

May 2020



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
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Our April and May Meetings



There will not be a meeting until the COVID-19 crisis has abated.

Member Fishing Report 04/26/2020 Bill Prodoz

We can still get out and fish and practice “fishtancing”. It is good for both your physical and mental health. MassWildlife has upped its game with this year’s trout stocking. You can get a list of stocked ponds and even dates by visiting their website. I have been trout fishing several times and trout catching a few times. Watching the fly fishermen practice their craft makes me want to try it again. Then I realize I already have an expensive habit with my spinning tackle and cannot afford another. Get out there and trout fish. I have also heard that bass and pickerel are biting as well. Trout are “put” and “take” in most Massachusetts waters. MassWildlife uses freshwater license money to raise trout in hatcheries and “put” them in Massachusetts waters. We are supposed to catch them and “take” them home to eat as most will not survive summer water temperatures. To make them tastier, I marinate them in Soy Sauce and Orange juice, and then cook them on the grill. They come out very tasty, not bland.

All the fishing columns in the papers and on line say the schoolies are here. I started out over a week ago chasing the reports, well actually hitting my early season spots. Sure enough, a week of shutouts. Even when my friends are texting me, “schoolies here, and holdovers there” I was at the wrong place or at the wrong time.

Friday 4/24, in the light rain I did finally manage 2 24 inch stripers. They had “sea lice”. Many say “sea lice” and bright scales indicate fresh migratory fish. I am one of those who believe this but you can get a debate going on this topic, like the debate on whether bananas on a boat are bad luck (another one I believe).

You can CRUSH YOUR BARBS and find bass at, among other places, Weweantic River, Shell Point in Onset, Buttermilk Bay or Monk’s Park in Bourne, Cotuit Narrows and Loop Beach in Cotuit, and also Bridge Street in Osterville. I am not sure what beach lot closures mean to surf fishing in Falmouth but it obviously limits parking.

Finally, casting hard for an hour or 2 in the estuaries, putting on your waders and walking knee deep for an hour, making sure you have your fish grips and pliers are all part of “spring training”. This is a great way to get ready for the season as like all exercise (especially as we age) we can get a little sore if we rush in to it. So get out the schoolie rod and get warmed up. You won’t

regret it when you catch a few and when you pull out the 11 footer and try to cast for several hours.

Tight lines!

Other Cape Fishing Information:

My Fishing Cape Code with Ryan Collins

River herring have arrived in force on Cape Cod, and many herring runs are now jam-packed with fish. I saw some nice schools of herring on Thursday at the Bournedale run at the Cape Cod Canal.

Yesterday I launched my kayak for the first time this year and was rewarded with a beautiful brook and rainbow trout. Trolling the shoreline with a Baker Suspending Shad lure worked pretty well for me.

Saltwater fishing is about to heat up. Each spring is different but I'm hopeful that by May 1st schoolie stripers, scup and tautog will be around in decent numbers. Haddock season also opens on April 15th.

On another note, I know many people are facing hardships right now due to the quarantine. During this time, my goal with MFCC is to provide you with an "escape" where you can get lost in reading posts, listening to podcasts, or watching videos about fishing on beautiful Cape Cod.

No matter what situation you may find yourself in, I want My Fishing Cape Cod to provide you with reasons to be hopeful and optimistic about the months ahead.

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries

Fishing Regulation Updates



Recreational Striped Bass Fishing Measures for 2020

New recreational fishing rules have been adopted in Massachusetts to increase the conservation of Atlantic striped bass. The size of fish that can be recreationally harvested has been further restricted to end overfishing on the resource, while additional fishing gear requirements have been established to address recreational catch and release mortality. The commercial striped bass fishery has been similarly reduced through a quota cut. These changes were recommended by the Division of Marine Fisheries, approved by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission, and take effect on May 1, 2020.

- Slot Limit: Only striped bass measuring at least 28" and less than 35" (total length) may be retained in the recreational fishery. Recreational anglers may harvest and possess one

striped bass per day within this slot limit, year-round. Striped bass measuring less than 28", or 35" and greater, must be immediately released.

- **Circle Hooks:** Recreational anglers are required to use an in-line circle hook when fishing for striped bass with whole or cut natural baits. A circle hook is defined as a fishing hook designed and manufactured so that the point of the hook is not offset from the plane of the shank and bend and is turned perpendicularly back towards the shank to form a circular or oval shape. (See our Circle Hook Brochure for images).

Exceptions. This requirement does not apply in the following circumstances: 1) when a recreational angler is fishing aboard a for-hire vessel on a for-hire trip; and 2) when a recreational angler is fishing with natural bait attached to an artificial lure that is trolled, jigged, or casted and retrieved (e.g., "tube and worm").

- **Non-lethal Removal Devices:** When using a device to remove striped bass from the water, recreational anglers must use a non-lethal device. A non-lethal device is defined as any tool used in the removal of striped bass from the water or to assist in the releasing of striped bass that does not pierce, puncture, or otherwise cause invasive damage to the fish that may result in its mortality. This effectively prohibits the gaffing of striped bass by recreational anglers.

New recreational bluefish limits effective in 2020.

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission has approved DMF recommendations to adjust the recreational possession limit for bluefish. Effective May 1, 2020:

- Recreational anglers fishing from shore or a private vessel are limited to harvesting and possessing 3 bluefish per day.
- Recreational anglers fishing from a for-hire vessel during a for-hire trip are limited to harvesting and possessing 5 bluefish per day.

These regulations reduce the recreational bluefish possession limit from 10 fish for all anglers to either 3 or 5 fish depending on fishing mode. This action is consistent with decisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to reduce coastwide harvest in 2020 so as to not exceed the recreational harvest limit. Massachusetts' recreational bluefish season remains open year-round, with no restriction on the size of bluefish that may be retained.

New commercial limits for the black sea bass, summer flounder and horseshoe crab fisheries.

On April 1, 2020, the Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission approved DMF recommendations to adjust the commercial fishing limits for black sea bass, summer flounder, and horseshoe crab. These changes are being made in response to recent fishery performance and commercial quota

adjustments. The following changes will take effect on May 1 and are described in more detail below.

Black Sea Bass

Massachusetts' 2020 commercial black sea bass quota is 725,400 pounds (59% increase compared to 2019). To improve access to this quota, directed fishery limits are being increased. The commercial hook and line and pot fisheries will continue to open on July 9 with open fishing days of Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. However, trip limits are being increased by about 30%, with the limits for pot fishermen increasing from 300 pounds to 400 pounds and the limits for commercial anglers increasing from 150 pounds to 200 pounds.

The weir fishery is not subject to a commercial season, fishing days, or trip limits, but is instead afforded a seasonal set-aside. The set-aside is being increased from 15,000 pounds to 24,000 pounds. Any quantity of this set-aside that is unused when the weirs are removed from the water (typically during the late spring or early summer) is rolled back into the commercial quota available to the directed fishery.

Additionally, the incidental catch limits for trawlers have been adjusted to enhance the retention of marketable fish and reduce regulatory discarding. During the springtime small mesh trawl squid fishery (April 23–June 9) permitted trawlers may now retain and land 100 pounds of black sea bass seven days per week; the daily trip limit was previously 50 pounds. Aggregate black sea bass landings by this trawl fishery remain capped at 50,000 pounds. Then during the summertime large mesh mixed trawl fishery (June 10–October 31), trawlers may now retain and land up to 100 pounds of black sea bass during the open fishing days in the commercial summer flounder fishery (Sundays–Thursdays). Previously, trawlers participating in this fishery were allowed to retain up to 150 pounds of black sea bass, but only on open black sea bass days (Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays) during the summertime directed black sea bass fishery (July 9–Quota).

Summer Flounder

Massachusetts' 2020 commercial summer flounder quota is 786,399 pounds. This is similar to the 2019 quota of 741,523 pounds, of which only 74% was taken. To improve access to this quota, directed fishery limits for the Period II fishery (April 23–December 31) are being increased.

For the inshore summertime fishery (June 10–October 31), the commercial trawl trip limit is being increased from 300 pounds to 400 pounds and the commercial hook and line trip limit is being increased from 200 pounds to 250 pounds. No changes are being made to the existing open fishing day schedule (Sundays–Thursdays). Additionally, DMF intends to renew its pilot program allowing trawlers to retain and land two consecutive daily limits of summer flounder provided catch from the first day is segregated and sealed for the second days catch. Information regarding enrollment in this pilot program will be available in May.

Then during the offshore fall fishery (November 1–December 31), the closed fishing days of Fridays and Saturdays will be eliminated, allowing the possession and landing of summer

flounder seven days per week provided quota remains available. Additionally, the trip limit is being adjusted to allow vessels to possess and land 1,000 pounds of summer flounder if 5% or more of the quota remains available on November 1; if less than 5% of the annual quota remains available, the trip limit will be 500 pounds.

No changes are being made to the limits affecting the springtime fishing period (April 23 - June 9). During this period, fishermen using nets and longlines may retain and land up to 100 pounds per day seven days per week. The retention of summer flounder by fishermen using any other gear type, including handlines and rod and reels, is prohibited.

Horseshoe Crab Limits

Massachusetts' 2020 horseshoe crab quota will remain at 165,000 crabs. In 2019, this quota was taken on September 1. This quota closure forced trawlers fishing in the summertime large mesh mixed trawl fishery to discard any horseshoe crabs incidentally caught during September and October. To improve the management of this quota, DMF will no longer issue the Letter of Authorization to trawlers without a limited entry horseshoe crab bait permit endorsement allowing them to retain up to 300 crabs when fishing for summer flounder. Instead, DMF has established a 75-crab open access trip limit for trawlers fishing for summer flounder who do not hold the limited entry horseshoe crab bait permit endorsement. No other changes are being made to horseshoe crab bait fishery limits.

MA Sportsmen's Council Message (Email)

Good evening All,

Due to the loss of a month of ticket sales and the potential that meeting restrictions will continue into May (Maine has extended their regs until May 15) and MA may follow, the raffle drawing is being moved to the June meeting.

Keep selling tickets and perhaps we can recover lost sales.

Hopefully COVID-19 will subside and we will be able to meet in May.

Stay safe & healthy,
John

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MassWildlife

Fishing and Hunting: All hunting and fishing regulations, including licenses, are still in effect during the State of Emergency and Stay at Home Advisory. The revenue generated from license sales goes directly towards conservation, research, stocking, education, and restoration. Licenses can be obtained online by visiting the MassFishHunt online portal. Outdoor activities, and travel to and from those activities, are still permitted. All residents should practice social distancing by remaining 6 feet away from other people while participating in outdoor activities. Outdoor users should avoid gathering in groups larger than 10 people.

Fishing and Trout Stocking: Fishing is allowed during this time with a valid fishing license. MassWildlife is continuing to stock trout this spring. For the safety of MassWildlife staff, please do not approach staff while they are stocking fish. For daily trout stocking updates, please visit mass.gov/trout. Don't share a boat unless it is large enough so that all persons aboard can always remain at a minimum distance of six feet apart. Anglers and other paddlers in canoes and kayaks are reminded they are required to wear a life jacket through May 15.

Wildlife Management Areas: Fresh air and exercise are great ways to support your health year-round. All MassWildlife Wildlife Management Areas remain open to the public to enjoy for fishing, hunting, walking, birding, and other nature-based activities. Please remember to stay 6 feet apart from other visitors and keep pets leashed. MassWildlife encourages the public to visit lesser-known spots and explore the outdoors close to home. If crowded, choose a different location or time to visit. To find WMAs near you, please visit the MassWildlife Lands Viewer.

Events and Programs: MassWildlife has canceled all group events and programs through May 31, 2020, including all Hunter Education and Angler Education courses. MassWildlife will continue to implement recommendations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts regarding any future closures or cancellations.

MassWildlife Offices: All MassWildlife offices and hatcheries are closed to the public until further notice.

Vineyard Wind

Greentown Labs and Vineyard Wind Launch the Offshore Wind Challenge to Accelerate Technologies that Protect Marine Life Corporate partnerships accelerator program seeks innovative data monitoring technologies focused on protecting marine mammals

Somerville, Mass. March 12, 2020 — Greentown Labs, the largest cleantech incubator in North America, and Vineyard Wind, developer of the first utility-scale offshore wind energy generation facility in the United States, are now accepting applications for the Offshore Wind Challenge. Greentown Labs and Vineyard Wind are seeking submissions from startups that are innovating in marine mammal monitoring, either surrounding data collection and real-time transmission or data analysis.

The Offshore Wind Challenge is a six-month accelerator program housed at Greentown Labs in Somerville, Mass., and is focused on fast-tracking entrepreneurs with the mentors and business and technical resources they need to launch or scale successful ventures with direct support from Vineyard Wind. The Offshore Wind Challenge is for startups with a technology readiness level between three and six and a proof of concept that can be brought to a state of practice. The Challenge will be supported by experts from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and the New England Aquarium.

Vineyard Wind is developing the first utility-scale offshore wind project which will eliminate 1.68 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. Vineyard Wind is committed to protecting North Atlantic right whales and other marine species off the northeastern United States during all phases of the project's development and operations.

“Vineyard Wind is excited to kick off the application process today for the Offshore Wind Challenge alongside our partners at Greentown Labs,” said Lars T. Pedersen, CEO of Vineyard Wind. “There is a very real opportunity for innovation regarding the data associated with marine mammal monitoring and we are fortunate to be working with a talented Greentown Labs team to engage with startups and entrepreneurs on this initiative. We look forward to carefully reviewing all submissions and eventually working with those selected for the program.”

Startups selected to participate in the program will benefit from mentorship, networking opportunities, educational workshops, and partnership-focused programming through Greentown Launch, a six-month partnership acceleration program for startups provided by Greentown Labs. Within this framework, the Offshore Wind Challenge will help startups explore potential partnership outcomes with Vineyard Wind. Furthermore, participants will receive membership, including desk space, at Greentown Labs for the duration of the program.

“The offshore wind industry presents an incredible opportunity for the northeast United States and Greentown Labs is thrilled to partner with Vineyard Wind to identify technologies that will simultaneously protect marine life in our oceans and advance the industry,” said Emily Reichert, CEO of Greentown Labs. “We’re eager to receive applications from entrepreneurs from around the world and proud to have support from WHOI and the Aquarium who will provide valuable expertise throughout the Challenge.”

Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is the world's largest independent organization dedicated exclusively to ocean research, engineering, and education. Established in 1930, WHOI's mission is to drive discovery and advance understanding of the ocean and its benefits to human society and the planet.

“WHOI's work at the leading edge of oceanographic research is based on a combination of deep understanding of the ocean and how it works, unmatched engineering talent that make it possible to invent and build the technologies that drive discovery, and world-class marine operations that offer extraordinary access to the sea,” said Rick Murray, WHOI's Deputy Director and Vice-President for Research. “WHOI is pleased to work with Greentown Labs and support innovation and entrepreneurship emerging from renewable energy solutions like offshore wind.”

About the New England Aquarium

Founded in 1969, the New England Aquarium protects the blue planet through public engagement, commitment to marine animal conservation, innovative scientific research, and effective advocacy for vital and vibrant oceans. The Aquarium works to safeguard endangered and threatened species both in its care and in the wild. Scientists from the Aquarium who specialize in offshore wind and marine life are providing key expertise to the Offshore Wind Challenge.

“Many of the species that regularly use the wind energy areas off the coast of Massachusetts are either experiencing significant population decline or are endangered, including the North Atlantic right whale. That means we need to be extra conscious of the project’s human impact,” said Vikki N. Spruill, President and CEO of the New England Aquarium. “The Aquarium looks forward to supporting this program to better understand the impact of wind energy development on our ocean life.”

Applications for the Offshore Wind Challenge are due by May 31 at 11:59 p.m. ET. Interested innovators and entrepreneurs can learn more about the call for applications by visiting the website. Applicants are encouraged to attend the program kickoff event at Greentown Labs’ headquarters in Somerville, Mass. on July 22.

About Greentown Labs

Greentown Labs is a community of bold, passionate entrepreneurs creating solutions for today’s biggest climate and environmental challenges. Located in Somerville, Massachusetts, and founded in 2011, Greentown Labs is the largest cleantech incubator in North America, operating a 100,000 sq. ft. campus comprised of prototyping and wet lab space, shared office space, a machine shop, electronics lab, and a curated suite of programs and resources. Greentown Labs is home to more than 100 startups and has supported more than 250 startups since its inception. These startups have collectively created more than 6,500 direct jobs and have raised more than \$750 million in funding. The incubator’s mission is to provide entrepreneurs with the community, resources, and space they need to thrive. For more information, please visit www.greentownlabs.com or on Twitter, Facebook, or LinkedIn.

About Vineyard Wind

Vineyard Wind LLC is an offshore wind development company seeking to build the first large-scale offshore wind energy project in the U.S., to be located 15 miles south of Martha’s Vineyard. Vineyard Wind, based in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is 50 percent owned by funds of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners (CIP) and 50 percent by Avangrid Renewables.

For more information, visit www.vineyardwind.com.

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Membership Application

Date: _____

Applicant: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____

Fishing interests: _____

I hereby apply for membership in the Falmouth Fishermen's Association, Inc. and agree to abide by all Club by-laws and guidelines.

Applicant's Signature: _____

Proposing Member: _____

Membership Date: _____

Annual Dues: \$50.

FFA By-Laws - Article VI - MEMBERSHIP

The number of voting members may be set by vote of the membership.
-To be eligible for membership a candidate shall have been a fisherman for several years, a good reputation for sportsmanship, and be proposed by at least one voting member of the Club.
-The initiation fee for such members and the annual dues shall be as prescribed by the Board of Governors.

Members in good standing may introduce and sponsor new candidates for membership.

The annual dues, for all classes of membership, are due by April 1st of each year, and each member who has not paid the same by the first of July following shall cease to be a member.
-They are to be notified thereof by the Treasurer of their change in membership status.
-They will be placed in the category of *Friends of the Club* and have no rights in the Club. They shall be reinstated upon making payment before the following first day of September.