



## **Plymouth County League of Sportsmen**

**@**

### **Standish Sportsmen's Association**

**April 19, 2023**

At 7:03 pm we began our monthly business meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for all our family and friends who have died, and for service men and women in our armed forces who have died or been injured while protecting our country.

**Opening Statement:** President Johnson welcomed all in attendance, thanked the Standish club for the wonderful meal and their support of the Sporting community. Club President Art Cabral also welcomed all in attendance and thanked the Plymouth County League of Sportsmen for all the work we do representing the sporting community.

**Roll Call:** There were 29 Delegates and 4 Guests representing 14 clubs and organizations in attendance.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bonney gave a complete report of our finances. A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the report.

**Bills to be paid:** No bills were presented for payment

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the March 2023 report as published.

**Communications:** Frank Leonardo Passed away in March. Frank was an avid bow hunter and past president, vice president, and current board of director of Mass. Bow Hunters.

We have 3 new Delegates: Jim Harris and Jared Darling from the Carver Club and Rob Lagrutta from the Plymouth Club. Welcome aboard !

**Special Guest:** There were no special guests present at the meeting

**Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report:** Ross Kessler attended the meeting and gave the following report:

**PUBLIC ACCESS**

- Over the past winter I worked with the Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) on a Beach Management Plan (BMP) for the Edgartown reserve That work with TTOR is done. A BMP will be released sometime this fall. TTOR needs to write it up.
- In the meantime, TTOR has a pending Notice of Intent (NOI). This NOI passed the Edgartown Con Com last week and Orders of Conditions are pending. In the meantime, the beach is open for ORV and foot access.

**SPORT FISH**

The below graphic will likely be the Regs for sea bass and Scup this fishing season. As previously discussed, striped bass will be status quo.

	<b>Fishing Mode</b>	<b>Open season</b>	<b>Possession Limit</b>	<b>Minimum Size</b>
<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	Shore, private vessel & for-hire vessel	May 20- September 7	4 Fish	16.5"
-----				
	Shore	May 1`-December 31	30 Fish	9.5"
<b>Scup</b>	Private vessel	May1-December 31 (150 fish/ vessel maximum)	30 fish	10.5"
	For-hire vessel	May1- June 30	40 Fish	10.5"
		July1-December 31	30 fish	10.5

Striped Bass- The division manages a number of projects that encourage volunteer participation. These are grass roots projects that help DMF manage our fisheries. Our longstanding Sportfish Angler Data Collection Team or SADCT has anglers collect length data and fish scales for our age and growth lab. Please follow this link to learn more about SADCT: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/sportfish-angler-data-collection-team>

Another project that anglers can aid us in data collection is the DMF Citizen scientist for striped bass conservation. Please click on the below link to participate in those studies. <https://www.mass.gov/forms/become-a-dmf-citizen-scientist-for-striped-bass-conservation>

Lobster - Currently DMF is working with ASMFC on Amendment 27 (links below) <http://www.asmfc.org/>

[chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/640a2ce0AmLobsterDraftAddendumXXVII\\_PublicComment\\_Revised.pdf](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/http://www.asmfc.org/uploads/file/640a2ce0AmLobsterDraftAddendumXXVII_PublicComment_Revised.pdf)

This is a very involved process with many options. If any member has a specific question, please direct it to [ross.kessler@mass.gov](mailto:ross.kessler@mass.gov) and it will be addressed.

Other activities in the invertebrate program include:

- The Vent less survey will continue this summer.
- A pilot suction sampling for young of the year lobsters will take place this May in Cape Cod Bay. Suction sampling in this zone was discontinued as there is a large presence of white sharks there at the historic time of year when sampling took place. Suction sampling is done with SCUBA.
- Commercial sea sampling or the ‘Fisheries Dependent Survey’ will recommence this summer in all regions.
- DMF will continue to monitor dissolved oxygen (DO) in Cape Cod Bay in areas effected by low DO in prior years.
- Temperature monitors will once again be replaced throughout the waters of the Commonwealth.
- There are volunteer opportunities doing horseshoe crab surveys on many south coast and cape beaches starting in May and ending at the end of June. These surveys take place on and around new and full moons. This is a great opportunity for youth considering a career in marine biology. It also appeals to many who just like to be involved in the natural cycles we live around. Contact [derek.perry@mass.gov](mailto:derek.perry@mass.gov) for more information or to volunteer.

Androgynous- All runs currently have herring. Return numbers will be calculated in the coming months.

The Stump Brook, part of the Taunton R. watershed, fish way is scheduled to be installed this August.

Below is a representation of how many fish ways projects the Diadronous project has completed and how many acres of spawning habitat have been returned to androgynous fish populations through them.

	Projects	Projects comp. Since 2010	Acres
Buzzards Bay & Taunton River	126	25	6,166
Cape Cod	154	38	2,298
South Shore	80	25	1,840
Boston Harbor & North Shore	129	29	1,061
Total	489	117	11,365

Please note: Ross has been in his position for 13 years and has stated that he will continue to submit reports on a quarterly basis. THANK YOU Ross.

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report:** Jason Zimmer was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the following report:

#### SEWD April 2023 Report

- Trout stocking continues without any issues. We expect to finish up our Spring stocking the first week of May.
- Two prescribed fires were completed the week of April 16<sup>th</sup> in the western woodland units at Frances A Crane WMA.
- Herring have begun to show at Red Brook and our fisheries biologist has been completing routine visits to the herring ladder at White Island Pond and monitoring the entire stretch of Red Brook through the WMA and making adjustments as needed to facilitate fish passage.
- Numerous visits have been made to Bird and Ram Island to complete habitat work and prep the islands for the return of nesting terns and other waterbirds. Further, experimental common eider nesting shelters have been built by SE District staff and deployed on both islands.
- An eider nesting survey, in cooperation with the Buzzards Bay Coalition is planned for May on Cuttyhunk and Penikese Islands.
- Annual breeding surveys for woodcock, ruffed grouse and waterfowl will be completed in the next few weeks (some have already been completed). A common night jar survey will also be completed.
- Spring turkey season is upon us! Mass Wildlife again hosted the youth turkey hunt at Camp Edwards with a total of 8 youth hunters participating and harvesting a total of 7 birds. The regular controlled spring turkey hunt on Camp Edwards will be held May 1-6. We will also be hosting the first ever Fall turkey hunt at Camp Edwards in October!
- Beaver issues continue to arise throughout the District. Staff are working with Towns and residents to inform them of the applicable laws and regulations and options for remedying beaver issues.
- The annual Soaring Eagle count was completed and we monitored a total of 19 nesting locations documenting confirmed incubation and/or nest building at 16 sites.
- Mass Wildlife is hosting a series of WMA Cleanup events throughout the State. In the Southeast we will be hosting a cleanup at the SE MA Bioreserve on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please see the following link for more information and spread the word to your membership: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlifes-spring-wma-cleanups>
- See here for MassWildlife April newsletter: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlife-monthly-april-2023>
- See here for MassWildlife Calendar of Events: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/masswildlife-calendar>

**Seven Person Board Report:** No formal Report was given. The May meeting will be held at Braintree Rod and Gun Club. Leash law signage on MWMA's, and Hunter Ed review are among topics to be discussed.

**Legislative Report:** No report was given

**Massachusetts Conservation Alliance:** MCA is holding a fundraising raffle. Please contact President Johnson for tickets or check their web site.

**Old Business:** The Audit committee will meet after this meeting to review the financial records for the past year.

**New Business:** Time for our annual Elections. The nominating committee members are: Art Cabral, Ed Birch, Ernie foster, Jim Augenti, and Jim Smith. All positions are open, If any one is interested in running please contact one of the committee members. Now is the time for new people to step up and bring new, fresh ideas to PCLS.

President Johnson read a draft letter in favor of the proposed Water Fowl regulations for this year. A motion was made, seconded and passed to send the letter as written.

The Beaver Brook Club is looking for a group to take over the club and grounds and revive the club.

A discussion was held on efforts to restore American Chest nut tree groves.

**Annual Banquet:** By now the banquet is in the history books. It was well attended, the caterer did a great job, there were many raffle prizes won and everyone appeared to have an enjoyable evening. More details in next Months report.

**Good of the Order:** The Hunt Stock podcast is being planned again this year for August in Westminster, Ma. More details will be available soon.

“South Shore Outdoor Expo” will be held September 16, 2023 at the Marshfield Fair Grounds. Adults \$15.00, kids 15 and under are free. This event will be similar to the “Big Moe” event that used to take place. The purpose will be to promote the great outdoors. More details will be coming in the near future.

**Adjournment:** The meeting came to a close at 8:20 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled at Upland Sportsmen Club, 76 Upland Rd. Plympton, Ma. On May 17, 2023. Camaraderie at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

PCLS respectfully asks if any Delegate or guest is experiencing any symptoms of covid, that they please refrain from attending the meeting.

PCLS Secretary

*Ed Birch*

