

MARITIME GLOUCESTER PRESENTS THE
**FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL
GLOUCESTER
SCHOONER
FESTIVAL**

WWW.MARITIMEGLOUCESTER.ORG/SCHOONER-FESTIVAL



Photograph courtesy of Carl Gustin

Event Program & Visitor Guide

Labor Day Weekend ♦ Sept 3-6, 2026



Welcome to the 42nd Annual Gloucester Schooner Festival!

It's my great pleasure to welcome friends old and new to the 42nd annual Gloucester Schooner Festival — one of the finest traditions on the east coast, and one this committee works hard all year to keep vital.

None of it happens alone. My thanks go to our extraordinary festival committee, whose love of schooners and boundless enthusiasm remain the heart of this weekend. Thanks as well to our sponsors, to the staff at Maritime Gloucester, to our city officials, and to the countless Gloucester residents whose work behind the scenes makes schooner weekend possible. And finally, to the schooners themselves: the local vessels that grace our harbor all season and those that sail long miles to join us. Without you and your crews, there is no festival.

This weekend offers a window into a harbor once crowded with canvas and docks humming with the work of sailors. Whether you take a deck tour at I4C2, wander the pier at Maritime Gloucester, make your way out to the Paint Factory on Rocky Neck at Ocean Alliance, or book passage on one of the many boats sailing this weekend, I hope you take in every bit of what these magnificent vessels have to offer. Let us also pause to honor our fishing community and everything they give to these waters.

On behalf of Maritime Gloucester and the Gloucester Schooner Festival, welcome to the boats, the crews, and everyone who comes to share in all things schooner. Your support is what keeps Labor Day weekend on Cape Ann the place to be.

Cyrus Bent
Gloucester Schooner Festival Committee Chair



About the Gloucester Schooner Festival

In its official newsletter, Wing & Wing, the American Schooner Association announced “The Canadians are coming...” when referring to the rendezvous planned for August 1985 in Gloucester Harbor. This celebration included a race from Gloucester Harbor to Norman’s Woe and back and a Parade of Sail, which was watched by several thousand spectators along Stacy Boulevard and the inner harbor.

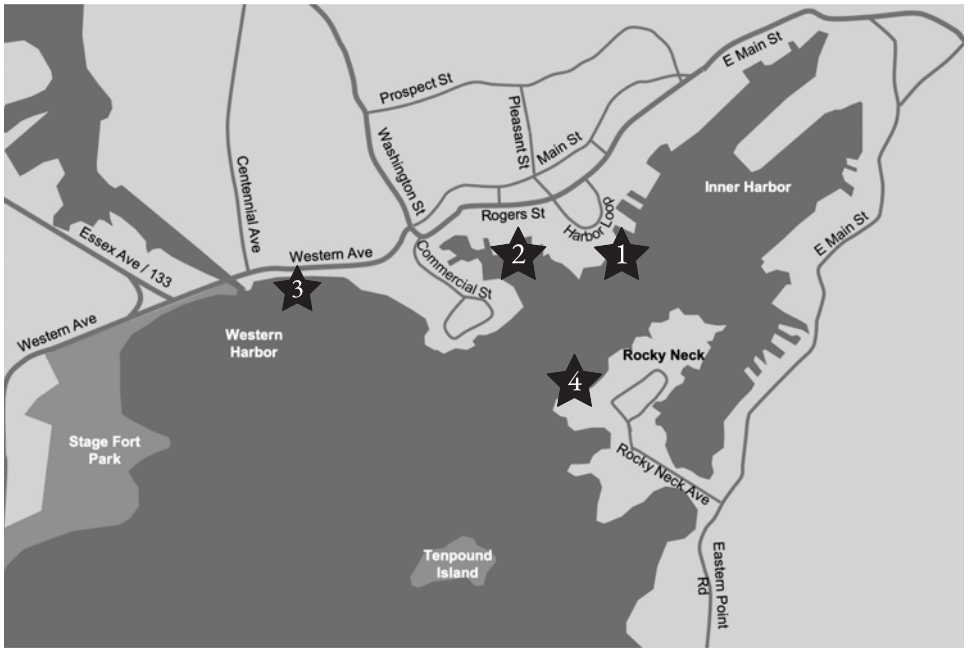
Since 1985, the Gloucester Schooner Festival has evolved and become internationally recognized as a major maritime and sailing event. The 42nd Annual Gloucester Schooner Festival is organized by the Gloucester Schooner Festival Committee and Maritime Gloucester, celebrating the history and future of maritime arts and skills.

“The Gloucester race is a renewal of a period beginning in the 1890s when New England fishermen— homebound with fresh cod or outbound with salt or ice to the Grand Banks— challenged each other, no matter the wind, sea conditions or vessel. Driven by pride, skippers slammed their schooners through gale winter or summer, seldom shortening sail, for the thrill of besting a rival. Essex shipyards and the ports of Gloucester and Boston were both birthplace and showcase for these much-admired two-masters.”

The Boston Globe, August 25, 1986



Gloucester Schooner Festival Map



1 - Maritime Gloucester

2 - I4C2 Parking Lot

3 - Parade of Sail Marquee @ Stacy Boulevard (Western Ave)

4 - Ocean Alliance





capeannlobstermen.com 978-559-7988

**Proud to Support
the Gloucester
Schooner Festival.**



Specializing in Creative Lobster & Seafood
Daily Chef's Specials
Steaks, Chicken & Pasta • Children's Menu
Live Music • Outdoor Dining
Full Selection of Beer, Wine & Cocktails,
Open seasonally from April to
mid-December: Lunch & Dinner Tue-Sun
84 Causeway St, Gloucester, MA
www.lobstalandrestaurant.com
978-281-0415

History of the Esperanto Cup

In 1920, the first International Fishermen's Race was held off Halifax, Nova Scotia, between the Canadian schooner Delawanna and the U.S.-flag schooner Esperanto. For the occasion, the Halifax Herald — a prominent local newspaper whose owner admired the fast fishing schooners known as “flying fishermen” — donated an elaborate silver cup, the Halifax Herald Perpetual Trophy. A second trophy then surfaced, intended as the prize the winning skipper would keep: an elegant, beautifully engraved piece of silverwork naming the donor as “Colonial Fisheries Ltd.” and listing the scheduled dates of the three-race series.

The races were sailed in October 1920, and the Gorton's-owned Esperanto took the series in two straight; the third race was never needed. Esperanto's skipper, Captain Marty Welch of Gloucester, received the trophy, and some years after his death Gorton's purchased it for the company's historical collection.

The donor's identity proved a puzzle. Official records in Halifax showed no such firm as Colonial Fisheries Ltd., and no old timers could recall it. Further research revealed the cup had been put forward by several Canadian businessmen who wished to remain anonymous. It was meant to be the actual race trophy, but was overshadowed by the large, ornate Halifax Herald Cup and so became the winning skipper's keepsake instead.

International Fishermen's Races continued intermittently, the last series held off Gloucester in 1938, where the Canadian schooner Bluenose beat the U.S.-flag Gertrude L. Thebaud three races to two. The original Halifax Trophy was retired and is displayed at the Fisheries Museum in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. The Colonial Fisheries trophy remains in Gloucester, a proud reminder of the warm relationship that began then and endures between the peoples of Nova Scotia and Cape Ann. Now on loan from Gorton's to Maritime Gloucester, it symbolizes the rekindling of the 1920s schooner races and the fishing fleet they represented. You can see it, along with more schooner exhibits, in the Gorton's Gallery at Maritime Gloucester.

How are the Races Organized?

The Gloucester Schooner Races are in three classes, quite simply: Small, Medium, and Large. These distinctions are far less strict than other types of sailboat races, which can involve complicated “ratings” and various factors, such as height of mast, sail area, waterline length, and other proportions. The Gloucester Schooner Festival celebrates the International Fishing Schooner Races of the 1920’s and ‘30’s. Those working schooners were simply racing against each other, boat against boat, with the fastest one claiming first place. Of course, as the saying goes, when two boats are in the same vicinity, it has long been recognized as nearly impossible for them not to see who is the fastest! In the 1920’s, when fishing was still primarily being done “under sail”, the ability to get back to Gloucester first would mean getting the best price for the fish. So, a practical and prideful rationale had schooners competing with each other boat against boat.

When the Gloucester Schooner Festival was started in 1985, the rules were similarly simple. The main idea then was that the schooners had gathered to honor a common heritage, and though there was a race, it was run with a nod to the races of old.

The Gloucester Schooner Festival race divisions are determined by the vessel’s length on deck (LOD), with very few other considerations, such as topsails, bow sprits, “gollywobblers” (light air sails), or flying jibs. Besides, it’s just a friendly little down-home competition, right?

Here are the classes, by length:

Small, up to 44’ LOD • Medium, 45-80’ LOD • Large, Over 80’ LOD

In the large schooner division there is a separate trophy for modern schooners. In the Medium and Small classes, there is a distinction made for schooners with a triangular main sail instead of a traditional “gaff” or a spar.

Even though this explanation sounds a little complicated, it’s actually pretty handy. And besides, it usually works out well for all the participants, since they, too, appreciate the significance of this annual tradition. While it’s a challenge to compete for the awards, they’re all winners for just being here. After all, Gloucester is the original home of the iconic schooner.



MARITIME HERITAGE DAY

CELEBRATING MARITIME TRADITIONS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2026 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM



FAMILY ACTIVITIES

FOOD TRUCKS

SCHOONER FEST MERCHANDISE

SKILLS DEMONSTRATIONS

HOURLY SCHEDULED SAILS

CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, EXHIBITS & MORE

FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY

BROUGHT TO YOU THROUGH COLLABORATION BETWEEN

MARITIME GLOUCESTER &

ESSEX HISTORICAL SOCIETY & SHIPBUILDING MUSEUM.

JOIN US AT 23 HARBOR LOOP, GLOUCESTER, MA

**MARITIME
GLOUCESTER**



ESSEX
HISTORICAL SOCIETY &
SHIPBUILDING
MUSEUM

Past Winners of the Mayor's Race for the Esperanto Cup

2025	American Eagle	2005	American Eagle
2024	American Eagle	2004	American Eagle
2023	American Eagle	2003	American Eagle
2022	American Eagle	2002	Pride of Baltimore II
2021	American Eagle	2001	Ernestina
2019	American Eagle	2000	America
2018	Adventure	1999	Pride of Baltimore II
2017	Adventure	1998	American Eagle
2016	Adventure	1997	American Eagle
2015	Columbia	1996	Spirit of Massachusetts
2014	American Eagle	1995	Spirit of Massachusetts
2013	American Eagle	1993	Spirit of Massachusetts
2012	American Eagle	1992	Spirit of Massachusetts
2011	Spirit of Bermuda	1991	Adventure
2010	Spirit of Bermuda	1990	Spirit of Massachusetts
2009	American Eagle	1989	American Eagle
2008	Virginia	1988	Adventure
2007	Virginia	1987	Spirit of Massachusetts
2006	American Eagle	1986	Pilot



Festival Schedule of Events - Thurs-Fri, Sept 3-4, 2026

Thursday - Community Day

Schedule of events subject to change based on wind, marine, and weather conditions. If needed, schedule changes will be announced at <https://www.maritimegloucester.org/sf-visitor-info> and on Facebook.

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Maritime Gloucester Museum & Exhibits Open

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Schooner Challenge, Gloucester Harbor
Join our local Schooner Captains as they participate in a friendly competition putting their seamanship to the test over an “obstacle” course. Passengers will be given their own set of tasks to win the coveted Rum Bottle Award. Visiting schooners already arrived will join the event. The public is invited to purchase tickets aboard participating schooners. Ticketed passengers and crew will be invited to a post challenge awards party.

Friday - Greet the Fleet Day

Schedule of events subject to change based on wind, marine, and weather conditions. If needed, schedule changes will be announced at <https://www.maritimegloucester.org/sf-visitor-info> and on Facebook.

All Day Arrival of Participating Vessels

10:00 am - 4:00 pm Maritime Gloucester Museums & Exhibits Open

10:00 am - 5:00 pm Public Sails

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm “Greet the Fleet” Sail

7:00 pm - 10:00 pm Chamber of Commerce Block Party



Festival Schedule of Events - Saturday, Sept 5, 2026

Saturday - Maritime Heritage Day

Schedule of events subject to change based on wind, marine, and weather conditions. If needed, schedule changes will be announced at <https://www.maritimegloucester.org/sf-visitor-info> and on Facebook.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 8:30 am - 6:00 pm | Public Sails |
| 10:00 am | International Dory Races
Learn more at: internationaldories.com |
| 10:00 am - 4:00 pm | Maritime Gloucester - Heritage Day
Museum and Exhibits Open, Schooner Deck Tours
Free to the public: schooner deck tours, music, food, crafts for all ages, skills demonstrations, community vendors, & family activities.
\$25 hourly schooner sails on Schooner Ardelles! |
| 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Schooner Viewing & Deck Tours
Schooner Floats - I4C2, 65 Rogers St
*Ocean Alliance - 32 Horton St, Rocky Neck
Thanks to generous support from our sponsors, we are again able to provide a visitor-based dockside experience that puts the public on schooners for deck tours. This is a free option for the public, but donations are always appreciated. |
| 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm | Fireworks Sails
Witnessing the fireworks over historic Gloucester Harbor is a magnificent sight. Seeing it above you from the deck of a schooner is a breathtaking experience you do not want to miss. These sell out quickly, so don't delay. Check various schooner websites for ticketing details |
| 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm | Boat Parade of Lights
This annual event showcases a parade of local private boats and begins at dusk in the Annisquam River. |
| 9:15 pm | Fireworks Display over the Harbor
Time is approximate |



FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK
@GloucesterSchoonerFestival

Festival Schedule of Events - Sunday, Sept 6, 2026

Sunday - Race Day!

Schedule of events subject to change based on wind, marine, and weather conditions. If needed, schedule changes will be announced at <https://www.maritimegloucester.org/sf-visitor-info> and on Facebook.

- 10:00 am - 11:30 am **Parade of Schooners**
Schooners proceed from the Inner Harbor, past the Fishermen's Memorial on Stacy Boulevard and Stage Fort Park, to the race starting area off Eastern Point. Various non-profit and business organizations offer Parade of Schooners or Race viewing opportunities
- 10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Maritime Gloucester Museum & Exhibits Open**
- 10:30 am - 2:00 pm **Shuttle Bus to Eastern Point Light**
From St. Anthony's Church, Farrington Ave to watch the start of the Mayor's Race. Free of Charge courtesy of the Cape Ann Transportation Authority
- 1:00 pm **Schooner Races**
The start of Mayor's Races for Esperanto Cup & the Columbia Trophy Off Eastern Point. The race course is decided the morning of the race by the Schooner Festival Committee at a meeting with the captains of the participating vessels



Participating Schooners



Adirondack III

Homeport: Boston MA

boston-sailing.com

Length on Deck: 63'

Adirondack III was launched in 1997. Originally designed and built by Scarano Boat Building in Albany, NY, she now operates out of Boston harbor from May- October offering public day sails and private charters.



Adventure

Homeport: Gloucester MA

schooner-adventure.org

Length on Deck: 122'

Celebrating her Centennial in 2026, Schooner Adventure is a National Historic Landmark.

Gloucester Adventure, Inc. preserves and operates this living museum through restoration, education, and public sailing for future generations.



Alert

Homeport: Bailey Island ME

schooneralert.com

Length on Deck: 56'

Alert is a 70-foot wooden gaff-rigged schooner built in 1992 by Paul Rollins in York, Maine. Originally named Tall Cotton, she worked as a commercial fishing vessel before conversion to passenger service in 2013.



American Eagle

Homeport: Rockland ME

schooneramericaneagle.com

Length on Deck: 92'

Offering three to six night cruises in Maine, American Eagle is excited to return to her original homport of Gloucester, Massachusetts, where she was built, launched, and fished out of from 1930 to 1983. Since then, she has sailed out of Rockland, ME

Participating Schooners



Ardelle

Homeport: Gloucester MA
maritimeheritagecharters.com

Length on Deck: 58"

Ardelle is a pinky schooner built in Essex, Massachusetts, by master shipwright Harold Burnham, the 28th Burnham to run a shipyard there since 1819. Launched in 2011, she was framed from salvaged timber by volunteer family and friends.



Bald Eagle

Homeport: Gloucester MA

Length on Deck: 37'

This beautiful schooner is a Sam Crocker design, built in 1955 by Bud McIntosh in Eliot, ME, and rebuilt by Harold Burnham in 2002



Eileen Marie

Homeport: Boston MA, Length on Deck: 36'

Wooden schooner built in Florida of local cypress planks and oak beams. Has sailed from Venezuela to Maine. Home is at Savin Hill by the Tank. Recent upgrades of repower and rigging rebuild. Pride of our crew are Yorkies: Racy and Gingerbread.



Elizabeth

Homeport: Providence RI

Length on Deck: 37"

Schooner Elizabeth is the beloved family boat of the Spatcher/Araujos.



Ernestina Morrissey

Homeport: New Bedford MA
maritime.edu/fleet/ernestina

Length on Deck: 110'

Launched in 1894 in Essex as the Gloucester fishing schooner Effie M. Morrissey, she later carried Arctic expeditions and Cape Verdean immigrants. Now the official vessel of Massachusetts and a National Historic Landmark.

Participating Schooners



Green Dragon

Homeport: Gloucester MA

Length on Deck: 33'

Designed by Scotty Gannett and built by Chester Spear, both of Scituate, and launched in 1951 as the Brenda Lee, she was renamed to Green Dragon as homage to the tavern known as the "Headquarters of the Revolution." Privately owned she is a staple of the Gloucester Schooner Festival and a much-loved participant.



Harvey Gamage

Homeport: Portland ME

marinelearningproject.org

Length on Deck: 95'

Built at the Harvey F. Gamage Shipyard in South Bristol, Maine, and named for a legendary Maine shipbuilder, the schooner was designed as a floating classroom. Thousands of students have learned seamanship, navigation, and marine science aboard her.



Isabella

Homeport: Gloucester MA

maritimeheritagecharters.com

Length on Deck: 39'

Built in Essex in 2006 by shipwright Harold Burnham, Isabella was commissioned as a family boat for a grandfather and his grandchildren. Her design draws on the schooners in Fitz Henry Lane's paintings, scaled down and fitted for comfort.



Lewis H. Story

Homeport: Essex MA

essexshipbuilding.org

Length on Deck: 30'

Lewis H. Story, flagship of the Essex Historical Society & Shipbuilding Museum and the Town of Essex, was built by Harold Burnham in 1998. She represents Essex's 350-year shipbuilding tradition and the living maritime culture of Cape Ann.

Participating Schooners



Malabar X

Homeport: Salem MA

sunsetsailsalem.com

Length on Deck: 58'

Built by Hodgdon Brothers in East Boothbay, Maine, in 1930, Malabar X was the last and largest of ten schooners John Alden designed for himself. She won her class in the 1930 Newport-Bermuda Race and took first overall in 1932.



Redbird

Homeport: Fairhaven MA

Length on Deck: 36'

Redbird is a brigantine schooner designed by Bruce Bingham and built by Norman Bonenberger in Vallejo, CA. When launched in 1982, she was originally rigged as a brigantine but now carries a double gaff configuration.



Spirit

Homeport: Newport RI

Length on Deck: 47'

Spirit was designed for R.W. Everest and is a sister ship to Alden's Malabar IV. Built at Hodgons Yard (Boothbay) in 1934, her hull is double planked cedar & mahogany & her spars are Sitka spruce. Now owned by Lars Forsberg who acquired her in Oct 1987 as the 3rd owner/custodian, & has undertaken 3 major restorations with the goal of keeping her as original as possible. FKA Discovery III and Vela.



Strombus

Homeport: Gloucester MA

Length on Deck: 40'

Strombus is a Gloucester schooner rebuilt over twelve years by Geoff Deckebach and his wife Mandy, relaunched from the Rocky Neck Marine Railways in 2017. She won the 2023 Betty Ramsey Award in the Marconi Rigged Class.

Participating Schooners



Tabor Boy

Homeport: Marion MA

taboracademy.org

Length on Deck: 92'

Built in 1914 in the Netherlands, Tabor Boy is a 115-foot gaff-rigged schooner serving as the sail training vessel for Tabor Academy. The vessel functions as a floating classroom, offering hands-on education in seamanship, navigation, and marine science. Donated to the school in 1954, Tabor Boy is one of the only U.S. Coast Guard-inspected school vessels of its kind in the Northeast.



Thomas E. Lannon

Homeport: Gloucester MA

schooner.org

Length on Deck: 64.5'

The Schooner Thomas E. Lannon was built in 1997 in Essex, MA. Berthed at historic 7 Seas Wharf in Gloucester, the Lannon offers public sails, private charters, and group trips 7 days a week, from mid-May through mid-October.



Tyrone

Homeport: Rockland ME

schoonertyrone.com

Length on Deck: 60'

Tyrone was built as a yacht for a judge in Boothbay Harbor. Subsequent owners have taken her on extensive trips around the Atlantic and Pacific. We use her as a 6 passenger sail training platform mostly for high school age young people and adults.



When & If

Homeport: Salem MA

sunsetsailsalem.com

Length on Deck: 63.5'

Designed by John Alden and built in 1939 by F.F. Pendleton in Wiscasset, Maine, When And If was commissioned by George S. Patton, who intended to sail her around the world "when and if I return from the war." He never did. She sails today, restored.

Participating Schooners



Blackbird

Homeport: Freeport ME
schoonerblackbirdsailing.com

Length on Deck: 43'

Built in 1930, Blackbird is one of the few remaining original schooner yachts designed by legendary American naval architect John G. Alden.



Denis Sullivan

Homeport: Milwaukee WI
worldoceanschool.org

Length on Deck: 98'

The Denis Sullivan was launched in 2000 in Milwaukee, WI after an extensive community effort and thousands of volunteer hours. She is a replica of a 19th century Great Lakes schooner and purpose built to serve as a sail training platform.

Thank You to Our Festival Sponsors

Shipwright Sponsors

Applied Materials
Bank Gloucester
Peter Feinstein & Miriam Weinstein
Nina Fletcher
Ocean Alliance
Rhumblin
Timberline Enterprise
Virgilio's

Doryman Sponsors

Beauport Ambulance Service
Beauport Financial Services
Cell Signaling Technology
Common Crow
Howard Frisch
Intershell Seafood Co.
Minglewood Harborside
Russell Orchards
Janet & Stephen Sacca
Wolf Hill Home and Garden Center



YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS!

The Gloucester Schooner Festival is possible because of the generosity of individuals and businesses in our community. To support the Festival, please go to secure.qgiv.com/for/gloucesterschoonerfestival or scan the QR code.

Thank You to Our Festival Supporters

The Festival would not be possible without the extraordinary work and volunteerism of the following individuals and organizations who participate in the planning and execution of this landmark weekend event, as well as provide in-kind financial support from their organizations and staff.

Gloucester Schooner Festival Committee

Cyrus Bent
Peter Bent
Stan Collinson
Michael Costello
Melissa Cox
Charlene Delaney
Stefan Edick
Heath Ellis
Jim Lowell
Laura Lowell
Christa Miller-Shelley
KD Montgomery
Daisy Nell
Emily Pearce
Izzy Pett
Amanda Pollock
Brett Ramsey
Stephen Sacca
Mary Kay Taylor
Brenda Treuhaft

Maritime Gloucester Board of Directors

Jack Clarke, Chair
Elise "Lee" Cunningham, Vice-Chair
James G. Bragg, Jr., Treasurer
Alfred Fichera, Clerk
Katrina Abbott
Cyrus Bent
Rachael Bagenstose
Marci Cornell-Feist
Nina Fletcher
Ann Hochberg
Paul Horovitz
Geno Mondello
Geoffrey Richon, Founder
Quincy Bent, Emeritus

Maritime Gloucester Staff

Dan Albani
Sedona Gillard
Bobbi Lemay
Amanda Madeira
Ainsleigh Powers
Zim Zimmermann

Cape Ann Transportation
Authority
Accommodations at Rocky
Neck
Betty Davis
Cape Ann Whale Watch
City of Gloucester, MA
Destinos/Surfside
Discover Gloucester
Easy Ship & Pack
Ellen and Brett Ramsey
Essex Historical Society &
Shipbuilding Museum
Geno and Fran Mondello
Gloucester Dental
Gloucester DPW

Gloucester Fire Dept
Gloucester Harbormaster
Gloucester House
Gloucester Marine
Railways
Gloucester Police Dept
Gloucester Waterways Bd
Goodwin Party Shop
Gorton's of Gloucester
J&L Liquors
Liquor Locker
Lone Gull Coffeehouse
Maritime Heritage Charters
Mass Oyster Project
Mayor's Office, City of
Gloucester

Melissa Cox
Mona & Mike Faherty
Ocean Alliance
Salted Cod/Saluti
Schooner Adventure
Schooner Thomas E.
Lannon
Sea Lion Motel
Seaside Glass
Seven Seas Whale Watch
Short & Main
Tonno
Tracy Arabian
USCG Sector Boston
USCG Station Gloucester

Thank You to Our Festival Sponsors

Commander



Captains



First Mates

