

September 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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Barnstable County League: Rep. Open

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Freshwater and Tournament
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Did someone say BBQ? FFA BBQ on Saturday August 24th.....

August's Speaker:

- Cameron Murphy of Cape Cod Fly was our August guest speaker. Cape Cod Fly is a grassroots organization dedicated to promoting the fly-fishing community and culture throughout the Cape and islands. Mr. Murphy is the creator behind Cape Cod Fly. A born-and-bred Cape Codder, he has been fishing the shores of the Cape since childhood. He noticed a lack of community in the fly-fishing community and set out to create a brand that would bring together experienced and novice anglers alike. Cameron explained fly casting basics, reading the shoreline, fly selection, and fly tying. He also touched on the fly-fishing community and outdoor stewardship and striped bass conservation.

August's Events:

- Shell fishing in Waquoit Bay on Thursday, August 22nd.
- FFA BBQ on Saturday, August 24th. A great time was had by all. Masterfully prepared burgers, hot dogs and chicken, with soup, appetizers, sides and desserts prepared by FFA members. A great way to spend time with other FFA members in a social setting. Great fun!

September's Speaker:

- Our September 3rd meeting will feature Al Gag of Al Gags Lures as our speaker. Al "Gag" Gagliarducci is known and well respected throughout the East Coast as the inventor of the now famous Whip-it Fish and Whip-It Eels soft plastic lures. Al has a long history in the fishing industry. Al has been building and designing custom lures since 1978.

FFA Upcoming Events:

- 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:

- STRIPERFEST - SAVE THE DATE: STRIPERFEST 2019 - SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Location: Marine Park, 180 Scranton Avenue, Falmouth, MA

StriperFest is the biggest fishing party on the East Coast. Over a late summer weekend, thousands of fishermen and their friends and family come to Cape Cod to take boat demo rides, check out the sponsors' displays, eat, drink and enjoy live music.

<http://www.stripercup.com/stripertifest/>

Other Cape Fishing Information:

Barnstable County League Highlights

Fishing Clinics: Sign up your kids and grandkids! Email Kim at Kimberly.trull@mass.gov

- Onset Pier Family Fun Fishing Night w/ Buzzards Bay Coalition
August 27 - 6:00 - 8:00 PM, Wareham, MA
- For Taber Fishing Clinic w/ Buzzards Bay Coalition
September 22 - 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 12:30 to 2:30 PM, New Bedford, MA

Regulation Updates:

We have a new gaff regulation relating to striped bass. If it doesn't look like it's legal sized (28" rec and 34" comm) you cannot use a gaff.

Next year expect several new striped bass regulations. Proposals so far look something like this:

- Circle hooks mandatory when bait fishing for striped bass.
- Increased minimum size limit.

MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program (MHMGP):

The MassWildlife Habitat Management Grant Program provides assistance to private and municipal owners of protected lands to enhance wildlife habitat, while promoting public access for outdoor recreation.

MHMGP overview and objectives

FY20 Grant applications must be postmarked no later than September 2, 2019.

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) is responsible for the conservation—including restoration, protection, and management—of fish, wildlife, and their habitats in Massachusetts. Although MassWildlife and other conservation organizations have made unprecedented investments in land acquisition in Massachusetts, land protection alone is not enough to guarantee the persistence of the Commonwealth's diverse wildlife. Investment in habitat restoration and management is urgently needed on public and private lands across the state. To address this need, MassWildlife and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs have substantially increased their investment in habitat management on state wildlife lands and are committed to working with partners to promote these efforts on other conserved lands across the state. The MHMGP program encourages landowners to engage in active habitat management on their properties to benefit wildlife.

MHMGP objectives

- Improve habitat(s) for game species (those species that can be legally hunted, fished, and trapped in MA).
- Manage habitat(s) for Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Massachusetts State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) – special emphasis on State-Endangered and State-Threatened Species.
- Promote public recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other wildlife associated recreation on conserved lands.

Key Organizations for MHMGP Overview and Objectives

James Burnham, MassWildlife Program Coordinator

Address;

1 Rabbit Hill Rd.
Westborough, MA 01581

Phone

(508) 389-6343

Eligible entities

Owners of private or municipal conserved lands in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Conserved land is defined as property protected by a Conservation Restriction or Easement, an Agricultural Protection Restriction, land enrolled in Chapter 61,61A/B, land subject to a current Landowner Incentive Program covenant, land owned in fee by a non-profit organization whose primary mission is the conservation of land, municipal land under the care and control of the town conservation commission and town forests; or an entity under equivalent protection as determined by MassWildlife staff.

Award and timeline information

Award amounts: Applicants are eligible to receive between \$10,000 and \$50,000 per grant towards their approved habitat management project.

Posting date: MassWildlife posted the FY 2020 MHMGP grant application and RFP on July 15, 2019.

Application deadline: Applications must be postmarked by September 2, 2019. Please note that the "postmark" does not have to be from the United States Postal Service. A dated UPS, Federal Express, etc. mailing label qualifies.

Project deadline: All work must be completed, and all awarded funds expended by June 30, 2020. There are no extensions possible under this program.

Mass Wildlife

Public hearing on rare species MassWildlife is holding a public hearing on August 28 to amend the list of animals and plants protected by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA). MESA currently protects over 425 rare species.

The Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA) currently protects 427 species of animals and plants in the state. On August 28, 2019, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board is holding a public hearing to gather feedback about proposed changes to the MESA list. Written or oral comment will be accepted at the public hearing. The hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m. at MassWildlife's Field Headquarters (1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA). The Board will accept written comment on the proposal at any time prior to the public hearing and for two weeks following the hearing. Send written comments to: Chairman, Fisheries and Wildlife Board, c/o Director of MassWildlife, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, 1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581. Comments may also be sent by email to Susan.Sacco@mass.gov to the attention of the Fisheries and Wildlife Board.

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) is responsible for conserving and protecting the most vulnerable species in Massachusetts and the habitats upon which they depend. At least once every 5 years, NHESP biologists review the MESA list. There are 3 listing categories for animals and plants under MESA: Endangered, Threatened, and Special Concern. These species are either at risk—or may become at risk—of extinction. Rarity in the state, population trend, and overall threat are the main criteria used to determine extinction risk.

After a careful review of the best scientific evidence available, MassWildlife recommends a status change for 17 species. The status of rare species can change due to a number of factors including:

- our knowledge about the species' status in Massachusetts
- changes in populations
- our understanding of their habitat requirements

Letter from Vineyard Wind:

Dear Fishermen:

We wanted to let you know that the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) and the Massachusetts Lobstermen's Association (MLA) are coordinating a lobster ventless trap survey in the northern section of the Vineyard Wind lease area as well as a control area to the east. The survey is ongoing through October 2019.

Trawls are set in East/West direction and are configured in 8 pot strings approximately 1,200 feet long marked with double highflyers and double large Go Deep buoys labeled MLA/SMAST, DA19-017.

We encourage fishermen who may be working in the survey area to contact the captains directly or contact the following:

- Beth Casoni – MA Lobstermen's Association, Phone: 508-738-1245
- Crista Bank – FL Vineyard Wind, Phone: 508-525-0421

Vineyard Wind is committed to communicating and working with the local fishermen in the region during all stages of development of the proposed offshore wind farm.

Thank you.

Steve Ferreira
Newsletter Contact