

November 2019



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
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October's Speakers:



Alex Zygmunt, a graduate student from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth campus School of Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) gave a power-point presentation of the fishing survey and study of the Vineyard Wind location for the windmills. The study was between SMAST, Vineyard Wind, and the Massachusetts Lobstermen Association. There videos of the various methods to collect data, such as a pilot video trawl survey, fishermen scoping workshops along with study recommendations.

The Vineyard wind project will produce power on a large scale. It can produce twenty times the amount of power over solar panels for the same amount of space it takes up. In Europe today there are 4,149 turbines in 11 countries.

The US has about 84 turbines so far. The Vineyard Wind project is expected to generate 800 megawatts of electricity which could power 400,000 homes or businesses. This clean energy will reduce carbon emissions by 1.6 million tons per year. 12-15 sites will be online by 2027. The three newest sites will cost about \$400 million which will go to the Federal Treasury.

SMAST was assigned to assist in assessing the impact to the area,

- 1) Determine what types of fish are currently in the impact zone.
- 2) Present its findings to the public.
- 3) Summarize the data collection results

Alex showed a video of the data collection. It was a go-pro camera attached to a net which was open at either end. As the fish passed through the tunnel of the net the camera would catch the images. Students at first would count the fish by species until eventually the computer had learned how to count and identify the fish. The quality of the images was very good. The Lobstermen would also do 30 minutes trawls to collect lobsters, Jonah crabs from the bottom and take inventory of the findings.

They also created a control zone very near the impact zone with the same depth and water temperatures. The fish life was also categorized. They will be comparing any changes over time to both areas to see if any natural changes are happening or if changes are to just one of the two areas.

The Lobstermen will also participate in a Ventless Trap Study to collect data on the abundance, feeding habits, age, size and structure of the American Lobster, Jonah crabs, finfish and any by-catch. As they review the lobsters, they will be looking for length, sex, and if any disease is present. The same will be done for the Jonah crabs which this is not much information on these crabs. There are no guidelines for the crabs and commercial fishermen are being to trap for these to sell at market.

Another survey type is a drop camera survey which will photograph a single location on the sea floor.



Christa Banks the fisheries liaison with Vineyard Wind also attended the meeting to answer any questions and provide updates on the project. Christa lead a lively Q & A session at the end of the presentation which voiced concerns over migratory fish that visit our shores at different seasons. Also, of the effects on yellow-fin tuna that visit these waters and the Right whales. There was an acoustic study done in 2010-2014 which measure the electromagnet charges that emit from the power lines. Vineyard Wind will be burying the power lines five feet below the soft muddy seabed which will nearly eliminate the negative effects of the electromagnets. The turbines will be spaced on average .8 miles between with just a single support structure on the seabed.

October's Speaker(s):

Member Bill Prodouz is our guest speaker for this next meeting and will talk about fishing Cuttyhunk Island. His techniques, knowledge and experience fishing this island will be shared and should not be missed.

Cuttyhunk is known for its beautiful scenery and fun atmosphere but has also made a name for itself as a premier striper fishing destination in the Elizabethan Islands.

Cuttyhunk sits in the middle of the striped bass prespawn staging area. Fish glut themselves on an abundance of squid and sand eels as well as school after school of bunker. Once the water warms to the perfect temperature, the fish move inland and up the many tributaries throughout Massachusetts and Maine to spawn. This makes for a great fishery full of fish ranging from small schoolies up to 50-pound-plus monsters. It is all about timing as to whether you will catch the big fish or just the schoolies.

FFA Upcoming Events:



- October 2019 Day of clams and oyster harvesting
- December 7, 2019 Christmas Party @ 5:00PM
- January 24 – 26, 2020 Jim Worthing's Smelt Camp, Maine

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.

The Pro Angler Fishing App

Email Text Below:

We invite you to utilize our Massachusetts DFG regulations and fishing app, The Pro Angler Fishing App. Access GPS Hotspots in both Fresh and Saltwater fisheries, Week by Week Reports from Local Pros, and our detailed Massachusetts fishing guide with nearby catch posts from other anglers just like you.

Get the free app by tapping here on your phone or tablet. Access special features by starting the free trial.

Please keep your license up to date and have a great time out on Massachusetts waterways.

Yours Truly,
The Fishing Team at Pro Angler Fishing App

Vineyard Wind

Notice to Fishermen: Vineyard Wind Conducting Geological Survey

Vineyard Wind will begin geophysical surveys on or about September 23, 2019 just outside of Centerville Harbor and Muskeget Channel. See the Notice to Mariners for more information and a map.

Fishermen should contact Crista Bank, Fishery Liaison, at 508-525-0421 or cbank@vineyardwind.com for the latest information.

Steve Ferreira
Newsletter Contact