

# GLOUCESTER DAILY

120th Year, No. 261—24 Pages

Gloucester, Mass., Monday, Nov. 8, 1976



Sam Favazza in a familiar pose: Speaking out in behalf of Gloucester fishermen

## *Sam Favazza, fishermen's ally, dead*

By TIM SULLIVAN

Salvatore J. Favazza, who pleaded the cause of Gloucester fishermen and was one of the prime movers behind the 200-mile limit, died last night of cancer. He was 53.

Favazza, known as Sam to acquaintances here as well as across the country and in Europe, was an insurance man who became best-known through his efforts in the fisheries.

He served as executive secretary of the Gloucester Fisheries Commission and was spokesman for the local fleet as an adviser to the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries.

When he saw the 18-member nations of ICNAF failing in their functions of conserving the fish stocks off New England and providing for a stable fishing future, he took up the cause of the 200-mile limit.

"If it had not been for his untiring efforts," said 200-mile-limit bill sponsor Rep. Gerry E. Studds, "there may well have never been a fisheries conservation act at all."

From the late 1960s, first as a member of the Fisheries Commission and as its executive secretary since 1966, Favazza let the voice of Gloucester be heard, appearing at countless hearings and meetings to plead for conservation and fisheries management.

"It was only a dream — getting the 200-mile limit," he said once in the early 1970s. Legislators representing the various New England fishing ports would take turns filing 200-mile-limit bills and they would die in committee.

Then, in 1973, came Studds and his counterpart in

Sam Favazza page 9

# ★ Sam Favazza, ally of fishermen

(Continued from page 1)

the Senate, Warren G. Magnuson of Washington, with the first serious and sustained effort for fisheries conservation.

Then, more than ever, Sam Favazza took to the road, appearing in Washington, New York, Boston — wherever hearings were held.

He was busy at home, too, managing his insurance agency and spending countless hours reviewing and digesting the reams of fisheries news from around the world that came in addressed to the Fisheries Commission.

Commission members and others attending commission meetings would be spared most of the details but still found themselves subjected to hours of presentations.

"Sam truly studied fishing," Fisheries Commission chairman Francis G. Lewis said, summing him up as well as one could.

Born in Lawrence on April 7, 1923, the son of the late Joseph and Antonia (Favorola) Favazza, he was first introduced to the fishing industry as a teenager aboard the Italian trawlers fishing out of Boston.

He was a graduate of Boston Boys Latin High School and received a bachelor of science degree from Boston University in 1944.

After graduation he entered the U.S. Navy, where he served until 1946, when he was discharged with the rank of lieutenant (junior grade).

Moving to Gloucester, he opened the Salvatore J. Favazza Insurance Agency, which he operated until May before retiring because of poor health.

Quickly, he became involved with the fishing industry through family members both in Gloucester and in Boston. He joined the St. Peter's Club, became involved with Fiesta and began his duties as a director of the Gloucester Co-Operative Bank in the early 1950s.

He was a member of the Cape Ann Insurance Underwriters Association, the Rotary Club, the Knights of Columbus, Cape Ann Historical Association, the American Legion and the AmVets.

But fisheries was always his first love and focal point of a life shared until last year with his late wife,

Mary J. (Aspesi) Favazza, who worked with him as recording secretary for the Fisheries Commission.

Often the Favazzas would travel together to fisheries meetings throughout the United States and in Europe, and they acquired a taste for gourmet foods.

But the fisheries was always the main thrust of their efforts, which intensified in the two years it took for Congress to approve the 200-mile legislation. Favazza saw this bill as "the last hope" for the domestic fishermen.

Following President Ford's begrudged signing of the 200-mile-limit bill in April, Favazza was presented with the pen Ford used.

During a testimonial luncheon just before this year's Fiesta, he received the pen and a plaque of appreciation from the fishing industry he had served.

Announcing his retirement as executive secretary of the commission because of rapidly declining health, Favazza directed those present to continue his work and "make sure the bill works to the advantage of the industry."

His last days were painful ones, spent between his home on Madison Square and hospitals for treatment.

Last night the rescue squad was called and he was taken to Addison Gilbert Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 6:40.

He is survived by a son, Steven C. Favazza of Gloucester; a daughter, Karen A., wife of Howard E. Spencer III of Brewer, Maine; two brothers, Frank Favazza of Boston and Serafino P. Favazza of Gloucester; five sisters, Julia, wife of Jerome Pallazola, Grace, wife of Philip Mazzeo, and Mary Orlando, all of Gloucester, Sister Rose Therese of St. Joseph's Convent, Lynn, and Anne, wife of Herbert Smith of Bessemer, Ala.; several nieces and nephews.

His funeral will be Wednesday morning from the James C. Greely Funeral Home, 212 Washington St. A funeral mass will be held in St. Ann's Church at 10.

Burial will follow in Calvary Cemetery.

Visiting hours at the funeral home are tonight from 7 to 9 and tomorrow from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m.