

# Healthy Acadia Partners with Linda Greenlaw Charters

## Summary

Healthy Acadia partnered with internationally-known Maine author, lobsterman and commercial longline swordfishing boat captain Linda Greenlaw Wessel on a comprehensive tobacco-free policy for her local business, Linda Greenlaw Charters.

## Need/ Issue (or “Challenge”)

In Maine in 2020, 16.5 percent of adults were smokers. Of the 7,000 chemicals found in tobacco smoke, 69 are known carcinogens. No safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke exists. Secondhand smoke is detrimental to human health and increases a nonsmoker’s risk of developing asthma, lung cancer and heart disease, and can cause serious health problems in children.



## Intervention/ Program Description



Healthy Acadia staff reached out to Linda Greenlaw Charters, a private business open year-round to the public, about policy development and their Maine Prevention Services-funded mini-grant opportunity. Working closely together over the next several weeks, Linda and Healthy Acadia staff created a policy tailored to suit her charter business’ unique needs. Linda adopted a comprehensive tobacco-free policy on March 10, 2022, and ordered signage for her vessels and Sea Shed.

“I have spent my life striving to promote and maintain a healthy ocean. A healthy workplace is a natural extension of this. Healthy Acadia was able to tailor a smoking policy to my unique needs; on land and at sea.” - Linda Greenlaw Wessel



## Results/ Success

Strong leadership on public health promotion by preeminent figures in the community can shape the policies of neighboring businesses and organizations. Linda’s charter business now benefits from a written policy that protects the health of all employees, customers, contractors and visitors.

Photo: Linda Greenlaw Wessel

## Sustainability

A healthy Maine economy is closely tied to our water and water-related resources. Buoyed by a successful partnership with Linda Greenlaw Charters, the Healthy Acadia tobacco team hopes in the future to engage with other nautical companies in its service area on policy work. Good policies positively affect tobacco control and the health of all Mainers: creating smoke-free environments is recognized as a highly effective policy intervention by the US CDC in its *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs*.



## For More Information Contact Us At:

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