

January 2021



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

Falmouth Fishermen’s Association
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2021 Board of Directors:

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President's Message

Dear Members and friends of FFA,

FFA January 5, 2021 ZOOM meeting with Speaker Eddie Doherty will have over 30 people that have signed up so far from the newspaper ads!

We now have a Zoom account that will permit a maximum of 100 guests per meeting without a time limit. Our member and friend total mailing list are about 45, with an extended list of another 50 friends.

If you want to be part of this meeting please email me at Falmouthfishermens@gmail.com ASAP so I can get a head count. I will only be able to let those that reply into this meeting if we go over the 100 people.

Keith Roberts, FFA President
falmouthfishermens@gmail.com
www.falmouthfishermens.org

Our December Meeting:

December Virtual Speaker Bob Hewitt

Club member Bob Hewitt discussed clamming locations in Falmouth. He recommended West Falmouth for oysters and quahogs. Waquoit Bay as well. In Waquoit he took his boat and anchored it to jump in and clam. Also, you can also walk into these locations. Green Pond off Menauhant Rd, to Bridge St, to Vineyard St. Go around the bend.

Article on Green Pond dated January 17, 2020

Although Green Pond were suggested. Here is an article on Green Pond from January 2020.

The Shellfish Division is responsible for the propagation and management of shellfisheries and herring runs in the Town of Falmouth. They operate the Falmouth Inner Harbor propagation center as well as remote growing upwellers in Green Pond and West Falmouth Harbor.

State closes portion of Green Pond in Falmouth to shellfishing

By Jessica Hill / jhill@capecodonline.com

Posted Jan 17, 2020 at 5:27 PM

Updated Jan 18, 2020 at 6:32 AM

Increased levels of fecal bacteria from birds found in waterway.

FALMOUTH — The state Division of Marine Fisheries this week ordered that a portion of Green Pond be closed to shellfishing after increased levels of fecal bacteria from waterfowl were detected.

The state agency closed 17 acres of shellfish beds in the northern part of the pond, where recent samples detected increased levels of fecal coliform, according to a statement issued Friday by the town's Department of Marine and Environmental Services.

The increase was caused by people feeding birds at the pond, where state officials have reported seeing "hundreds of ducks, swans, and geese densely congregated in the northern area of the pond," the statement read.

"Birds crowded into these areas are defecating in the same location where they are feeding," according to the statement.

The Board of Selectmen addressed the issue Monday, saying that shellfishing is prohibited from 302 Acapesket Road on the west side of the pond to 72 Sandcastle Drive on the east.

The state Division of Marine Fisheries has asked the town to try to move the birds along using methods such as blank shotgun rounds to scare them off.

Although ducks and geese were scared off when officers with the town's Department of Natural Resources fired two blank cartridges from the shoreline Thursday, "not a single swan budged," according to the statement.

"It is pretty comical," Chuck Martinsen, deputy director of Marine and Environmental Services, said

Friday. “They didn’t budge. They knew there wasn’t a hunting season on them and there wasn’t anything we could do to them.”

In addition to people feeding them, birds have congregated at the north end of Green Pond because it provides good protection from various types of predators, Martinsen said. There is also less wind.

Martinsen spoke with a biologist who said usually no more than 20 birds permanently reside at a pond, and he confirmed that the birds are congregating at Green Pond for reasons other than people feeding them.

Nevertheless, feeding waterfowl is a biological, environmental and a public health concern, according to the statement.

“Feeding waterfowl disrupts migration patterns, as one of the reasons for migration is for finding a new food supply,” the statement says. “With a sustained artificial food supply by humans, waterfowl have less reason to migrate.”

Bread, corn and popcorn that many people feed to the birds do not have much nutritional value and have been linked to causing metabolic bone diseases in the animals. Angel wing syndrome, for example, causes deformed wings when the carpal joints grow incorrectly.

In addition to making water unsuitable for recreational activities such as shellfishing and swimming, increased fecal matter from birds can result in water quality problems such as algae blooms, according to the statement.

“The Town of Falmouth is actively utilizing strategies to remove nitrogen from its coastal water bodies, improving the water quality,” the statement says. “Feeding waterfowl counteracts these Town efforts.”

Martinsen said Department of Natural Resources officials plan to go out on the pond with boats next week to try to move the birds along. Once they are gone, he said, the state officials will retest the water.

“We’re just asking for the public’s cooperation,” Martinsen said.

Several years ago, an article to create a bylaw to help curtail waterfowl feeding was heard at town meeting, but the measure failed.

“It was not met with a warm response, the attempted regulation,” Assistant Town Manager Peter Johnson-Staub said Monday. “But you may see that coming around again.”

Other Falmouth Shellfishing Q&A

Where can I get a shellfish permit?

Shellfish permits are sold at the Tax Collector's window at Falmouth Town Hall during regular office hours.

Where can I get a copy of the shellfish regulations?

General regulations may be picked up at the Tax Collector's window at Falmouth Town Hall. General regulations are posted at Town Hall, Falmouth Main Public Library, East Falmouth Library, North Falmouth Library, and West Falmouth Library. Open Area lists and maps are posted at Town Hall, Megansett Harbor Parking Lot, West Falmouth Harbor Boat Ramp, and Seapit Landing in Waquoit Bay. Regulations and Open Area lists are also available online.

FFA Meetings:



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

January Meeting:

January Speaker will be EAST END EDDIE DOHERTY author of the book SEVEN MILES AFTER SUNDOWN by East End Eddie Doherty Announced as #1 New Release in Fishing on Amazon Award-Winning Sports Finalist, International Book Awards.

Ed will be on our January Zoom call to present about his book and to take as many questions as time permit. Here is the press release.

Big Ditch Productions in association with Ballyjamesduff Entertainment is pleased to announce that East End Eddie Doherty will be presenting a Cape Cod Canal surfcasting seminar including a PowerPoint demonstration for the Falmouth Fishermen's Association via Zoom on January 5, 2021 at 7pm. The free event is open to the public, but attendance is limited, so send your name to falmouthfishermens@gmail.com for registration.

Doherty is a retired Massachusetts District Court Clerk-Magistrate and the author of SEVEN MILES AFTER SUNDOWN which was announced on Amazon as the #1 New Release in Fishing and selected as an Award-Winning Finalist for American Bookfest in the Sports Category at the 2019 International Book Awards in Los Angeles.

Other Cape Fishing Information:

My Fishing Cape Cod - Ryan Collins Email

Before we dive into this lesson, I wanted to let you know that I'm creating these emails "on the fly".

Going forward, I might not be able to continue at the 1 email/week pace. Nevertheless, I enjoy writing these emails, and I will do my best to create more lessons asap.

In today's lesson, we are going to discuss holdover striped bass on Cape Cod. By late October the vast majority of stripers in our area have migrated south, but each year a small amount of fish spend the winter.

During the depths of the coldest part of the winter these bass enter a catatonic-like state. They barely move and more or less remain stationery, far back in Cape Cod's estuaries.

When targeting holdover striped bass, you will definitely want to fish your baits and lures extremely slow.

These fish are existing on the verge of being frozen, so they are typically not very active. However, if we get a stretch of warm weather the fish will start moving around more.

Low tide has always been the most productive tide for me, and as I mentioned earlier in this email, I am almost always fishing deep in estuaries, far from the ocean.

If you do decide to give winter striped bass fishing a try, then I first and foremost recommend that you exercise extreme caution.

Estuaries can be very dangerous places to fish due to steep drop offs, thick mud, and icy cold temperatures. The danger increases when fishing at night, especially if you are fishing alone.

Also keep in mind that these stripers are doing their best to survive the winter. I like to crush the barbs on my hooks, and I also like to stop catching fish after I've caught two or three.

The challenge for me is in locating the fish, not racking up huge numbers of catches.

MassWildlife

Get Your 2021 License Today!

Hunters, anglers, and trappers can now purchase 2021 licenses, permits, and stamps. Give one as a gift or treat yourself! Use care when purchasing during December, as both 2020 and 2021 products are available.

The year 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (MESA)! To celebrate, MassWildlife will be highlighting one rare species each month as a Species Spotlight.

Through the implementation of MESA, MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program conserves and protects the most vulnerable animals and plants of Massachusetts and the habitats upon which they depend. Stay up to date on how MassWildlife is celebrating this important milestone by visiting mass.gov/30MESA.

Description



Common name: Shortnose sturgeon

Scientific name: *Acipenser brevirostrum*

Size: Less than 40 inches

Range: Shortnose sturgeon are found in major rivers along the East Coast of North America from Florida to New Brunswick, Canada. In Massachusetts, shortnose sturgeon are currently found in the Connecticut and Merrimack Rivers with historical occurrences in many coastal rivers around Massachusetts.

MA Conservation status: Endangered

Federal conservation status: Endangered

Fun facts

Although shortnose sturgeon are one of the largest fish species in Massachusetts inland waters, it is the smallest species of sturgeon in Massachusetts and one of the smallest in the sturgeon family (Acipenseridae).

Shortnose sturgeon vary in color from yellow-brown to black-olive on the dorsal surface and have a white belly. They lack scales, but have 5 rows of bony plates called scutes. The four barbels (fleshy whisker-like projections) that hang from their snout help shortnose sturgeon find invertebrates in the sediment.

Shortnose sturgeon spawn in large freshwater rivers. They migrate from the mouths of rivers, traveling 10s to 100s of miles to reach suitable spawning upstream. During non-spawning periods sturgeon often leave freshwater in pursuit of food resources in estuaries or along the coast and migrate between large river systems.

The migration of the shortnose sturgeon population in the Connecticut River is restricted by

hydroelectric dams making this population one of the few that lives only in freshwater.

Shortnose sturgeon are relatively long-lived fish species. They can live up to 60 years, and do not reach reproductive maturity until they are 10–12 years old.

Threats and conservation

The major threats to this species are river habitat degradation and loss caused by dams, channel dredging, poor water quality, contaminants, fisheries bycatch, and incidental boating strikes.

Hydroelectric dams can be harmful in a number of ways. Dams can alter water flow and sediment patterns impacting spawning success, fragment populations by limiting fish movement, and cause mortality if fish swim too near intake pipes and pass through turbines. Efforts to restore sturgeon migration and reconnect subpopulations are underway in the Connecticut River through the construction of fishways to aid upstream and downstream movement.

Due to its long life and late maturity, populations are likely slow to recover making shortnose sturgeon one of the most vulnerable freshwater fish species in Massachusetts.

How you can help

Both shortnose sturgeon and Atlantic sturgeon are endangered species and sightings should be reported to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) [here](#).

It is illegal to possess shortnose sturgeon. If you accidentally catch a sturgeon while fishing, release it as gently and quickly as possible, even if you need to cut the line. Never take the fish out of the water.

MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) is responsible for the conservation and protection of over 400 rare animals and plants, including shortnose sturgeon. NHESP's work is primarily funded through grants and donations from supportive citizens. Donate to NHESP today at mass.gov/support-nhesp.

Image credit: Micah Kieffer at USGS
Media Contact for Species Spotlight: Shortnose sturgeon
Marion Larson, MassWildlife

Falmouth Fishermen's Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 832
Falmouth MA 02541-0832

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.

6 February 2020