing Gear Storage Areas

Dear Chilmark Selectmen,

We would like to express our strong support for the plan to designate storage areas for Chilmark fishermen on the town-owned land parcel to the rear of the Chilmark Landfill. Fishing gear requires a significant amount of space which cannot be accommodated by the average home and yard. Fishing gear storage problems are exacerbated for properties with close neighbors, or younger fishermen who do not own their own homes/land. With Menemsha's limited space, more public areas are needed to help fishermen organize and store their fishing gear. These designated lots will greatly help local fishermen efficiently operate their fishing businesses. In addition to gear storage lots for fishermen, we would like to request space to be designated for machinery, trucks, and vats for fish markets/buyers. Such areas will help accommodate the need for more space from the overflow activities of their businesses.

While we understand the details of this project still need to be determined, we strongly feel space for our commercial fishing community is greatly needed. The creation of areas for both fishermen and markets near the Chilmark Landfill will help relieve some of the congestion in Menemsha. Fishing gear lots are currently and successfully in place in Edgartown and could provide a template to help create a successful system for Chilmark. We appreciate your continued support and acknowledgement of the importance of Menemsha's commercial fishing community.

Sincerely,

The Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust Board of Directors,

John Keene, President
Katie Carroll, Clerk
Emily Bramhall
Warren Doty
Matthew Mayhew

Shelley Edmundson, Exec. Director
Stanley Startzell, Treasurer
Wesley Brighton
Todd Goodell
David White

