



MARION INSTITUTE

Advancing a Culture of Health Through Food Equity

**CONNECTOR
SERIES**

FROGFOOT FARM
NEIGHBORS FEEDING
NEIGHBORS

**GROW
EDUCATION**

**SOUTHCOAST
FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

**BIOMED
PROGRAMS**

**GREENHOUSE
INITIATIVES**

September 23, 2025 Agenda

SFPC Quarterly Meeting for Members



Land Acknowledgement

Reports from the Four Working Groups

- Initiatives
- Policy Actions

What is coming up on the horizon

Land Acknowledgement



We acknowledge that this land is the traditional unceded territory of the Wapanaak (Wampanoag). Pre-English invasion, this place, its gifts of fertile soil, waters, wildlife and beauty, had already sustained Indigenous tribes for 12,000 years. We honor and respect the precious food sources discovered, harvested and cultivated by Native peoples and remain grateful to them for their connectedness to this land and their food traditions. We further acknowledge the lands the Cape Verdeans, African Americans, and Latinx people farmed in this area that have been lost to them through structural racism. We make these acknowledgements with intention, and accept the responsibility of all we continue to learn. We will honor the resources which sustain us today through their protection. May food be just one of the many connections we use in our work to repair relationships with Indigenous, and People of Color and of all Nations living here today.

Education and Communication Working Group

A vertical poster for the "FOOD SUMMIT" on October 3, 2025. The poster is divided into two main sections: a photograph of a harbor with boats and buildings on the left, and text on the right. The text includes the date, time, location, focus, and registration information. Logos for various partners are at the bottom.

Friday OCT 3 2 - 3:30 pm

2025

FOOD SUMMIT

FOCUS: STRENGTHENING AQUACULTURE THROUGH COASTAL WASTEWATER ADVOCACY

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

UMASS DARTMOUTH'S SCHOOL FOR MARINE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SMAST - EAST BUILDING)

REGISTER: MARIONINSTITUTE.ORG

Partners:

- MARION INSTITUTE SOUTHCOST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL
- SEMAP
- Massachusetts Aquaculture Association
- NEW BEDFORD OCEAN CLUSTER

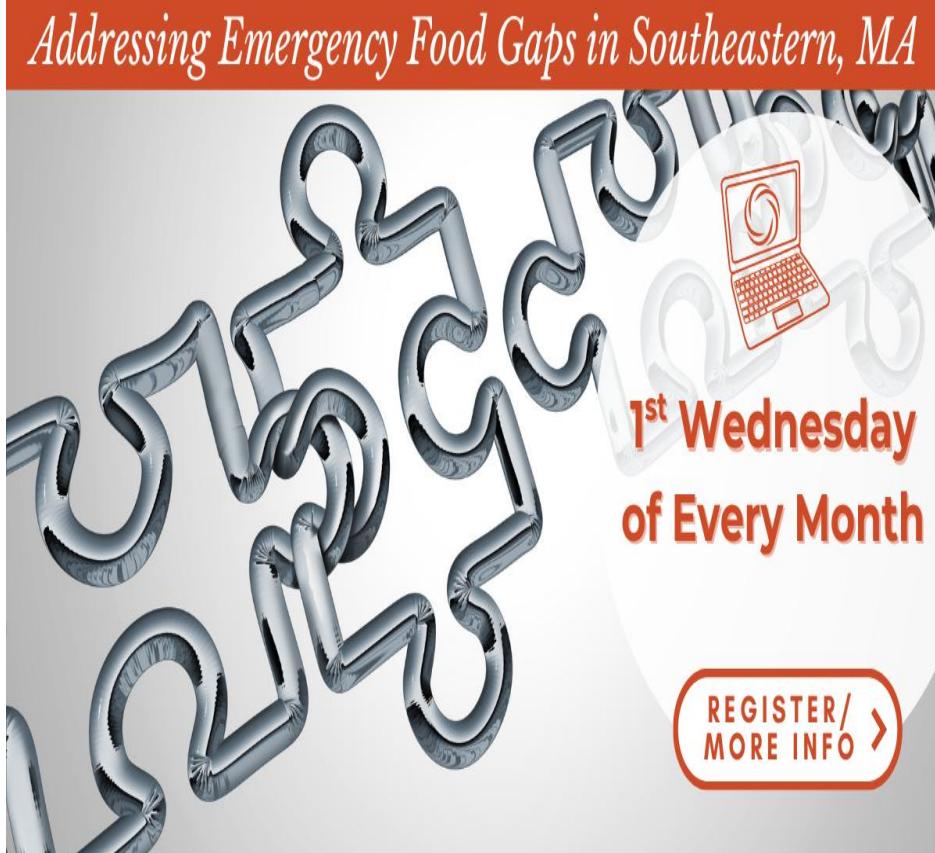
Initiatives:

- Eat Local Southcoast Challenge: 530 participants, increase of 27% over last year.
- Food Summit October 3, 2025, 2-3:30 pm at SMAST: Strengthening Aquaculture Through Wastewater Advocacy
- FarmCoast Documentary release the fall of 2026.

Policy Action:

- Testified at Farm-to-School Grant bill and Food Literacy bill to Joint Education Committee.

Food Access Working Group



Initiatives:

- Hosting Monthly Emergency Food Resource Meetings- identify challenges, brainstorm solutions, and organize. **Action: Register!**
- Join Southcoast Food Alert at sfpc@marioninstitute.org.

Policy Action!

- The Healthy Incentives Program success story and testimony.
- Re-emergency of coalition for bill: State Funded SNAP for MA immigrants.

Capacity Building Working Group



CARAT – Community & Agriculture Resilience Audit Tool—Food System Assessment 2026

Connecting Communities, Cultivating Change



Initiatives:

- Launched monthly CARAT Community of Practice meetings with (6) SE MA County leads.
- Initiated CARAT with Bristol, Plymouth, and Barnstable County Community Advisory Board's Working Groups.
- Conducted two focus groups with individuals with lived experience of hunger in Fall River and New Bedford.

Policy Action!

- Encouraging the Donation of Food to Persons in Need

Policy Working Group



**Real Change Starts with
Real Stories**



Initiatives:

- We want to hear from you! We are collecting stories of impact for testimony and education.
- Lunch and Learn Issue Briefings: 162 participated and 52% took advocacy action.

Policy Action!

1. Equity in Agriculture
2. Food System Budget

What is coming up on the horizon?



Food Summit: Strengthening Aquaculture Through Wastewater Advocacy on October 3, 2025, 2-3:30 pm

Emergency Food Resource Meetings, the first Wednesday monthly at 2 pm. In November, Pat Baker from MLRI.

SFPC Policy Gathering, in person, Members at Large and Community Advisory Board members.

Lunch and Learn Issue Briefings to advocate on our bills before they go to a floor vote!