

Blessing of the Fleet...

## Remembrance and benediction for those who ply the seas

By Laurie Schreiber | Jun 08, 2011

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(Photo by Laurie Schreiber)  
Emily Catherine, captained by Shane Carter, is followed by Capt. Colie III and another, unnamed fishing vessel during Bar Harbor's annual Blessing of the Fleet.

**BAR HARBOR** — Attendance was sparse at this year's Seafarer's Memorial and Blessing of the Fleet in Bar Harbor, typically a crowded event.

But the ceremonies were no less poignant in their reflection on the lives lost and the hopes for those who ply the seas today.

Held on a cold, gray day, June 5, to the sound of creaking dock lines, the ceremonies were coordinated by the Maine Sea Coast Mission and Charlie Phippen, the harbormaster

for Bar Harbor.



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The mission's minister, the Rev. Scott Planting, offered a prayer on behalf of the families and friends of seafarers whose lives have been lost at sea. State Rep. Elsie Flemings, D-Bar Harbor, read a State of Maine proclamation that recalled the "significant number of citizens whose lives have been closely related to the sea" and declared June 5 as a memorial day for seafarers throughout the state.



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The blessing of the fleet followed, as vessels paraded past the Maine Sea Coast Mission's vessel, *Sunbeam V*, to receive a benediction for safe journeys and abundant harvests from Planting and other area clergy.

Folks on the dock and aboard the whale watch vessel *Friendship V* had their cameras out for the parade.

"I knew his father and his grandmother," an older woman said of one of the fishing boat captains.



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"It makes a beautiful picture. The light is different," a younger, camera-wielding woman said of the slate-gray palette that surrounded the boats as they headed toward the *Sunbeam V* in a line.

Smiling children and spouses waved from the decks and folks on the dock waved back.

Among the boats — many of which had not only their captains but children, spouses and other family members aboard — were *Eagle*, captained by John Young; *Lulu* and her captain, John Nicolai; *Penelope Ann* and Capt. Jon Carter; *Poseidon* and Capt. Perley Fogg; *Emily Catherine* and Capt. Shane Carter; *Silver Spoon* and Capt. Skip Young; *Capt. Colie III* and Capt. Jim Hanscom; *Outcast* and Capt. Vince Abbott; *Rhumblime* and Capt. Alec Phippen; *Liberty* and Capt. Bob Collier; *Finest Kind* and Capt. Terry Savage; *Selkie* and Capt. Sheldon Goldthwait; the Bar Harbor police boat *Equitas*, captained by Bar Harbor Police Chief Nate Young; and the Bar Harbor harbormaster boat *Mrs. B.*, captained by Charlie Phippen. An unnamed fishing boat with a bright yellow hull and carrying adults and children also participated.