



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 30, 2020

Photos available upon request

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Monterey Bay fishing community to provide fresh, local seafood to families in need

Monterey, CA — The Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust is connecting local fishermen and seafood businesses with members of the community in need of food assistance through the creation of the Monterey Bay Community Seafood Program. Seven small-scale seafood buyers will donate local catch to food assistance programs that support working families, seniors, and other community members in need.

The program comes amidst the economic disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the Food Bank for Monterey County, demand for food has quadrupled this year, with expectations that it will get worse before it gets better. At the same time, restaurant closures and market disruptions have severely impacted local fishing businesses.

“This program is a win-win, providing nutritious, local seafood to families in need, while also supporting our local fishing economy,” says Sherry Flumerfelt, Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust. “It’s another great example of how our community comes together to provide help to those that need it.”

The Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust is leveraging a \$50,000 grant from the organization [Catch Together, a program of Multiplier](#), to pilot the Monterey Bay Community Seafood Program. Seafood buyers receive funds to purchase fish from local fishermen and then donate the catch to local food assistance programs. The program will support dozens of fishermen and seafood workers while providing meals of sustainably harvested rockfish, California halibut, sablefish, and grenadier to thousands of families in the region.

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Partnering seafood buyers include: [Sea Harvest](#), [Ocean2Table](#), [Real Good Fish](#), [H&H Fresh Fish](#), Fisherman's Choice, [Robbie's Ocean Fresh Seafood](#), and [Bay Fresh Seafood](#).

Partnering emergency food relief programs include [Food bank for Monterey County](#), [Pajaro Valley Loaves and Fishes](#), [Meal on Wheels of the Monterey Peninsula](#), and [Al and Friends](#).

The Trust will also be partnering with the [City of Seaside](#) and [Monterey County](#) on the state of California's [Great Plates Delivered program](#) aimed at helping seniors and other adults at risk of COVID-19 while providing essential economic stimulus to local food businesses. Partnering restaurants include [Angelina's Bakery](#) and [Googie Grill](#) in Seaside; [Coastal Cuisine & Catering](#) in Monterey; [Stevie's Family Restaurant](#) in Prunedale; [Monterey Coast Brewing](#), [Main Street Bakery & Catering](#), [Pasta Mia](#) and [Norma's Family Restaurant](#) in Salinas; and [Mezzaluna Pasteria](#) in Pacific Grove.

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The Monterey Bay Fisheries Trust (MBFT) is a nonprofit working to ensure that Monterey Bay's coastal communities benefit from active, working waterfronts and local, sustainable seafood for generations to come. To learn more about MBFT, visit <https://montereybayfisheristrust.org/>.