

May 2021



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

Falmouth Fishermen's Association
P.O. Box 832
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www.falmouthfishermens.org

2021 Board of Directors	
President: Keith Roberts	Merchandise: Kevin Griffin
Vice President: Bill Prodoz	Entertainment: Mike LaRaia
Treasurer: Kevin Cruse	Facebook Administrator: Mitch Buck
Secretary: Steve Ferreira	Website Administrator: Tom Pilitz
Newsletter: Steve Ferreira	Librarian: Charlie Peterson
Barnstable County League: Rep. Stan Bazycki	Historian: Open
Past President: John Dillion	Past President: Kevin B. Downs

President's Message:

To FFA members,

I hope that you are all getting back to normal and maybe able to get out and do some spring fishing.

As most of you know we finalized the election for the club. Bruce Bumpus stepped down as Treasurer after many years of service. When you see him around or at a meeting, please thank him for all he has done for the club. Do the same for Kevin Downs for his years as Vice President and past president. I'm still president and look forward to another year. Bill Prodouz became VP and Kevin Cruse stepped up to take Bruce's place as Treasurer. Michael LaRaia now sits in the entertainment seat on the board and has already been hard at work setting up speakers for our meetings. Stan Bazycki who is on the BCL board is officially our FFA BCL rep. Thank all of you for being part of the FFA Board.

The following is the new list of board members for 2021. Thank all of you for your service.

- President – Keith Roberts
- Vice President - Bill Prodouz
- Treasurer – Kevin Cruse
- Secretary and Newsletter - Steve Ferreira
- Website Administrator - Tom Pilitz
- Facebook Administrator - Mitch Buck
- Entertainment Chair - Mike LaRaia
- Merchandise Administrator - Kevin Griffin
- Historian – Open
- Librarian - Charlie Peterson
- Barnstable County League Rep - Stan Bazycki

The May meeting might just be our last ZOOM only meeting. In June we hope to try and get the club back to Bucatino's in North Falmouth. We will be able to have a 25-person capacity in the meeting room with food and drink available from the menu. The June speaker will be remote and members that cannot make it to the restaurant will be able to join in via the ZOOM Platform.

See you on ZOOM,

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

Our April Meeting – Speakers and Presenters

Our first speaker was our Website Administrator, Tom Piltz who discussed a new “Members Only” section of the FFA website. To access this information, you will need to set up and create your own password. Please save a note of your pw as Tom will only be able to delete your access and you will need to recreate a new password in the event you forget it.

Then FFA club members Captain Kevin Downs and Bill Prodouz presented “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”.

MOONS AND TIDES GO TOGETHER

Date	High				Low				Sun	Moon
	AM	n	PM	n	AM	n	PM	n		
1 Mon	12:28	10.5	12:47	11.0	6:55	-1.0	7:21	-1.2	6:17	☉
2 Tue	1:12	10.8	1:35	10.8	7:43	-1.1	8:06	-1.0	6:15	☉
3 Wed	1:56	10.9	2:25	10.4	8:33	-1.1	8:55	-0.7	6:14	☉
4 Thu	2:47	10.8	3:19	9.9	9:27	-0.8	9:47	-0.1	6:12	☉
5 Fri	3:41	10.6	4:19	9.3	10:26	-0.4	10:44	0.4	6:10	☉
6 Sat	4:40	10.2	5:24	8.8	11:28	0.0	11:45	0.8	6:09	☉
7 Sun	5:44	9.9	6:35	8.5			12:34	0.2	6:07	☉
8 Mon	6:52	9.8	7:44	8.5	12:59	1.1	1:42	0.3	6:05	☉
9 Tue	8:00	9.8	8:50	8.7	1:56	1.1	2:48	0.2	6:04	☉
10 Wed	9:03	9.9	9:45	9.0	3:00	1.0	3:46	0.0	6:02	☉
11 Thu	9:57	10.1	10:32	9.3	3:57	0.6	4:35	-0.1	6:00	☉
12 Fri	10:44	10.2	11:14	9.5	4:48	0.4	5:18	-0.2	5:58	☉
13 Sat	11:28	10.2	11:53	9.7	5:31	0.2	5:59	-0.1	5:57	☉
14 Sun			1:08	10.0	7:13	0.0	7:36	0.0	6:55	☉
15 Mon	1:29	9.7	1:47	9.8	7:53	0.1	8:13	0.3	6:52	☉
16 Tue	2:05	9.7	2:24	9.5	8:33	0.7	8:56	0.6	6:50	☉

Bill focused on how the moon effects the tides, during new moons Bill recommends fishing closer to shore. Learn to read tide charts as they are your friends, and this will improve your chances of success.

Kevin spoke about fishing from boats. He fishes rips on the downside current as the fish are waiting to catch bait fish. He will often drift across the rip. He uses live eels or live scup for bait. The Navionics phone app was recommended. KnotAssist 2.0 was recommended to help tie knots in your line.

Fishing rips 2



Thank you, Tom, Bill and Kevin!

FFA In Person Meetings:



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

May Virtual Meeting – Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00 PM

We have two speakers for the upcoming May 4, 2021 meeting. Member Doctor Rich Rubin will talk about Tick and Lyme disease prevention. This is something very important, maybe more this year because of it being somewhat dry this spring. I have already picked 3 ticks off me so far this spring. More than ever in my life. We all have dogs we walk or walk to beaches or through the woods to fish.

The second half of the meeting will feature member Captain Kevin Downs our past president and vice president talking to us regarding Crabbing for Blue crabs or gathering green crabs for bait. He will cover the types of traps that are available with the techniques needed to make all this possible and the local regulations.

Falmouth News:

Coonamessett River Trust - The Herring Will Soon Be Returning!

At barely more than three miles long, the Coonamessett River in southeastern Massachusetts may seem small. But it was once home to one of the largest river herring runs in New England. Since 1700, dams and other barriers have blocked the migration of alewife, blueback herring, and other native fish species. NOAA has collaborated with the Town of Falmouth and other partners since 2006 to reopen the Coonamessett River. Our efforts will allow fish to access the habitat needed to sustain their populations.



River herring in the Coonamessett River

Historically, the Coonamessett River provided habitat for millions of migrating fish. Over time, however, the river was diverted and dammed. Its wetlands were converted into commercial cranberry bogs. These changes resulted in drastic declines in fish populations. By 2015, the annual river herring run had dropped to less than 75,000 fish.

NOAA and many other dedicated partners have been working for years to remove dams and other barriers, restore native wetland habitat, and rebuild the river herring population. NOAA has contributed significantly—through both funding and technical assistance—to this ambitious effort. With funding from our Community-based Restoration Program, partners are:

- Removing dams
- Turning former cranberry bogs back into wetlands
- Removing straightened channels and ditches
- Stabilizing stream banks
- Restoration work in the Coonamessett River is occurring in two project phases:

Phase 1, completed in early 2018, included the removal of Lower Bog dam, installation of a public

access boardwalk, reconstruction of the river channel, and restoration of 17 acres of wetlands.

Phase 2, currently underway, includes the removal of Middle Bog dam and restoration of 39 acres wetlands by removing former commercial cranberry bogs. In addition, the replacement of three failing culverts with a large box culvert will allow migratory fish to access their upstream habitat, including the 158-acre Coonamessett Pond.

Shellfish News from Peter Baranowski, Newcomers Shellfish Leader

Shellfish permits for 2021 begin March 1. Shellfish permits are now available BY MAIL, ONLINE and NO WALKINS AT THE TOWN HALL.

- For shellfish permits go to <https://falmouthstickers.townhall247.com/>
- For open shellfish areas go to <https://www.falmouthma.gov/1098/Open-Shellfishing-Areas>

Oyster season is Oct thru March, so you have only 15 more days in March before it closes until October.

Closing of shellfish areas

As many of you know, there was an article in the news that the Federal govt is planning to enforce laws on shellfishing near boat moorings, which might mean the closure of most shellfish areas in Falmouth. Falmouth Marine and Environmental is working with the state and federal authorities to modify these regulations. No idea when any decisions will be made.

Other Cape Fishing Information

My Fishing Cape Cod - Ryan Collins

It's a sunny and clear day on Cape Cod. Temperatures this afternoon are predicted to hit the high 50's, with a refreshing breeze out of the northwest. It's another great day to get outside and do some fishing.

Based on what I'm hearing, striped bass have already been caught on Cape Cod. These fish are probably local holdovers, but I have heard some rumors about bass with sea lice in Buzzard's Bay.

Recently I've focused my efforts on freshwater fishing. Over the past 10 days I've caught largemouths, rainbows, brook and brown trout using the Baker JLD series of jerk baits from the Goose Hummock.

Casting and trolling from my kayak in 5-15 feet of water right before sunset has been the most productive for trout.

Water temperatures right now in the Sounds and Buzzard's Bay are between 48-49 degrees. Cape Cod bay is registering at 46 degrees. Saltwater action will probably heat up once temps hit 50 degrees.

I haven't heard about anyone catching squid or tautog yet, but that will probably change within the next week. Last year I had productive trips for squid and tog during the first week of May, but I know some anglers were catching them earlier than that.

It definitely won't be long now until the saltwater scene gets going!

I also wanted to say congratulations to MFCC member John Fortin who won the little boat fishing giveaway! 3-year member Leslie Kalinowski also recently won a charter with Falmouth Family Charters.

This week's member-only giveaway is for a brand new Tsunami Forged 8 conventional reel and two handmade haddock rigs. Please visit our member-only forum to enter.

<https://myfishingcapecod.com/>

Barnstable County League Email from Steve Ferreira

Last chance... 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 June 6, 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 May 15.

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

Proposed Fee Increases!

The BCL is working with Mass Conservation Alliance (MCA) to oppose the increase of licensing fees proposed by the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

MassWildlife

MassWildlife will stock approximately 500,000 brook, brown, rainbow, and tiger trout this spring.

- More than 75% of the trout will be over 12 inches
- More than 45% of the trout will be over 14 inches
- More than 48,000 brook trout will be over 12 inches
- More than 48,000 brown trout will be over 12 inches
- More than 200,000 rainbow trout will be over 14 inches
- More than 500 brown trout and 500 brook trout will be over 18 inches

- 1,000 brook trout will be over 14 inches
- All 2,500 tiger trout will be over 14 inches

Local Restoration Projects

The DER Division of Ecological Restoration.

The Division of Ecological Restoration selects wetland and river restoration projects through a state-wide, competitive process. We choose high-priority projects that bring significant ecological and community benefits to the Commonwealth.

DER is currently soliciting applications for projects located in Massachusetts that focus on cranberry bog wetland restoration, dam removal and river restoration, coastal wetland restoration projects, or a combination of these topics.

During the pre-RFR (Request for Responses) process, DER strongly encourages those who are considering applying for Priority Project status to contact us to discuss their project idea. Once the full RFR is published, DER staff will not be able to discuss individual projects.

Contacts

- Alex.Hackman@mass.gov for cranberry bogs and wetlands
- nick.wildman@mass.gov for dam removal and river restoration
- georgeann.keer@mass.gov for coastal wetland restoration projects

Site Description Part of the Coonamessett River Restoration, Phase 1 was completed in 2018 and included approximately 10 acres of riparian wetland corridor restoration, 1,700 linear feet of river restoration, and removal of the first dam from the ocean.

The Childs River Restoration will eliminate several stream barriers and re-naturalize the river's channel and floodplain through the former cranberry bogs to benefit a variety of species including wild Eastern brook trout and American eel owned by the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club. DER is working in partnership with the Falmouth Rod and Gun Club.

South Cape Beach is a 15-acre marsh complex that was restored in 2008 by replacing two undersized culverts with a larger culvert and a bridge. This site has an extremely small normal tide range, but also has frequent high tides which are wind-driven. The new culverts are sized to accommodate these wind-driven events, which are important to the ecology of the marshes.

Barlows Landing Site Description Prior to restoration, a 24-inch culvert under Wings Neck Road partially blocked tidal flows to Pocasset Harbor to the upgradient 8-acre marsh, impeding drainage from the marsh following large storm events. This restriction of tidal flow lowered salinity levels in the marsh, encouraging encroachment of woody vegetation. The project installed two 3 by 5-foot culverts under Wings Neck Road to restore tidal exchange.

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