

April 2021



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 832
Falmouth, MA 02541
falmouthfishermens@gmail.com
www.falmouthfishermens.org

2019 Board of Directors:

President: Keith Roberts	Newsletter: Steve Ferreira	Vice President : Kevin Downs
Beach Access: Don Hoffer	Secretary: Steve Ferreira	Merchandise: Kevin Griffin
Treasurer: Bruce Bumpus	Herring: Lou Turner	Entertainment: Open
Saltwater: Brian Curry	Historian : Open	Librarian: Charlie Peterson
Barnstable County League: Rep. Open		Facebook and SM : Mitch Buck
		Freshwater and Tournament
		Director: Tom Pilitz
		Past President: John Dillon

President's Message:

Dear Members,

Things are starting to come alive outside and within the club. This April 6, 2021 meeting will start with club business. Election will be finalized with a vote by all of us for the Board Members that you nominated. Then a quick update on new features for the website. Tom Pilitz is working on a Members Only section and he will tell you a little about it.

Tee shirts with the new logo are in and I will be passing them to all of you that preordered after April 9th. (Two weeks after my 2nd shot :). I ordered extras so anyone that would like a tee send me an email or call. Shirts are \$15.00.

Since Bruce Bumpus will be stepping down as Treasurer and no member nominated themselves, I will be taking over the seat of treasurer. I have been working with Bruce throughout my presidency regarding the club finances and with the help of my wife Lynda we can make it happen until we find a member willing to step in.

This month our guest speakers will be members Captain Kevin Downs and Bill Prodouz. With the topic being "How Moons, Tides and Currents Impact Boat, Surf and Canal Fishing, or Fish whenever you can but here are tips on how to improve your odds of success". We expect this to be a fun and informative presentation by two of the best.

I hope you get a chance to attend the next zoom meeting. Please read through Steve Ferreira's outstanding newsletter for the Zoom Invitation. Thank you all for being members. Welcome to all the new members this year!

Sincerely, Keith

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

Our March Meeting – Speaker Ryan Collins of My Fishing Cape Cod



Ryan presented virtually via Zoom at the March meeting. He began the evening discussing finding green crabs to be used for bait to catch scup or stripers. He purchased a crab trap and placed in one of the estuaries, he goes in at low tide and sets the trap with some fish heads. The green crabs are an invasive species, and many are trying to find a commercial purpose for them on local restaurant menus. He takes the legs off the crab and cuts them

in half. With this bait he was able to catch keeper scup.

In early May he will be at the South Pier in Barnstable to catch squid for bait. Later in May Ryan will be fishing for Black Sea Bass in his 12' tin fishing boat using soft plastics.

In mid-July, Ryan will be fishing in the canyons for white marlin which can fetch \$4 per pound. He is seeing sand eels coming back and many humpback whales. Wherever Ryan fishes he uses the old Boy Scout rule “to leave the place better than when you found it”. He brings a bag to clean up any trash.

By Labor Day Ryan will be fishing at Craigville Beach for False Albacore again using soft plastic baits. When he catches a bluefish, he will smoke it and he said it tastes like an Easter ham.

By October he will be fishing Falmouth from the shore using a Sunami ½ oz. lure for more False Albacore fishing.



Ryan then opened the discussion up for questions. Thank you, Ryan, for sharing your knowledge with our members. You can follow Ryan at myfishingcapecod.com and also on his TV show.

FFA In Person Meetings:



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

Falmouth News - Woods Hole Could Be A New Cruise Ship Destination

Woods Hole may be a cruise ship destination this summer. Connecticut-based American Cruise Lines has added the village to its new “Cape Codder” itinerary.

The cruise line’s 175-passenger American Constitution is scheduled to dock at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for a day trip to the village. The destination is part of an eight-day sailing itinerary that begins in Boston and also includes Plymouth, Mass Maritime Academy, New Bedford, Martha’s Vineyard, Provincetown and Gloucester.

According to American Cruise Line spokesperson Alexa Paoella, the ship will dock at WHOI and passengers will be able to meet with scientists and engineers for a “behind the scenes” look at ocean exploration. According to the brochure highlighting the new cruise, passengers will also visit the fisheries center and the aquarium, and “enjoy a special presentation by a leading oceanographic expert in the Redfield Auditorium.”

The cruise line has reduced onboard capacity to 75 percent as part of its COVID safety protocols. The line requires a negative COVID-19 PCR test for all passengers and crew on the ships, taken within four days of boarding. A medical officer will conduct a pre-boarding health screening, including asking passengers whether they have been vaccinated. There is no vaccination mandate.

Because of the pandemic, the Woods Hole excursions are not confirmed. WHOI spokeswoman Suzanne Pelisson provided the following statement:

“WHOI has been working with American Cruise Lines (ACL) to plan several port calls for late May and June. Due to the continuing COVID pandemic, the viability of hosting ACL at WHOI this spring is uncertain. A final decision is pending and any plan to move forward would be dependent upon mutually agreed plans and safety protocols between ACL, the Town of Falmouth, and WHOI.”

If an agreement is reached, there would be five weeklong cruises beginning on May 10 out of Boston. The other departure dates are May 17, 24 and 31, and June 7.

Other Cape Fishing Information

Email from Wendi Buessler, President Coonamessett River Trust

Subject: Coonamessett River Trust - The Herring Will Soon Be Returning!

Hello Everyone!(Weekend of March 27-28) There may be additional opportunities later in April and May.

We are reinstating the organized herring count on the Coonamessett River this year after taking a break last year due to the pandemic. We are very excited to return to this activity. This will be our 17th year of counting! We still have three nighttime counting slots open

- Sunday @ 9-10pm
- Saturday @ 7-8pm
- Saturday @ 8-9pm

Plus, we always have Day or Ad-hoc counts open. Day counters can count for as many 10-minute

periods as they wish outside of night counting hours (7pm-10pm).

The count generally begins in early April and ends in late May. We officially begin the counting when our 'spotters' tell us the fish have started to move up river. We will let you know via an e-mail when we would 'officially' like you to start and stop counting. However, you are welcome to count earlier or later than the 'official' count period. All data is welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering for either a nighttime slot or the day counting, please contact us. We will send you instructions on how to conduct either of the counts.

Thank you for your interest! The counts help us understand changes in the population of herring in the Coonamessett River, other Cape Cod rivers and beyond. This counting program is part of a statewide effort to quantify population changes in this valuable population.

Best,

Wendi Buessler, President Coonamessett River Trust

My Fishing Cape Cod - Ryan Collins

We Teach People About Fishing on Cape Cod

Our mission is to help people catch fish and to instill an appreciation of nature. We do this by connecting anglers with one another, publishing trustworthy information, and creating entertaining fishing content on a regular basis.

Over 1,200 members (and growing). The two things everyone has in common is an appreciation of Cape Cod and a passion for fishing.

This includes people who live on Cape Cod year-round, part-time or visit the Cape on vacation. Join My Fishing Cape Cod to discover what it's like to explore and fish the Cape for stripers, bluefish, tuna & much more.

<https://myfishingcapecod.com/>

Barnstable County League Email from Steve Ferreira

Hi FFA Members:

I have raffle tickets for a fundraiser for the Mass. Sportsman Council, Inc. There are many great prizes. Guns, Bows, Fishing Gear, Shopping Sprees - and more. 1st Prize - Henry Big Boy cal. .44 mag.

- Drawing will be May 2, 2021
- Donation: \$5.00 ea./4 for \$10.00

Make checks payable to Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council.

If you mail your check to me, I will send the ticket in and send you your ticket stub. Please include your mailing address and phone number. **My deadline is April 15.**

Steve Ferreira
15 Rockford St
Brockton, MA 02301
774 274-0917

Recreational Gulf of Maine Cod and Haddock Limits

The recreational Gulf of Maine cod and haddock seasons open on April 1st under the following rules established by the Division of Marine Fisheries (322 CMR 6.03) consistent with federal regulations.

Gulf of Maine Cod Stock

Open Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
April 1 – April 14 & September 15 – September 30	1 fish	21”

Gulf of Maine Haddock Stock

Open Season	Bag Limit	Size Limit
April 1 – February 29	15 fish	17”

DMF may adjust rules for the fall GOM cod for-hire season pending a federal decision on the New England Fishery Management Council’s recommendation to continue a for-hire bonus season. In 2020, NOAA Fisheries enacted an interim rule that authorized a September 8 – October 7 for-hire GOM cod season (1 fish at 21”) to account for loss of access to the springtime fishery due to COVID related restrictions. DMF intends to remain consistent with federal rules.

Recreational anglers are reminded that groundfish fishing within the Spring Cod Conservation Zone (SCCZ) is prohibited from April 16 – July 21. The SCCZ protects a discrete inshore springtime cod spawning aggregation in Massachusetts Bay. The closed area is bound by 42°30’ N latitude to the south, 42°33’ N latitude to the north and 70°44.5W longitude to the west 70°38.5W to the east.

Anglers must release all cod and haddock that do not meet the minimum size requirements or were caught during seasons or in areas where their harvest is prohibited. Recreational fishermen are encouraged to use circle hooks to minimize discard mortality of released fish and are also encouraged to target haddock or other abundant stocks to minimize unintended cod mortality. Anglers are also encouraged to consult DMF’s Haddock Fishing Guide to find areas where they may seasonally target haddock with a reduced likelihood of incidentally catching cod.

For more information, please visit our website: www.mass.gov/marinefisheries .

MassWildlife

New License Fees Proposed

For the first time since 1996, MassWildlife is proposing changes to freshwater fishing, hunting, and trapping license fees.

“We couldn’t conserve fish and wildlife in Massachusetts without the support of hunters, anglers, and trappers. We recognize this has been a difficult year for everyone, and we don't make this proposal lightly,” said MassWildlife Director Mark S. Tisa. "Responsible fiscal management gave us 25 years without fee increases, however it’s critical for us now to address MassWildlife's current and future financial needs.”

License fees provide essential support for MassWildlife's education programs, scientific management of fish and wildlife, trout and pheasant stocking, and the management of over 226,000 acres of wildlife lands open to the public for hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife watching.

MassWildlife has scheduled information sessions on March 9, 17, and 25 for the public to ask questions and learn more about MassWildlife's programs, how MassWildlife is funded, and why a license increase is needed. MassWildlife anticipates scheduling formal public hearings later this spring.

View the proposed fees, read FAQs, get info session details, and learn how to provide feedback...
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlife-funding>

Spring Trout Stocking

MassWildlife staff are stocking nearly 500,000 brook, rainbow, brown, and tiger trout across Massachusetts this spring. Stocking is scheduled to begin in March, and over 75% of the trout will be over 12 inches

Vineyard Wind News (Bloomberg)

Jennifer A. Dlouhy and Josh Saul
March 5, 2021

(Bloomberg) -- The Biden administration is moving closer to a final approval of Vineyard Wind LLC’s \$2.8 billion offshore wind farm planned near the coast of Massachusetts.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is set to publish a favorable final environmental review of the 800-megawatt project on Monday, according to two people familiar with the matter. That would mark the penultimate step in the Interior Department’s review of the project, setting the stage for a likely formal authorization in April.

It’s a major milestone for the venture, which is poised to become the first major offshore wind farm

in federal waters. President Joe Biden, who is aggressively pursuing a clean-energy agenda, signed in January an executive order to double wind generation in U.S. waters by 2030. The Vineyard project alone would satisfy that commitment.

The project, a joint venture of Avangrid Inc. and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, would ship power to Massachusetts and have enough capacity to supply about 400,000 homes. Expected to go into service in late 2023, it would be the first of several massive wind farms planned off the East Coast, as states such as Massachusetts, New York, Maine and New Jersey count on power from offshore renewable projects to help them satisfy clean-energy mandates.

Representatives for Vineyard Winds and the Interior Department declined to comment.

Vineyard Wind's permitting timetable has shifted several times, with the Interior Department deciding in 2019 to conduct extra environmental scrutiny of the project after fishing interests and regulators raised concerns about a surge of wind development along the coast.

Under federal law, the record of decision on Vineyard Wind's construction and operations plan can not come until at least 30 days after the final environmental impact statement is released. Multiple agencies are involved in that final authorization, including the Interior Department, the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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