



**Plymouth County League of Sportsmen**  
**@**  
**Old Colony Sportsmen's Association**  
**March 17,2021**

**Opening Statement:** The March meeting that was scheduled at Old Colony Sportsmen's Association was canceled due to Covid -19 Corona Virus

**Roll Call:** No roll call

**Treasurer's Report:** No report

**Bills to be paid:** No report

**Secretary's Report:** No report

**Communications:** Received February meeting minutes report from Barnstable County League.

**Special Guest:** No special guests

**Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report:** Report E-mailed by Ross Kessler. Please view attachment at end of this report

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report:** Report E-mailed by Jason Zimmer. Please view attachment at end of this report

**Seven Person Board Report:** No report

**Legislative Report:** Keep a watch on any Bills already filed or any new Bills being filed. A list of Bills filed as of 2/1/2021 was provided in the January minutes report.

If anybody hears of any new bills filed that would affect Sportsmen and Sportswomen, Please notify President Johnson.

**Massachusetts Conservation Alliance:** The M.C.A. is discussing hiring a Legislative agent to represent Sportsmen and our issues at the state House. The PCLS Executive Board held a tele conference on March 24, 2021 to discuss the issue. President Johnson outlined details that were followed by a lengthy discussion. details will be discussed at the PCLS April meeting.

**Old Business:** No old business

**New Business:** President Johnson sent an E mail to all delegates with A Proposed Fee Schedule being considered by Mass. Wildlife. They are proposing large increases in licenses, Stamps, Hunting Permits, and Trapping licenses, permits, and registration numbers. Please review this information and provide feedback to Mass. Wildlife.

The town of Wareham's zoning change to create a Hospitality district that would negatively impact the Red Brook area and Lyman Preserve area is now to be decided by town residents at a special town meeting being held April 10, 2021. PCLS is strongly urging all Wareham residents to attend and vote NO to the re-zoning

**Annual Banquet:** Our annual banquet that was scheduled on April 24, 2021 at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson, Mass. Has been canceled.

We have booked Camp Kiwanee for April 23, 2022 to hold our Banquet. More details will be provided in the coming Months.

**Good of the Order:** Congratulations to Caleb Clemons for winning this years Junior Duck Stamp competition. After placing runner up last year he took top honors this year with his drawing of 2 Black Ducks. Caleb is the son of Cedar Gun delegate Joel Clemons.

**Our Monthly meetings will resume starting in April.**

**Adjournment:** Our next Meeting will be held at Standish Sportsmen's Association, 1 Burr Ln. East Bridgewater, Mass. On April 21, 2021. Comradely at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

We respectfully request that each club send only 2 Delegates, and preferably Delegates who have received their Covid vaccination. Face masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced.

In order to plan for dinner and set up of tables, please RSVP to Secretary Birch at 508-254-2889 **ASAP** with club name and number of Delegates who will be attending

PCLS Secretary

*Ed Birch*

## PUBLIC ACCESS

- **Salem Willows:** DMF hired GZA as the engineer to perform engineering, permitting, and design work to rebuild this iconic pier. The old pier was over 100 years old and is no longer considered safe.
- **Small Grant:** 2020 grants have been awarded.
  - The Buzzards Bay Coalition received a grant in order to rebuild a pier on Wickets Island in Wareham (Onset).
  - Beverly received a grant to continue routing maintenance and install bait cutting stations at the fishing accessible pier next to the harbormaster's office.
  - Danvers also received a grant. Danvers, gets the award for most creative! They are going to hire a surveyor to survey, mark, and provide signage to public ways to water. As many of you are aware, public ways to water have been obscured by plantings and other barriers that dissuade people from recognizing and using them.

**Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)** – MRIP is gearing up for another year. We are having a meeting this Friday, Feb 26 to provide a review of last year and forecast for this season.

## Fishing Programs-

- **Resource Assessment** – Steps are being taken to have Recourse Assessment this Spring. There are still a lot of unknowns.

## Anadromous-

- 1.) Mattapoissett R., Route 6 replace fish ladder baffles
- 2.) Back River fish ladder baffles.
- 3.) Forge Pond Dam, replace floor/wall seam.
- 4.) Fore River stream maintenance.
- 5.) Various cameras, egg trays (for smelt), fish counters, Diadromous fish surveys, other maintenance.

**Lobster-** The lobster fishery and other fixed gear fisheries remain open but faces litigation. The northeast right whale population has faced 40 deaths in the past three years. Additionally, calving rates have fallen. The lobster fishery is currently classified as a Cat 1 fishery meaning it poses the most risk to whales on a scale of 1-3. Currently Massachusetts is establishing rules to keep the fishery open, viable, and whale safe.

Any entanglement is categorized as a take. DMF is attempting to acquire an Incidental Take Permit to keep the fishery open. This is a 2-4 year process. Steps DMF has undertaken for the commercial sector include:

- Commercial Sector
  - Allowing a maximum of 3/8" rope
  - Making sleeve breakaways mandatory on all lines every 60'
  - Closing all State waters between Feb 1 and May 15. Also extending closure areas if 3 whales are present.
- Recreational Sector:
  - A closed season Halloween- May 15, excluding SCUBA

- 5/16 largest diameter lines
  
- **Other Regulatory-**
  - **Advisories**
    - **DMF is seeking input on season and dates for black sea bass**
    - **The Mass Shellfish Initiative is ongoing.** The six objective categories are:
      - (1) building public and stakeholder capacity to support shellfish resources and shellfish fisheries.
      - (2) development of management, research, and industry resources;
      - (3) supporting and promoting the cultural and historical uses of shellfish;
      - (4) supporting and promoting balanced and sustainable economic opportunities around shellfish;
      - (5) ensuring ecologically sound management and enhancement of shellfish resources and coastal ecosystems; and
      - (6) fostering communication and coordination between local, state, and federal managers and developing improved guidance for such communication.
  - **Public Notices**
    - **Recreational Fishing Rules Affecting Circle Hooks and Stiped bass.** As I understand it most bait fishing for striped bass must be done with a circle hook. Exceptions include tube and worm, and pork rinds. Proper circle hook definitions can be found on our website and in our sportfish guide.
    - **States Schedule Public Hearings on Atlantic Striped Bass Draft Amendment 7 Public Information Document –**
      - This represents the first major overhaul in striped bass management in 18 years, in short this is a big one.
      - The purpose of the PID is to solicit stakeholder input on prioritizing the importance of each topic for continued development and potential inclusion in the Draft Amendment. The PID considers the following management topics: (1) fishery goals and objectives; (2) biological reference points; (3) management triggers; (4) stock rebuilding targets and schedule; (5) regional management; (6) management program equivalency (conservation equivalency); (7) recreational release mortality; (8) recreational accountability; (9) coastal commercial quota allocation; and (10) other issues raised in public comments.

## **MassWildlife Southeast District Report – February 2021**

- Erected bat boxes on several WMAs including the Old Sandwich Game Farm WMA, Red Brook WMA, Frances A. Crane WMA, Burrage Pond WMA, Erwin Wilder WMA, Mill Brook Bogs WMA and Hartley Reservoir WMA.
- Responded to nuisance wild turkeys in Mansfield, New Bedford and Attleboro.
- Assisted with review and public outreach associated with agency finances and proposed license increases. For more information on the proposed license increases go to <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/masswildlife-funding>
  - There are three additional Zoom listening sessions planned for 630PM on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
- Continued to address problem beavers at the Burrage Pond WMA.
- Scouted and completed trapping and/or rocket netting to band mallard and American Black ducks. Steve Wright and Jeff Breton in our office worker together to design and fabricate a new duck trap that successfully captured hundreds of ducks. We also put out three solar/satellite radio transmitters on black ducks as part of the first/pilot year of a study being coordinated by the USFWS.
- Mowed and maintained fire breaks at Noquochoke WMA and Frances A Crane WMA and mowed or reclaimed fields at both properties as well.
- Completed a summary of Camp Edwards controlled hunting programs, attended the hunt AAR and established dates for all 2021 controlled hunting seasons on the base.
  - 2021 Dates
    - Youth Turkey Apr 24
    - Spring Turkey May 3-7
    - Youth Deer Oct 2
    - Paraplegic Deer Oct 28-30
    - Archery Deer Scouting Nov 8-9
    - Archery Deer Nov 11-13
    - Military Deer Dec 4
    - Shotgun Deer Dec 6-11
    - Primitive Firearms Deer Dec 16-17
- Provided technical advice and support to help address an aggressive coyote situation in Cohasset working with the Town Police, MA Environmental Police, a group of concerned residents and a licensed Problem Animal Control Agent certified to deal with coyotes.
- Continued working with staff and OLE to address ongoing issue with off leash dogs at several WMAs including Frances A. Crane WMA and the Old Sandwich Game Farm WMA in particular.
- Continued working on an issue involving MA DOT and the Canoe River WMA.
- Continued District support and involvement in agency relevancy and R3 programs.
- Completed a prescribed fire on the Manuel Correllus State Forest working cooperatively with MA DCR.
- Gave a presentation on bobcats as part of the Harwich Conservation Trust winter lecture series.
- Continued working on agency signage and kiosk map project, completing map reviews and associated narratives according to established schedules and protocols.
- Worked collaboratively with Liz Newlands and other agency stewardship staff to address issues relative to trails, dirt bike usage and hunter access in the SE MA Bioserve.
- Issued numerous special winter gamebird hunt permits and reissued annual dog training permits on multiple WMAs.

- Conducted routine wetland restoration and maintenance activities at the Burrage Pond WMA including mowing, tree cutting and water level management.
- Maintained and monitored PIT antennae on multiple wild brook trout streams as part of an ongoing research project.
- Monitored and drafted a comment letter relative to a zoning change in the Town of Wareham that threatens our Red Brook WMA and the natural resources and water quality the property was purchased to protect.
- Monitored and maintained the White Island Pond dam and herring run on our Red Brook WMA.
- Participated in all meetings and provided support and technical assistance to the Childs River Restoration Project.
- Monitored and maintained our series of stream temperature and water level monitors and analyzed data.
- Continued addressing a significant encroachment (tree cutting) on our Burrage Pond WMA and prepared bid sheets for a formal survey to be completed.
- Prepped backers and installed dozens of WMA welcome signs.
- Monitored and maintained wood duck nesting boxes.
- Monitored all known or suspected American bald eagle nesting sites to establish timelines for possible banding efforts.
- Continued efforts on the Hyannis Ponds WMA habitat restoration project including mapping of fire breaks, several site visits and meetings with Town officials and beginning permitting.
- Field mowing/maintenance was started at the Erwin Wilder WMA.
- Repaired a gate at the Frances A. Crane WMA south section main parking lot on Hayway Road.
- Participated and provided technical advice to assist in developing our wild trout management plan.
- Continued to monitor ongoing habitat project at the south end of Myles Standish State Forest, SE Pine Barrens WMA, Maple Springs WMA and Camp Cachalot WCE.
- 2020 Deer harvest second highest on record. Record bear harvest at 325. Record turkey harvest at 3310.
- Began planning and preparing for Spring trout stocking, which is expected to begin the week of March 8<sup>th</sup>