



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen
Meeting Minutes

PASSED
4-17-23

Date
March 20, 2024

Location
Old Colony Sportsman's Club

6:00 Dinner Hosted by President Tom Mortland
Chefs: Steve and Chuck
Corned Beef meal

Opening:

Meeting opened by Chairman Paul Johnson at 7:00 with Pledge of Allegiance and Motion of Silence. Paul thanked the club and volunteers who prepared the meal and hosted the meeting.

Roll Call:

Club	Delegates	Guest	Other
Braintree	0		
Carver	4		
Cedar Gun	2	1	
Fin fur feather	1		
Hanson	2		
Holbrook	0		
Marshfield	1		
Middleboro	2		
Old Colony	1	2	
Plymouth	1		
Sagamore	1		
Samoset	4		
Scituate	2		
Standish	1		
Trout Unlimited	2		
Upland	1		
Wankinqua	1		
Ross Kessler (FWE)			1
Jason Zimmer (FWE)			1
Matt Muratore		1	
Kerri Ann Auclair GOAL		1	
Total:	26	5	2
Total Attendees:	33		

15 clubs represented with 26 Delegates, 5 guest 2 Officials

Secretary Report:

February Minutes were read by Robert Belbin. Motion to accept was made; Seconded from the Floor. A unanimous vote from the membership present approved.

Treasurers Report:

Dee read treasurers report to membership. Motion to accept was made; Seconded from the Floor. A unanimous vote from the membership present approved.

Bills: \$1000 security deposit for Banquet sent.

Dues due: None

Jason Zimmer, Mass Wildlife: Attached

Ross Report Mass Fisheries: Attached

**Motion to Suspend the rules to allow Matt Muratore to speak. Motion to accept was made; Seconded from the Floor. A unanimous vote from the membership present approved.*

Matt Muratore:

Matt was here to speak to his candidacy for State Senator. He is a State Rep for Plymouth county, Plymouth BOS member, and Finance Committee member. Endorsed by NRA and GOAL. Small businessman, Owned Day care, Nursing homes, Nursing Home Administrator, Born in Caribou Maine. He is Married with 6 Daughters, 1 Grand Daughter. Good time for him to run for Office. Wife an Attorney. Love to do this, it's a good time in his life. Not happy in what they are doing on "Beacon Hill is atrocious!" Will try to fight this. Building relationships is important. Discussed the Gun Bill and process. Discussed a meeting where it was asked is this Bill Unconstitutional? No one answered it. So file it and then let it be challenged. "Doesn't make sense". Discussed our existing gun laws and reason why we don't follow illegal laws. Won 7 elections in a row. Feels confident. Has a good bank account, but needs more to reach \$250,000. Strong on crime and discussed the issue of low inmate population. He does not have a sporting license. He believes in GOAL and NRA and supports it.

Will he support the Republican Party Nomination: Was a Nicki Healy supporter. Wants to get republicans elected, toward a balance of power. He will support the Republican Party.

Primary Sept 3rd

Chris Burnham, National Wild Turkey Federation:

Chapter President Cranberry Country Long Beard. In our area now, discussed the NWTF Banquet and want support it. Only east coast chapter. Youth programs, Turkey seminar. Mentoring hunts, his family supporting for years. Putting a lot of effort in this organization.

Please attend and support.

Kerri Ann Auclair: GOAL Advocacy representative. Discuss need for new Members. Keeping members. Women for Gun Rights member and trainer.

Protect, Educate and Advocate for Gun Members. Almost 700,000 gun owners :20,000 members of GOAL. Only 5 people are running GOAL. Discussed the Bill and the facts that does not protect gun owner. Need people to become a member. Need you to Call, Write and make your voice heard against the Bill.

Go to GOAL website and all information to contact Government Officials. Have letters, emails and phone numbers.

5 people advocate for us, they need our help. We need to kill the bill.

Discussion by Paul:

1. **“Before the Hunt”** Banquet is on April 7, 2024 John Alden Club in Plymouth. Chris Burnham National Wildlife Turkey Federation (NWTf). **Please support this event.** Chris spoke about reinvigorating this group and providing education and training.
2. **Gun Bill:** Need to support Goal. Press membership. Bill: Goal kicked off a support H4139 with new signs. Lawn Sign effort worked well. Ordered 300 signs. Need to fund that effort. Need money from PCL for \$1000 for signs. Asking donations for sign. Call all 6 conferences members. Place new signs next to old signs.

Motion: Authorize \$1000 for seed money for signs and Give BOD authority to expend money for signs. Seconded by Membership present. Passed unanimously

3. **Gun Owners Action League:** Need new members to support GOAL. They advocate for us only having 5 members. They need our financial support, they support us.
4. **Fur Ban: S.590 and H849 fur ban bills.** Sent to joint committee Enviroment and National Resources. Send letter opposing
5. **Middleborough Conservation Commission Meeting:** nothing new. Working on new policy. Will be notified of new meeting.
6. **Cape Cod Seashore:** No response as of yet. Email sent 3/19 by Mark Tiso, no response either.
7. **Women on Target program:** April 21, 2024. Monument Beach Sportsmen’s club. 1st available to members of MBSC. First come first serve, apply online. Limited to 50 participants. Email: emilymachadombosc@gmail.com
8. **Rally in April possible.**
9. Push grand raffle tix. For banquet.

Annual Donations: Dee, Motion for \$300 GOAL, NRA, Sportsmen’s Alliance. Seconded from Floor. Pass Unanimous.

Member Discussion:

Club Website add place for legislative purposes. Updated info for all clubs. Old Colony has a place on their website. Check it out.

Old Business:

1. **PCLS Banquet:** is April 20th at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson. 6pm start, meal at 7pm.

***NO EARLY ARRIVALS!**

Raffle tickets available now for all Clubs for the Banquet.

*Dinner, Cash Bar, Raffles, Grand Raffle.

Need help setting up!

Raffle items needed/donations accepted

2. Jake McGuiggan has agreed to speak at the Banquet
3. Contact information for members and club members.
4. Contact info for Holbrook Club.
5. Tax status: 501C4 for taxes.

Motion to adjourn at 852pm, Second, Pass by membership present.

***Next Meeting is April 17, 2024 at the Standish Sportsmen's Club.**

Minutes created: Robert Belbin

Attachments:

Ross Report

Before the hunt banquet notice

Camp Edwards hunt info

MassWildlife Southeast District Report – March 2024

- Trout stocking is underway with many waterbodies receiving at least one load of fish. Fish quality and size has been excellent, and we have received a lot of positive feedback from anglers.
- We recently completed two prescribed burns at the Camp Cachalot WMA (co-owned/managed with DCR). The burns, which totaled 155 acres, were very important units to get done as they had been thinned and mowed prior and the vegetation growing back was close to the point where, if not burned, it would need to be mowed again prior to getting burned due to unsafe fuels. Completion of these two units meets many habitat goals and sets us up to be able to complete additional units on the WMA this Spring/Fall.
- We also completed a large grassland burn at the Frances A. Crane WMA, totaling about 155 acres as well. We are also in the process of actively planning burns this Spring at Penikese Island, Mashpee Pine Barrens WMA and Hyannis Ponds WMA.
- We have several Learn to Hunt Turkey Programs coming up in the District including a “Pattern your Shotgun Range Day” on March 23rd in cooperation with Marshfield Rod & Gun Club, a Turkey Hunting Seminar on April 13th at Cape Gun Works in Hyannis led by the National Wild Turkey Federation, and an Online Scouting for Turkey Class on April 3rd. You can view/register for these, and other MassWildlife Learn to Hunt Program offerings here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/learn-to-hunt-events>
- There is a public hearing on the proposed 2024-25 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations on Wednesday April 17th at 2:30PM at MassWildlife’s Westborough Field HQ and on ZOOM. As is the case every year, due to the timing of when the Federal frameworks that we have to follow come out, the meeting will be closed and voted on that day. Therefore, any public comments need to be made on or before the hearing is closed. You can view the proposed regulations, additional information on the public hearing (including the Zoom link) and how to submit comments in writing or via email here: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/fisheries-and-wildlife-hearings-on-proposed-regulatory-amendments>
- We are continuing to progress with the ongoing efforts to move forward with the demolition of old buildings at the Old Sandwich Game Farm WMA. Electricity has been successfully disconnected and a contract to complete required hazardous materials testing has been issued.
- MassWildlife is in the process of working on a comprehensive Chronic Wasting Disease plan that will include aspects of surveillance, prevention and possible response methods.
- The dates for the 2024 controlled hunting programs at Camp Edwards have been finalized/approved. You can view the dates and register for hunts here: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/participate-in-the-camp-edwards-controlled-hunting-program>

- We have concluded our winter black duck research project for the season, having deployed all of our allotted satellite transmitters on female black ducks. Some of our tagged birds have already begun or essentially completed their migration north for the nesting seasons, with birds tagged in Massachusetts now as far north as Prince Edwards Island!
- April 18: Public Trout Stocking in Plymouth –The public is invited to help MassWildlife stock trout during school vacation week! Meet MassWildlife fisheries staff, view trout up close, and learn about places to fish near you.
 - Meet at 10 a.m. at Long Pond ([Long Pond Boat Ramp off Clark Road](#)).
 - Meet at 11:15 a.m. at Little Pond ([Little Pond Boat Launch on Morton Park Road](#)).
- Updated 2023 Deer Harvest Numbers: I wanted to provide a brief update on the numbers I reported last month. The final harvest number of 15,520 included a record Youth Day harvest of 142 deer and new harvest records for both Zone 9 & 14.

Public Access:

- **Salem Willows Park Pier** – The construction phase has begun.
 - Bid opening was January 11
 - ACK Marine Construction was awarded bid. They built the Deer Is pier and rebuilt the Hingham Boat Ramp.
 - Bid came in at \$4.8 million. Roughly on budget.
 - The laydown area is established, the silt curtain was placed in early Feb ahead of the TOY restriction for winter flounder.
 - Materials submittals are being processed and materials are on order.
- DMF personnel are still working with the Trustees of Reservations on Martha's Vineyard as a liaison supporting fishing rights on Chappaquiddick. The next Con Com meeting relating to access on Chappaquiddick has been postponed until TTOR completes edits in the NOI.
- **Somerset, Slades Ferry.** DMF signed a Land Management Agreement with the Town of Somerset last winter. The engineering bid went out again. The second round of bids occurred. I'm still waiting for approval from admin before awarding a contract to the winning bidder. This location is just north or upstream from the retired Brightman St. bridge.

Sportfish:

Recreational Fishing Limits. Any changes will be adopted on an emergency basis for May 1. Should DMF have options in how the fishery is to be managed, it will hold public scoping meetings and may release stakeholder polls to inform emergency rule making.

- **Striped Bass.**
 - Recreational Same as last year
 - **COMMERCIAL**
 - A 14.5% quota cut for 2024 under the interstate management plan.
 - Given this potential cut and recent performance, DMF is considering adjusting number and sequence of open fishing days (e.g., two non-consecutive days) to reduce weekly harvest and maintain quota throughout season.
 - Also considering changes to primary purchase requirements to address ongoing enforcement challenges on the North Shore (e.g., fish begin dropped off at dealers without dealer personnel present).

- **Black Sea Bass, Scup, and Summer Flounder**

	Mode	Open Season	Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Summer Flounder	Private Vessels & For-hire Vessels	May 24 – Sept 23	5 fish	17.5"
	Shore			16.5"
Scup	Shore	May 1 – Dec 31	30 fish	9.5"
	Private Vessel			11"
	For-hire Vessel	May 1 – June 30	40 fish	11"
		July 1 – Dec 31	30 fish	
Black Sea Bass	All modes	May 18 – Sept 3	4 fish	16.5"

- **Cod and Haddock**
 - This winter, NOAA Fisheries will review recreational fishing limit options for Gulf of Maine cod, Gulf of Maine haddock, and Georges Bank cod. Changes may be required based on the FY24 Annual Catch Limits for these stocks and performance in FY23. DMF will match federal rules.
- **Lobster**
 - MLA is this weekend in Hyannis, topics include:
 - Amendment 27, this will trigger a size change in CCB and North, with the first change taking place in Jan of 2025.
 - Area 3 (outer Cape Cod) some changes in the issuing of trap tags, V notch regulations, and a max size (putting lobsters larger than 8# in a protected status)
 - For
 - January 1, 2025, the minimum size for lobsters in the Gulf of Maine area will increase from 3 ¼" to 3 5/16" and a new maximum size for lobsters in the Outer Cape area will be set at 6 ¾".
 - All changes are intended to stay in compliance with the interstate plan.
- **Other Species**
 - No changes are anticipated currently for other species (e.g., bluefish, tautog).

Fishing Clinics scheduled thus far for this season

- Saturday, June 1st – Reel Fun Fishing Day w MBBA-Race Point, Provincetown 9am-1pm (Tabled Event-still needs to be staffed?)
- Saturday, June 8th – Swampscott Harborfest- Tabled event that needs to be staffed or at least provide material for 9am-2pm
- Saturday, June 8th – Fishing Festival w BHN, Natl Parks, MWRA, F&W, Save the Harbor...Deer Island 10am-2pm
- Saturday, June 22nd - Fort Taber, New Bedford 10am-2pm- this is the event planned for the use of the MOOR grant funds if we get it.
- Saturday, June 29th – Water Safety Day, Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center 10am-2pm.
- Thursday, July 11th – Evening Family Fishing Clinic-Gloucester Harbor Loop 4pm-7pm
- Thursday, July 18th Evening Family Fishing Clinic- Cape Cod Canal Visitor Center 5pm-8pm
- Tuesday, July 30th – Friday, August 2nd -Hill to Harbor Discovery Camp-Pedlocks Island (all day event-no catch and release fishing, and we catch the ferry out of Boston).
- August-Head Island- Date TBD, not sure if this site is good for fishing we are doing a site visit before we confirm a date but it would be a Saturday in August from 10am-2pm.(Fishing Festival w BHN, Natl Parks, MWRA, F&W, Save the Harbor...)
- Saturday, August 17th – Friends of Winthrop-Deer Island Time TBD-Tentative, our involvement is dependent on which day the Head Island clinic is but would really like to do this one if possible because it would be a new partnership.
- August-Date TBD either sometime in the week of Tuesday, August 13th-Thursday, August 15th or Tuesday, August 27th – Thursday, August 29th- Trying to nail down the date with Somerset PD (Cops and Bobbers Evening Fishing clinic)- Village Waterfront Park, 4pm-6/7pm
- Saturday, September 7th - Fishing Festival w BHN, Natl Parks, MWRA, F&W, Save the Harbor...Nut Island, Quincy 10am-2pm.
- Thursday, September 12th- Cops and Bobbers Evening Fishing clinic with Fall River PD- Bicentennial Park 4pm-6/7pm
-

Right Whales

- There are currently over 80 right whales in Cape Cod Bay. The usual closures and restrictions are in place (see below. In addition, the speed limit for all vessels in Cape Cod Bay is 10 miles per hour. This speed restriction will be in place from March 1- April 30
- **Right whale closure for fixed gear.**
 - Recreational trap closure is state-wide from November 1 – May 15 and applies only to buoyed lobster gear.
 - Commercial trap closure is north and east of Cape Cod from February 1 – May 15 and applies to all trap gear. There is a federal closure off the islands in Southern MA.
 - Gillnet closure is state-wide from January 1 – May 15 and applies to all gillnet gear.
 - DMF will be working with hired captains and MEP to remove gear within closure. Violators may face permit sanctions.
 - DMF has received federal funding to increase its right whale surveillance and monitoring program.

- DMF has submitted its Incidental Take Permit application to NOAA Fisheries and is awaiting a final decision.

Horseshoe Crabs

- The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission met on Tuesday, March 19 and voted to approve a spawning closure on the harvest of horseshoe crabs from April 15 – June 7. This closure includes inshore as well as the dragger fishery for horseshoe crabs.

Diadromous

- Herring have been showing up already. Brad mentioned this is about 2 weeks earlier than usual.
- Both Harwich and Middleborough have accepted management plans and could open to limited direct harvest.
- Harwich is proposing having an even to cook a few herring this spring.
- Pembroke and Wareham have submitted plans to allow for harvest as well. Currently the numbers do not support harvest in those towns.

Paul Johnson asked if high water is better for herring success. I spoke with our lead anadromous biologist, Brad Chase. The short answer is that higher flows are better for spawning success in that it allows for removal of sediment from the bottom that can inhibit oxygenation of eggs, provides more oxygenated water than lower flows, and allows for easier passage for both the fish laying eggs and the fry leaving the waterway later in the year. The exception would be large rainfall events prior to eggs hatching. Large rainfall events can sour the eggs and wash them out to sea. Bad drought years (2016 and 2022) lead to poor recruitment.

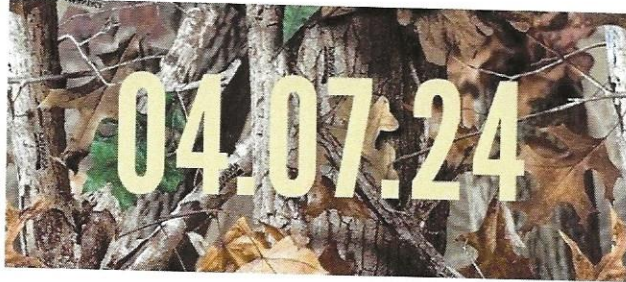
Shellfish

March 6, 2024 Marine Fisheries Advisory DMF TO HOST STAKEHOLDER MEETING REGARDING RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN SHELLFISH GROWING AREAS IN BUZZARDS BAY At 3PM on March 11, 2024,

DMF will host a virtual stakeholder meeting regarding the ongoing reclassification of shellfish growing areas in Buzzards Bay and subsequent shellfish fishing opportunities within these communities. This reclassification is part of an ongoing effort by the Division of Marine Fisheries to respond to federal requirements regarding safety zones around wastewater treatment plants outfalls and DMF has previously reclassified waters around outfalls in Marshfield, Scituate, Plymouth, and Fall River. DMF invites all interested stakeholders to join a virtual stakeholder meeting to explain federal requirements for safety zones around wastewater treatment plants; review DMF's previous work to address safety zones and efforts made to maintain traditional shellfish fishing opportunities while addressing public health concerns; describe DMF's action plan for Buzzards Bay and how this may impact shellfish growing area classifications for the region moving forward; and take questions and comments from the public. Stakeholder Meeting Regarding Reclassification of Shellfish Growing Areas in Buzzards Bay Monday, March 11th from 3:00 to 4:30 PM Zoom Login Phone: 1-312-626-6799 Passcode: 713404 Webinar ID: 831-7823-8431 Please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries

NWTF Cranberry Country Longbeards Welcomes You To

BEFORE THE HUNT SPRING BANQUET



DOORS OPEN AT 4:30PM

LOCATED AT JOHN ALDEN SPORTSMAN'S CLUB
16 MINUTEMAN LANE PLYMOUTH, MA 02360

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF GREAT FOOD, DRINKS AND
CONVERSATION!

THERE WILL BE RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTIONS, LIVE AUCTIONS,
GAMES, ALL WHILE RAISING MONEY FOR CONSERVATION!

TICKET PRICES:

SINGLE- \$70 COUPLE - \$130 CHILDREN - \$35
SINGLE SPONSOR - \$250 SPONSOR COUPLE - \$350
BOSS GOBBLER - 1,000 SPONSOR TABLE - \$1,250

Buy tickets at events.nwtf.org
or contact Christopher Burnham at cranberrycountrynwtf@yahoo.com

What you need for Participate in the Camp Edwards controlled hunting program

Each year, sections of Camp Edwards on Joint Base Cape Cod are open to deer hunting in the fall and turkey hunting in the spring. About 11,000 acres of this active military training area are open to hunting. However, access is strictly controlled. You must pre-register to participate in the hunt. You will only hear back if you are denied access for the hunt. You'll need to check in daily to show your credentials and receive a daily permit when hunting on the base.

2024 controlled hunt dates:

- Youth Turkey Hunt: Saturday, April 27
- Spring Turkey Hunt: Monday, May 6 – Saturday, May 11
- Youth Deer Scouting: Friday, September 27 (Scouting hours 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., check in/out at Range Control)
- Youth Deer Hunt: Saturday, September 28
- Paraplegic Deer Hunt: Thursday, October 31 – Saturday, November 2
- Archery Deer Scouting: Wednesday, November 6 – Thursday, November 7 (Scouting hours 8 a.m. – 12 p.m., check in/out at Range Control)
- Archery Deer Hunt: Thursday, November 14 – Saturday, November 16
- Military/First Responders Deer Hunt: Friday, December 6
This hunt is open to active duty/retired military personnel and active duty/retired first responders: police, fire and EMS personnel. NOTE: All hunters must possess a valid/current/not expired ID card to show proof of eligibility.
- Shotgun Deer Hunt: Monday, December 9 – Saturday, December 14
- Muzzleloader Deer Hunt: Wednesday, December 18 – Thursday, December 19

Hunters will be issued one-time use daily paper passes for each day that they participate in the hunt and must return to the check-in building to check out at the end of the hunting day (you cannot turn in someone else's pass, you must do it in person).

Liability Release Required

Liability Release Form. This form must be filled out to participate in the hunt. To save time at check-in, please print out the document and fill it out and bring with you on the first day you go to check in for the hunt.

Eligibility

To hunt on the base, you must have a Massachusetts hunting license and complete a pre-registration form every year. You'll be subject to a background check. Permission to hunt is determined by the base commander.

You must have a firearms identification card or license to carry if you'll be hunting with shotguns or primitive firearms. You must provide a photo ID if you'll be using archery equipment.