

June 2019



Fighting for Fisherman's Access to Beaches, Ponds, Rivers and Harbors

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
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2019 Board of Directors:

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May's Speaker:

Our May speaker was Dave Ross, a Scientist Emeritus from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. His topic was 'How A Little Science Can Help You Find and Catch More Fish'. David gave a very entertaining presentation on the science of fishing. He started his presentation with a graphic showing how immense the ocean is. Every person on earth could be assigned a portion of the ocean 30 ft high, by ½ mile in width and a ½ mile in length as compared to if you portioned the shorelines of the world each person would only get three inches allotted to them. He spoke of how fish are attracted to lures and such, mostly by sound or smell and less by sight.

Dave brought copies of his book 'The Fishermen' Ocean' to sell and I believe a few in attendance got an autographed copy. Thank you, David, for sharing your expertise with those in attendance.

May's Events:

- May 18, 2019 - Haddock Fishing on Captain John Boat out of Plymouth was attended by 13 club members and guests. It was a wonderful day of fishing as we got one of the best weather days of the year. The boat ride was relatively smooth, and the fishing was excellent with most all of the members catching several keeper size haddock. A pod of dolphins came alongside the boat and swam alongside very playfully. This year's event had better weather and better fishing results than last year. All enjoyed the day.

June's Speaker:

Speaker: Chuck Martinsen - Deputy Director & Shellfish Constable from Marine & Environmental Services of Falmouth

Topic: Discussion on the Shellfish & Biological Services Division - The Shellfish Division is responsible for the propagation and management of shellfisheries and herring runs in the Town of Falmouth.

No July Meeting

August's Speaker:

Cameron Murphy of Cape Cod Fly

FFA Upcoming Events:

- June 18, 2019 Tuesday, (time and cost to be announced) FFA Canal picnic and striper fishing with Bill Prodouz, Buzzard's Bay Anglers will be fishing with us at Aptucxet Trading Post, Bourne.
- July 20, 2019 Fishing the beaches with Danya Mahota along lower Cape.
- August 2, 2019 Coast Guard Day on the base. FFA will have a table and three chairs for recruitment and club informational handouts.
- August 24, 2019 FFA BBQ/picnic @ The Robert's House
- September 21, 2019 FFA Night Striper Fishing out of Sandwich Harbor on member boats.
- December 2019 Christmas Party
- January 2020 Jim Worthings Smelt Camp, Maine

Other Upcoming Events:

- July 31: Family Fishing Clinic, Mashpee – This is a family friendly, learn to fish clinic at Johns Pond in Mashpee (Johns Pond Park on Back Rd.) from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. This event is in cooperation with the Mashpee Recreation Department. *Open to the public. Pre-registration is required. Contact the Mashpee Recreation Department at www.mashpeerec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29714 or (508) 539-1416 for more information.

Other Cape Fishing Information:

Barnstable County League Updates

Right Whales

The most recent aerial survey by the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies demonstrate that right whales have migrated out of those state waters adjacent to Cape Cod. As a result, the Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries has rescinded both the Large Whale Trap Gear Closure Extension and Seasonal Speed Limit Restrictions (Notice of Declaration) effective May 10th. These rules were previously in place through May 14th.

Effective May 15, commercial and recreational lobstermen may set their trap gear in those waters north and east of Cape Cod that were previously closed to fixed gear. Additionally, boaters operating vessels that are smaller than 65' over length may operate at a boat speed of greater than 10 knots. We advise that vessel operators continue to operate with caution. Through May 15th, vessels with an overall length of 65' and greater shall comply with the federal 10 knot speed limit in the waters of Cape Cod Bay (federal rule).

Right whales are a critically endangered species and their population has been decreasing since 2010 due to continued mortality and low birth rates. These whales seasonally migrate into Massachusetts waters and aggregate in Cape Cod Bay to feed on zooplankton. In recent years, more than 50% of the known right whale population was observed in our waters during late winter and early spring. The Large Whale Trap Gear Closure and Cape Cod Bay Seasonal Speed Restriction protects these endangered whales from entanglements in fixed fishing gear and vessel collisions, which are a major source of mortality for these endangered animals.

For more information about the management of protected species in Massachusetts, contact DMF at 617 626 1520 or visit our website at www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

MA Senate Bill S997 Hunter Harassment Expansion
Bill S.997

SECTION 1. Chapter 131 of the General Laws, as so appearing in the 2016 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out Section 5C and inserting in place thereof the following section:

“Section 5C. The citizens of the Commonwealth shall have the right to harvest fish and wildlife free from harassment subject to rules and regulations established to maintain sustainable and healthy populations of such natural resources.

(a) No person shall obstruct, interfere with or otherwise prevent the lawful harvest of fish and wildlife by another at any such place in the commonwealth where it is lawful to do so. It shall be a violation of this section for a person to intentionally:

- (1) drive or disturb fish or wildlife for the purpose of interrupting a lawful taking; or
- (2) block, follow, impede or otherwise harass another who is engaged in the lawful taking of fish or wildlife; or
- (3) use natural or artificial visual, aural, olfactory or physical stimulus to effect wildlife in order to hinder or prevent such taking; or
- (4) erect barriers with the intent to deny ingress or egress to areas where the lawful taking of wildlife may occur; or
- (5) interject himself into the line of fire; or
- (6) effect the condition or placement of personal or public property intended for use in the taking of wildlife; or
- (7) enter or remain upon public lands, or upon private lands without the permission of the owner or his agent, with intent to violate this section; or
- (8) verbally or physically harass, threaten or other means of intimidation of an individual/s lawfully engaged in the harvest fish and wildlife;
- (9) utilize mechanical aerial devices to drive wildlife, harass, film, photograph or otherwise intimidate.

A violation of this paragraph shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 1 year or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or both.

(b) Any person having caused destruction or otherwise vandalizes equipment utilized, directly or indirectly, for the lawful harvest of fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, vehicles, blinds, stands, trail cams, fishing gear, boats, etc. shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 2 years or by a fine of not more than \$5,000 or both.

(c) Any person having caused bodily injuries of another that were sustained from any type of harassment or vandalism covered under this section shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 5 years or by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or both.

The superior court shall have jurisdiction to issue an injunction to enjoin any such conduct or conspiracy in violation of the provisions of this section. A person who sustains damage as a result of any act which is in violation of this section may bring a civil action for punitive damages in addition to the penalties established herein. Environmental protection officers and other law enforcement officers with arrest powers shall be authorized to enforce the provisions of this section.

(d) Unless authorized by the property owner it shall be unlawful to post land closed, or restricted, to the lawful harvest of fish and wildlife. Any person convicted of illegally posting land shall be punished by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more \$1,000 or both.

Any fines collected under this section shall be deposited into the Inland Fisheries and Game Fund established under Section 2C of Chapter 131 and may be utilized for the purposes of the Hunter Education Program.

Three Mass Legislature Bills Related to Striped Bass H.876 H.877 and H.878.

Mass Wildlife

Can I keep a fish alive and bring it home to put in my fish tank, or private pond?

Absolutely Not! There are only two legal reasons allowing one to keep fish; to eat, or to have it mounted (professionally preserved by a taxidermist) if you deem it a trophy. The two things both have in common are that the fish must be dead upon leaving the water you're fishing. It is illegal to move fish from one water body to the next, including small baitfish. These transport laws were put into place to protect our waters from the spread of nuisance species and to prevent the spread of disease.

Steve Ferreira
Newsletter Contact