

February 2020



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 832
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2020 Board of Directors:

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		Freshwater and Tournament
		Director: Tom Pilitz
		Past President: John Dillon

2019 Tournament Trophies Winners

The winners of the tournaments are listed on the website (www.falmouthfishermens.org), but here is the info:



Striper: Bill Prodouz
Weight: 32.8 lbs. Length: 42" Girth: 25"



Bluefish: Gary "George" Osowick
Weight: 6.1 Lbs. Length: 22 inches Girth: not included



Trout: Gary "George" Osowick
Weight: 5.2 lbs. Length: 24.6" Girth: 12.5"

Our January Speaker



Our speaker last month was 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 laid 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. Visit the sites below to see some of Mike's work.

Mike Laptew websites, Facebook pages, and a description of his presentation.

<https://www.facebook.com/mike.laptew>

<https://www.focusonfish.com>

<https://www.laptewproductions.com>

<https://www.mikelaptewfineartimages.com>

<https://vimeo.com/channels/focusonfish>

FOCUS ON FISH

Mike enjoyed showing members his multimedia presentation, Focus on Fish, it's an underwater look at our most prized game fish including striped bass, bluefish, tautog, fluke, false albacore and many of the prime prey items they feast on. We learned that Manhaden is a fish that whales love to eat. Tautog enjoy eating mussels and lobsters. Fish would like to hug drop offs and rocky structures. Look for stripers in strong currents, where you see whitewater breaking. You would be surprised that stripers like to fish in cloudy, sandy waters to be able to ambush their prey. Weedy place too. The big bass will be closer to the bottom, in the shallows and weeds. Mike recommended locations such as Point Judith in Rhode Island and off the shores of Cutty Hunk. You will find that fish of the same size will travel together at the same speed with one or two big cows mixed in near the bottom or in the rear of the school.

Mike gave members present a sure-fire way to catch more fish! Unfortunately, my pen ran out of ink and I could not jot it down for you readers.

Mike talked about shoaling versus schooling. Schooling is when the fish are all swimming in the same direction. Shoaling is when the fish are swimming in all directions.

Mike showed a video of False Albacore “the green angels” feasting on a school of bay anchovies. He advised not to drop your cast into the middle of the pile. There it would compete with the thousands of other offerings, rather to place your cast outside of the pack as the False Albacore would like to pick of the stragglers.

Mike suggested fishing off Nauset Light at nighttime. Mike talked about the health of the striper population in that one year we had a great survival rate for the young of the year. This may have been due to the water temperatures. The room was filled to overflow with a great turnout to hear Mike speak. Thank you, Mike, for a wonderful presentation. We would love to hear from you again in the future.

Oh, I just remembered that sure fire way to catch more fish... arrive 45 minutes before sunrise.

January Events



FFA members enjoying the January 24-26, 2020 Jim Worthings Smelt Camp, Maine

February's Speaker

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

Background: The mission of the Marine and Environmental Services Department is to:



- Provide for the protection, preservation, enhancement and healthy ecological function of the town's natural resources
- Provide services intended to protect the safety of people and vessels who use our woodlands, waterways and waterside facilities
- Preserve, protect and enhance our shellfish and finfish populations
- Provide professional and responsive domestic and wildlife animal services

Falmouth's shellfish propagation efforts would not be possible without the continued support on many volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering with town shellfish project, please contact Christina Lovely at christina.lovely@falmouthma.gov.

For more information about shellfishing in Falmouth contact Marine & Environmental Services, Shellfish Division at 508-495-2550 x13.



Upweller System on Falmouth Harbor and 12-Month-Old Oysters

Other Cape Fishing Information:

Barnstable County League

MassWildlife

It's wintertime in Massachusetts and residents will begin to venture out onto the ice for fishing, skating, or other winter activities. Stay safe this winter by taking a few moments to review these ice safety tips and ice thickness guidelines.

How can you tell if ice is safe?

There are no guarantees. Always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. You can't judge ice conditions by appearance or thickness alone; many other factors like water depth, size of waterbody, water chemistry, currents, snow cover, age of ice, and local weather conditions impact ice strength.

Ice tips to remember:

New ice is stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially thawed ice may not. Ice doesn't freeze uniformly. Continue to check ice conditions frequently as you venture out onto the ice.

Ice formed overflowing water and currents is often more dangerous. Avoid traveling onto ice-bound rivers and streams, as the currents make ice thickness unpredictable. Many lakes and ponds may contain spring holes and other areas of currents that can create deceptively dangerous thin spots.

Before heading out onto the ice

Tell someone your plans, including where you are going and when you expect to return. Come prepared. Carry a cell phone in case of emergency. Always carry ice picks and rope with you on the ice. In case of emergency, drive the nails into the ice and pull yourself to safety while kicking (see tips for falling in below).

Wear your life jacket. If you fall in, a life jacket will keep you at the surface and can provide insulation against the effects of cold water.

Ice thickness guidelines

The guidelines below are for clear, blue ice on lakes and ponds. White ice or snow ice is only about half as strong as new clear ice and can be very treacherous. Use an ice chisel, auger, or cordless drill to make a hole in the ice and determine its thickness and condition. Bring a tape measure to check ice thickness at regular intervals.

Ice Thickness (inches) Permissible Load (on new clear/blue ice on lakes or ponds)

- 2" or less STAY OFF!
- 4" Ice fishing or other activities on foot
- 5" Snowmobile or ATV
- 8"-12" Car or small pickup truck
- 12"-15" Medium truck

Falling through the ice

If you fall in:

- Don't panic: Call for help if there are people nearby.
- Don't remove winter clothing: Air trapped in your clothes can provide warmth and help you float.
- Turn the direction you came from: Ice you previously walked on should be the safest.
- Place your hands and arms on an unbroken surface and kick your legs: If you have ice picks or a pair of nails, use them to pull yourself up onto the ice while kicking.
- Lie flat and roll away: Once your torso is on firm ice, roll toward thicker ice to distribute your weight.
- Find shelter and get warm: Change out of wet clothing and find warm, dry coverings. If you are in a remote area, get to or start a campfire. Otherwise, get to a car or house. Seek medical advice from your physician on medical attention.

If someone else falls in:

- Remember the phrase "Preach-Reach-Throw-Go."
 - Preach: Call 911 if you can. Shout to the victim to reassure them help is on the way.
 - Reach: If you can safely reach them from shore, extend an object like a rope, jumper cables, tree branch, or ladder to them.
 - Throw: Toss one end of a rope or something that will float to the victim.
 - Go: If the situation is too dangerous for you to perform a rescue, call 911 or go to find help. Untrained rescuers can become victims themselves.

If a pet falls in:

- Do not attempt to rescue the pet, go find help. Well-meaning pet owners can easily become victims themselves when trying to assist their pets. Remember to always keep pets leashed while walking on or near ice.

Notice Green Pond, North Closed to Shellfishing

“The waters, flats and all tributaries of Green Pond, in the Town of Falmouth, north of a line drawn west from the “NO SHELLFISHING” sign at #71 Sand Castle Drive to the “NO SHELLFISHING” sign on at #302 Acapesket Road on the opposite shore.”

Vineyard Wind

Cox Ledge Atlantic Cod Project

This study aims to provide baseline information about important commercial fish species in the Southern New England area to address potential changes as a result of offshore wind development. Starting in October 2019, three years of data will be collected on spawning Atlantic Cod and other soniferous fish species in and around Cox's ledge including the Southfork wind energy lease area. The spawning dynamics of Atlantic cod are poorly understood in this region and several aspects of cod spawning behavior increases their vulnerability to disturbance in that they form large, dense spawning aggregations over multiple weeks in locations that are typically predictable between years and relatively close to shore. Fisheries dependent sampling will be carried out to determine the onset of spawning and to track growth, maturity and other life history parameters across all years. This information will help to inform the starting date for our autonomous vehicle or 'glider' surveys. These will tentatively be carried out from December through March in the first year and for longer periods in the subsequent two years (see map for area that will be covered, track lines are hypothetical and will be finalized closer to deployment). The glider will carry a hydrophone for listening to fish spawning sounds and acoustic telemetry receiver to listen for tagged fish in order to identify the location and seasonal occurrence of 'hotspots' for key commercial species and federally listed species. In addition, environmental parameters will be measured by the glider and a real time relay for tagged fish will be tested to allow for a more instantaneous data collection on spawning aggregations. An array of around 25 bottom mounted acoustic telemetry receivers will be deployed in and around the Southfork area to track movements and residency patterns of spawning cod. The final location of this array will be determined once information on this year's spawning cod becomes available.

Steve Ferreira
Newsletter Contact

**Falmouth Fisherman's Association
P.O. Box 832
Falmouth, MA 02540**

2020 Dues & Merchandise Payment

Name:

Spouse's Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Annual membership dues are billed the first of the year and are due by April 1. The amount is \$50.00, for regular membership. (Includes fishing tournaments).

1. Complete and mail this form and return, with your check payable to Falmouth Fishermen's Association, at the above address.
2. Pay by cash or check, at a monthly meeting.

- Annual Membership Dues - \$50.00 (Includes fishing tournaments) \$ _____
- Merchandise \$ _____
- Donation \$ _____

Amount Paid \$ _____

Cash / Check _____

Thank you,

Bruce H. Bumpus
Treasurer

1 January 2020