

October 2019



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
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September's Speaker:

Our September speaker was Al Gagliarducci, owner and President of Al Gag Lures of Springfield, Mass. He brought along one of his workers Brittany Paquette. Al reflected on how he got into the lure making business. He went fishing one day with a local Outdoor and Nature writer from the Springfield newspaper. The writer caught many fish on the handmade lures that Al had and recommended that Al start selling them. When the newspaper article came out it read that these lures were soon coming to market. And that got Al going. He was later contacted by Cabela's who wanted to put Al's lures into their catalog. Al demonstrated the use of his special casting egg, which helps for a longer cast of a lightweight lure.

Al 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 lure. Al has a long history in the fishing industry. He has been building and designing custom lures since 1978. (Mambo Minnow, Floating Rattling Popper, Mr. Bunker and many more). Al was one of the first people in the 1970's to put a through wire into a wooden Needlefish. He was also part of The Great Snow Blitz that happened

on Block Island and had many fishing encounters with the late Tony Stetzko, one of Al's very close friends.

Al's passion for making better lures stems from his love of fishing and the knowledge that there is always a little room for improvement. Drawing from his many years of experience out on the water, Al knew he could design a better product that would not only meet his needs, but the needs of avid fishermen and women throughout the county and now the World! Today, Al has a full line of custom lures and you can find Al speaking at fishing shows up and down the East Coast.

October's Speaker(s):

On Tuesday, October 1, 2019 our guest speaker will be Alex Zygmunt. Alex is a Graduate Research Assistant at UMass Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST). Alex began at SMAST in the fall of 2018 and has since been involved with possible impacts stemming from the introduction of the offshore wind industry.

The School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) and Vineyard Wind, solicited concerns regarding the potential impacts created by the wind farm construction, turbine operation, and sub-sea power cable use. From workshops held in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, it was recommended to conduct pre- and post-construction monitoring and surveys to support regional impact analysis. Through collaborative efforts between SMAST, Vineyard Wind, and Massachusetts' Lobstermen's Association, SMAST is carrying out American lobster, black sea bass, habitat, and finfish bottom-trawl surveys in the Vineyard Wind lease area. The survey data collected will serve as a baseline for comparison in future surveys and will be used to assess potential fisheries impacts caused by offshore wind development. Alex will discuss the process, implementation, and some preliminary results from these surveys at the October 1st meeting.

Christa Banks the fisheries liaison with Vineyard Wind will also be attending the meeting to answer any questions and provide updates on the project.

FFA Upcoming Events:

- October 2019 Day of trout fishing
- Monthly Meeting - November 5, 2019 FFA Speaker Chris Parisi, Weak fishing in our waters.
- December 2019 Christmas Party
- January 2020 Jim Worthing's Smelt Camp, Maine

Other Upcoming Events:

- STATE OF THE STRIPER BY DR. ARMSTRONG OF MA DMF HOSTED BY MSBA
- Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at 7 PM

Location: Viking Club in Braintree, Massachusetts - 410 Quincy Ave; Braintree, Massachusetts 02184

Members of the Falmouth Fishermen's Association have been invited to attend the September 25th Massachusetts Striped Bass Association (MSBA) Membership meeting. Dr. Mike Armstrong of Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) will be doing a presentation on Striped Bass, the recent assessment, and the pending ASMFC management action. Dr Armstrong heads the MA DMF Recreational Fisheries Program and is the current Chair of the ASMFC Striped Bass Management Board. This is not a formal ASMFC public hearing but will feel like it and is also a great opportunity to get questions answered before the actual public hearings which will occur about a week later.

- 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. Way more than just an awards ceremony for The Striper Cup, it's the season-capping event of the year for striped bass fishermen. <http://www.stripercup.com/stripperfest/>.

- ASMFC PUBLIC HEARINGS ON STRIPED BASS DRAFT ADDENDUM VI, OCTOBER 2nd and 3rd.

Locations:

October 2, 2019 at 6 PM
Crowne Plaza Woburn
15 Middlesex Canal Park Drive
Woburn, Massachusetts

October 3, 2019 at 6 PM
MA Maritime Academy,
Admiral's Hall
101 Academy Drive
Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addendum VI to Amendment 6 of the Interstate Fishery Management Plan (FMP) for

Atlantic Striped Bass. A full schedule of public hearings is available at www.asmfc.org. The Draft Addendum VI was initiated in response to the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment, which indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Draft Addendum explores a range of management alternatives designed to end overfishing and reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020.

The Draft Addendum proposes management options for both commercial and recreational sectors in the ocean and in Chesapeake Bay in order to reduce total fishery removals by 18% relative to 2017 levels. The proposed measures include reduced quotas for commercial fisheries, and changes in bag limits, minimum sizes, and slot size limits for the recreational sector. Since catch and release practices represent a significant component of overall fishing mortality, the Draft Addendum also explores the mandatory use of circle hooks when fishing with bait to reduce release mortality in recreational striped bass fisheries.

Draft Addendum VI is available via the Commission's website at www.asmfc.org/about-us/public-input. Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI either by attending a state public hearing or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019 and should be sent to Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI).

If your organization is planning to release an action alert related to the Draft Addendum, please contact Max Appelman at mappelman@asmfc.org prior to its release. The Board will meet at the Commission's Annual Meeting in October to review public comment and consider final approval of the Addendum.

Other Cape Fishing Information:

Mass Wildlife

- Fall trout stocking - Close to 60,000 rainbow trout and at least 4,000 brown trout will be stocked across Massachusetts this fall! Stocking will begin the last week of September, depending on water conditions.
- September 28, 2019: Fearing Pond Family Fishing Festival, Plymouth
- SAVE THE DATE — On October 9, join MassWildlife and other partners to celebrate the creation of the new Norcross Hill Wildlife Management Area! Meet at 100 Norcross Hill Road off Route 68 in Templeton at 10 a.m.

Norcross Hill Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Templeton contains 465 acres of land that was previously owned by the Walter E. Fernald Corporation. WMAs are open to the public, and Norcross Hill is no exception. Visitors can enjoy the woodlands and wetlands as well as nearly a mile of frontage along Norcross Hill Brook and Beaver

Brook. The variety of habitat within this property supports both game and non game wildlife species. White tailed deer, bear, waterfowl, and turkey can be found in the woods and fields. American bitterns and eastern whip poor wills—both protected by the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act— have also been observed in the area. In addition, the grasslands within the property are important for the conservation of bobolinks in New England.

This property, which was previously closed to hunting, provides new access for Massachusetts sportsmen and women. This acquisition also has significance on a regional scale. The Norcross WMA is now part of an assemblage of over 2,200 continuous acres of protected lands from Otter River State Forest to the Templeton State Forest. MassWildlife worked with the North County Land Trust and Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust to acquire the property. The partnership received a Landscape Partnership Program Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

The Norcross Hill WMA is just 1 of over 40 land acquisition projects completed by MassWildlife in Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 (July 2018–June 2019). In FY 19, MassWildlife protected over 2,420 acres for wildlife to thrive and for people to enjoy. To view all MassWildlife properties, including Wildlife Management Areas, Wildlife Conservation Easements, and other protected open space, please visit the MassWildlife Lands Viewer.

Vineyard Wind:

Vineyard Wind is building Vineyard Wind 1, the first commercial scale offshore wind energy project in the United States, to be located 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard in the northern portion of lease area OCS 501. Future projects are proposed including Vineyard Wind 2 in OCS 501 and Liberty Wind in OCS 522.

The project will generate clean, renewable, cost competitive energy for over 400,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth, while reducing carbon emissions by over 1.6 million tons per year.

New England is shifting to clean, competitively priced energy, and Massachusetts state law seeks 3,200 MW of offshore wind providing electricity to the Commonwealth by 2035, which could represent over 20% of electricity consumed in the state. Vineyard Wind is an important part of that goal and will make a significant contribution to the Commonwealth’s aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, while growing our economy and enhancing energy security and reliability.

Steve Ferreira
Newsletter Contact