

February 2021



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
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2021 Board of Directors:

President: Keith Roberts	Newsletter: Steve Ferreira	Vice President : Kevin Downs
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		Director: Tom Pilitz
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President's Message:

Dear Members and friends of FFA,

The club's 2021 year has started out strong with 28 members paid up for the year. Most carried over from their 2020 dues payment. If you receive the FFA newsletter and are not a member or are a past member but not current, we would greatly appreciate you joining or rejoining. Your \$50.00 is needed and goes toward the club expenses and entertainment that we try to bring you. Call me, 508-259-6140 if you are not sure you paid. I am calling members when I can. But in the meantime, thank you for being a member. Please remember we are a nonprofit club. No board members are paid for the time they spent working to help keep things going.

We could be back to our live meetings at Bucatino's maybe in September. Until then, I will try to do my best to bring you interesting entertaining guest speakers. Our January meeting was attended by 49 people at one point in the Zoom platform. What a great job by East End Eddy Doherty. We will reshow the meeting sometime in the future for those that missed it.

This February 2, 2021 we will be showing volume 1 of "Secrets Of The Striper Pros, Boat and Shore Tactics" by The Diving Fisherman, Mike Laptew. The club purchased the movie from Mike and has his permission to show it to our members. This should get us thinking about cleaning up our gear and getting ready for spring.

I hope this finds you all safe and take care, Keith

Keith Roberts, FFA President
falmouthfishermens@gmail.com
www.falmouthfishermens.org
508-259-6140

Our January Meeting:

Our January Speaker was EAST END EDDIE DOHERTY author of the book SEVEN MILES AFTER SUNDOWN.

Our club had an overwhelmingly positive interest in the subject of fishing the Cape Cod Canal as we maxed out the invitation list of 100 people. Of those invited about half did attend the virtual presentation done by Eddie.

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

Eddie shared beautiful photographs that were published in his book. Eddie spoke of his retirement and his love for fishing the canal. When he retired, he was recently made a grandfather, so his colleagues gave him as a retirement gift of a tee-shirt which read, "Stripers and Diapers" that he proudly wears. The unofficial record in the canal is a 63 lbs. 4oz. Striper caught in 1956 by Frank Machado of New Bedford. Eddie gave the dimensions of the canal its width and length. The canal is 32 feet deep which allows for the passage of large gamefish like stripers to be caught from shore. Eddie talked about the tides and the change of current from east to west. He showed members how to identify canal locations by pole marker which are numbered by fives from 5 to 250 on both sides of the canal. Eddie covered the gear he wears and the tackle he used to fish the canal. In the off season he makes his own leaders which are made using a barrel swivel on one end of the leader with a XL fast snap clip on the other end to allow for quick change of the lure. Eddie uses lures in the canal. He mentioned that many have good luck fishing with eels, but he would rather use a lure and not have to handle a live eel.

Eddie keeps track of how many fish he catches with the weight and length of the fish and he showed our group some impressive numbers he had from 2017.

Eddie's presentation and his presentation style were well received by all who have attended. I would recommend that each year we dedicate one meeting towards discussing fishing the canal. The club will be purchasing Eddie's book and I would recommend that members purchase their own copy for their personal fishing library. Thank you, Eddie!



FFA Meetings:



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

February Meeting – Tuesday, February 2, 2021

This February 2, 2021 we will be showing volume 1 of "Secrets Of The Striper Pros, Boat and Shore Tactics" by The Diving Fisherman, Mike Laptew. The club purchased the movie from Mike and has his permission to show it to our members. This should get us thinking about cleaning up our gear and getting ready for spring.

Falmouth News - Matthew Souza Conservation Area

The Matthew Souza Conservation Area is a long, narrow parcel at the headwaters of the Coonamessett River. The property follows the river from Hatchville Road north to Coonamessett Pond. A rutted, dirt road through the 25 acres provides boating access for fishing. At 158 acres, Coonamessett is the town's largest pond, and the herring run that leads to Great Pond on Vineyard Sound is the town's most important run.

Efforts to protect the herring run started in 1964 when the town purchased a small parcel bordering the river. More land was acquired in 1970.

With the rest of the Coonamessett Reservation, the property is in the re-charge zone for the Coonamessett and Crooked Pond town wells.

The parcel was dedicated to the town's long-time game warden and conservation officer, Matthew R. Souza. Matt Souza retired in 1974 after 30 years of service. He was always an advocate and guardian of Falmouth's woods.

A small parking area and kiosk for the conservation area are on the north side of Hatchville Road, just beyond the entrance to Atamansit Road.

The Matt Souza Conservation Area Road has been repaired. Cape Cod Aggregates and George Botelho have completed road repairs to the Matt Souza Conservation area. The town has received thanks from walkers and abutters and people driving to the pond. You should check it out sometime, said Mr. Kasprzyk, "There are so many people who walk down there now. It is incredible."

Other Cape Fishing Information:

My Fishing Cape Cod - Ryan Collins Email

Needles rank as one of the most versatile plugs in the surfcasters' arsenal, and they are simplistic in design.

For all intents and purposes, a needle is simply a weighted, tapered plug of wood or plastic, with no inherent or inbuilt action.

This lack of any existing action is what makes the needle so deadly, and so versatile as a surf plug.

The angler has complete control over the plug, which means that needles can be a great choice in a variety of situations.

Lesson #23:

How to Fish Needlefish

The following article was contributed by MFCC member Calvin Toran-Sandlin. Calvin is a passionate surfcaster who grew up fishing the canal, the beaches and boulder fields of Cape Cod.

You might recognize Calvin from his many posts inside our members forum.

<https://myfishingcapecod.com/>

In this article you will learn all the details about fishing needlefish lures from shore for striped bass. Plus if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. We are happy to help. 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.

[Stay safe on the ice this winter](#)

Always consider ice to be potentially dangerous. Stay safe this winter by taking a few moments to review these ice safety tips and ice thickness guidelines.

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 over flowing 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.

Email from Vineyard Wind

Dear Fisherman,

Vineyard Wind is looking to hire local commercial and recreational fishing vessels to work on offshore wind projects. If you are interested, please fill out the following form to help us understand your vessel capabilities.

COMPLETE THE FORM

<https://tinyurl.com/y49hu3v6>

Please fill out one form per vessel. Early responses are encouraged, however, the form will remain open. A PDF version of the form is also available to download here.

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact us with questions.

Sincerely,

Crista Bank & Caela Howard
Vineyard Wind Fisheries Liaisons

Crista Bank: cbank@vineyardwind.com, 508-525-0421
Caela Howard: choward@vineyardwind.com, 508-386-9832

**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