

December 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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November's Speakers:



Member **Bill Prodouz** was our guest speaker for the November meeting. Bill shared his experience fishing Cuttyhunk Island. His techniques, knowledge and details about the landscape were shared with members and guests.

Bill gave a brief history of the island when the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club was founded in 1864. He included a photo of past US presidents and men of industry who were gathered on the porch of the club, which has not changed much since then. He spoke of two record 73 lb. stripers one of which was caught at Cuttyhunk. (Both were caught by men named Charles or Charlie)

To get to Cuttyhunk, which is the southernmost island of the chain of Elizabeth islands, you can take the ferry that runs out of New Bedford at 9 am and returns at 4:00 pm. For \$35 each way. At the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club you can speak with Bonnie Veeder, a 6th generation islander.

Another place where you can stay is the Avalon. Expect to pay between \$175-\$200 per night for a room. You may even find a whalebone vertebra in your room if you are lucky! Bill recommended a few restaurants on the island, Sopranos, and Island Tacos. There is also an ice cream stand and you can get sandwiches and chowder on the dock. There is also a general store. Bill said that staying at the Cuttyhunk Fishing Club he was able to get kitchen privileges. Bill and his wife, Tina, brought two frozen steaks in their luggage and purchased vegetable to have with their dinner. Bill recommended a book by D.J. Muller called, "Surfcasting Block Island and Cuttyhunk" for members to read.

Bill fished at night on a cloudy windy night. He used a black lure and Bill likes to fish the three hours before and after a high tide. Bill caught a 35" striper on a silver redfin lure. Bill's Aunt was in the audience and when Bill asked for questions from the group. She asked him if he needed to see a psychiatrist because of all the fishing he does, especially at night. Bill replied, "I would if he could tell me where the fish are!" Another informative and enjoyable presentation was given and all in attendance enjoyed the night. Thank you, Bill.

In addition to Bill's presentation Barnstable County League Members **Mike Veloza and Charlie** attended the November meeting. Mike spoke about the efforts the BCL makes to effect change through our state legislators. He told us how the clubs support all outdoor sportsmen activities. He noted that they convinced the legislators to allow fishermen to fish Scussett Pier without paying the parking fee since their funds helped to pay for the pier. It had been a long time since they were able to get any legislation passed. Most of the bills get hung up in committee. He had all members interested to sign two post cards, to help pass legislation for cross bow hunting. The BCL would pay for the postage to mail the postcards.

December's Speaker:



December No Meeting - A Christmas party will be held on December 7 at the home of board member, Sue Lafoe.

January's Speaker:

Guest speaker for January 7, 2020 is Mike Laptew. Mike Laptew is known as the "Diving Fisherman". Mike has been diving for over half a century, and fishing since shortly after his first steps. A one-time competitive spearfisherman, he layed down his gun 21 years ago, and has shot fish exclusively with a camera over the intervening two-plus decades. He admits how lucky he's been to shape a career around his driving passion.

FFA Upcoming Events:

- December 7, 2019 Christmas Party @ 5:00PM
- January 24 – 26, 2020 Jim Worthings Smelt Camp, Maine

Other Cape Fishing Information:

Conservation

Club President Keith Roberts, on behalf of the Falmouth Fishermen’s Association, endorsed the conservation of Atlantic Menhaden (aka Bunker or Pogies). See letter and details below.

----- Letter Below -----

Greetings,

I am seeking fishing clubs and fishing related businesses to sign onto a letter of support for conservation of Atlantic Menhaden (aka Bunker or Pogies).

I have been involved with menhaden conservation for many years. The fight for menhaden in 2019 is led by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP). TRCP is a member of the American Sportfishing Association (ASA). I am working for TRCP when it comes to the menhaden campaign. The national recreational fishing community is standing up for one of the most important bait fish in our waters and we need your help. Our website for menhaden conservation is <http://www.trcp.org/menhaden-recovery/>

Please read the language below and consider joining hundreds of small businesses and fishing clubs who have already signed the letter. It is easy and costs nothing to become a signee.

Simply respond to this email with the following: 1) Buisness/Organization's Name 2) Contact Name 3) Email 4) Location & 5) if you have a website we will gladly add it to a list that might get you some free publicity. Once I get your Ok, I'll take it from there and get your business or organization signed onto the letter.

Thanks for your consideration
Patrick Paquette
MSBA Govt Affairs
781-771-8374

----- End of Letter -----

About Patrick Paquette

Patrick Paquette, of the Massachusetts Striped Bass Association.

Over 15 years ago as a volunteer Patrick met a group of small boat commercial and environmental advocates who were launching a regulatory and political war against the industrial sea herring fleet that has been devastating inshore fisheries especially river herring. The recreational fishing community also saw the problem and Patrick eventually joined a small campaign team. Along the way they had minor victories and major setbacks. Along the way Patrick learned so much from so many and eventually found a career. They began to break down the stereotypes that kept our communities separate.

#strangebedfellows This week, TOGETHER, backed by tens of thousands of individuals who did their part over the years we achieved a major goal of pushing these industrial ships and their football stadium size nets off our coast and into the open ocean. Patrick is grateful to have been a small part of this major effort and am blessed for all this experience has given him! #CHOIR #togetherwecan #NAIOU #Iamanenvironmentalist

Barnstable County League Highlights

Scholarship

Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council / Raymond L. Gribbons Scholarship 2020 Announcement!! Last year a young lady from Mashpee MA. was chosen to receive this Scholarship! Please notify to your local schools for consideration once again for this year's Scholarship and hopefully once again a young person from Barnstable County will Benefit from this!!

Mass Wildlife

Teaming up for fish conservation

MassWildlife and UMass have conducted surveys in nearly 50 rivers to understand the impacts of dams and dam removals on fish and aquatic invertebrates. MassWildlife is also partnering with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor juvenile American shad in the Connecticut River.

Dam removal study partnership

MassWildlife and the UMass Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit are working together to conduct fish surveys in rivers at current and former dam locations. So far, nearly 50 rivers have been surveyed as part of a broader project to more fully understand the impacts of dams and dam removals on fish and aquatic invertebrates. Coldwater fish

like native eastern brook trout are particularly dependent on upstream and downstream movements for reproduction and survival. Previous research suggests that abundances of coldwater and coolwater fish, including brook trout, longnose dace, and white suckers, increase following dam removals. Monitoring will continue for the next several years.

Connecticut River American shad monitoring

MassWildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service have completed a third year of cooperatively monitoring juvenile American shad in the Connecticut River. Biologists capture shad at night during the summer and fall using an electrofishing boat. Abundance, length, and weight measurements are collected and used to assess the growth, survival, and productivity of the population. This study is designed to help determine the impacts of dams on juvenile shad. Shad populations have significantly declined as a result of 19th century dam construction, which prevent adults from migrating upriver to find spawning habitat. Shad are an abundant food source for smallmouth and largemouth bass, walleye, perch, and northern pike. Shad also provide food for birds and terrestrial mammals, as well as marine fish including striped bass.

Vineyard Wind

----- Email from Vineyard Wind -----

Dear Fishermen:

During the month of November, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's School for Marine Science and Technology (SMAST) is conducting a fisheries trawl survey following the Northeast Area Monitoring Assessment Program (NEAMAP) protocols within the Vineyard Wind Lease Areas (501 North; 501 South; 522) and a control area.

Trip #1 will survey in lease area 501 North with 20 tows inside the lease area and 20 tows in the adjacent control area. Trip #2 will survey in lease areas 501 South and 522 with 10 tows in each.

Please check in with the contact below for the latest information.

Crista Bank – Fisheries Liaison Vineyard Wind, cell phone: 508-525-0421

Fisheries trawl surveys began in the Vineyard Wind lease areas spring of 2019.

Final Reports from the spring 2019 and summer 2019 survey will be made available on our website.

----- End of Email -----

Steve Ferreira
Newsletter Contact