



P.O. Box 96 • Menemsha, MA • 02552

January 8, 2020

Parks and Recreation Committee
Town of Chilmark
401 Middle Road
Chilmark, MA 02535

Subject: Letter of Application for Lease of 56-A Basin Road for the Martha's Vineyard Sustainable Seafood Collaborative

Dear Parks and Recreation Committee:

We, the Martha's Vineyard Fishermen's Preservation Trust, would like to request to be considered as a possible leaseholder for 56-A Basin Road (currently the Menemsha Fish House) to create the Martha's Vineyard Sustainable Seafood Collaborative (updated working name). This lease will allow us to expand our non-profit's mission to serve the local fishing fleet by (1) providing a competitive wholesale market for local fishermen and aquaculture farmers, (2) educating the public and customers to increase the value and demand for locally caught and grown seafood, (3) wholesaling local seafood to customers both locally and abroad, and (4) preserving the culture, heritage, and infrastructure of the historically vital fishing industry on the Island.

An outlet to sell seafood is a critical need for our Island's community fishermen. Without an operating wholesale market, many of the island's fishermen will be forced to travel to the mainland and others to end their fishing businesses entirely. If we are

selected as the applicant for this lease, our goal would be to start purchasing seafood in April 2021. As a completely local operation, the Martha's Vineyard Sustainable Seafood Collaborative will be focused on serving the Island's community fishermen and supplying the island markets, restaurants, and off-island buyers with Vineyard seafood.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Keene". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over a light pink rectangular background.

John Keene, President

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