



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

@

Hanson Rod and Gun Club

November 16, 2022

At 7:02 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 Hanson club for the wonderful meal and their support of the Sporting community. Club Delegate George Gorgizian 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 25 Delegates and 0 Guests representing 12 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: Gun Owners of America asked for our annual donation now instead of in January. A motion was made, seconded and passed to send donation now.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made seconded and passed to accept the September 2022 and October 2022 reports as published.

Communications: Received minutes report from Barnstable County October meeting.

Standish Club Delegate John Fabroski is hospitalized with a respiratory infection.

Received a thank you letter from New England Outdoor Writers Association for our contribution to their scholarship fund in memory of Randy Julius.

Mass. EPO Captain Robert Forsythe has been named the new Captain of the Southeast and Islands area. Major Clayton has been promoted to the Inland Fish and Game Director.

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

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report: Ross Kessler attended the meeting and gave a complete report as well as answered questions from Delegates. See Ross's report attached to end of this report.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmer was unable to attend the meeting. No report was given.

Seven Person Board Report: Ernie Foster was appointed the new Secretary of the Board. CONGRATULATIONS to Ernie we wish him much success.

The Wildlife Compact law is going into effect on November 12, 2022.

A super event, similar to Hunt Stock that was held in Westminster this summer, is being planed at the Marshfield Fair Grounds. More details will become available in the coming months.

Legislative Report: President Johnson asked Ernie Foster to represent the PCLS on a tel-conference with Senator Ann Golbi and Representative Dave Viera on November 16, 2022. The purpose is to discuss how sportsmen can advance our agenda.

Massachusetts Conservation Alliance: Received a response from Bay State Strategies in regards to Presidents Johnson's request for a summary of lobbying efforts. There were many questions answered and information was provided on what wasn't done, how to advance our agenda, how we a perceived in the legislature, how different legislators felt about the three issues we were asking for, ETC... A major problem was that Sportsmen did not step up enough, with calls, e-mails, and letters to there legislators.

Old Business: No report from the audit committee.

New Business: A revised host club schedule was distributed to all in attendance.

There was a brief discussion about having our meetings on zoom as well as in person.

A new program " Hunters for the Hungry" has been launched.

Annual Banquet: Our next annual Banquet is scheduled for April 22, 2023 at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson Mass. Grand Raffle prizes will be the same as last year. VP. Smith has already been busy gathering prizes for raffles. Jim is going to need lots of help selling tickets and organizing the auction and raffle prizes. Please consider stepping up and helping Jim.

Good of the Order: Boxboro Sportsmen Show: January 27-29, 2023. Big E Sportsmen Show in West Springfield, Mass: February 24-26, 2023.

Adjournment: The meeting came to a close at 8:00 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled at Plymouth Rod and Gun Club, 225 South Meadow Rd. Plymouth Ma. On December 21, 2022. Camaraderie at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

At the present time there is no state mandate requiring the wearing of masks or social distancing at indoor meetings or events. It is up to each individual to do whatever they are comfortable with. 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

Public Access:

- Salem Willows Park Pier – Should be going to construction next fall
- Small Grant- Currently closed awards will be announced in the next couple of months
- Ross is the DMF liaison to the TTOR's Beach Management Plan on Martha's Vineyard

Sportfish

- Bass tagging has completed, 400+ fish were tagged in ten trips
- MRIP shows fishing pressure is about the same as last year.
- Gulf of Maine Cod For GOM cod, the open seasons will occur from September 1 – October 7 and April 1 – April 14 with a 1-fish bag limit and 22-inch minimum size. This extends the open season during the fall by three weeks and increases the minimum size by 1-inch.

GOM haddock, the open season will occur from April 1 – February 28 with a 20-fish bag limit and 17-inch minimum size. This increases the bag limit by 5-fish per angler while maintaining the existing open season and size limit.

- Sharks – over 30 new tags out this year, research continues.
- ASMFC
 - Striped bass status quo, still overfished but overfishing isn't occurring
 - Bluefish status quo
 - Black Seabass 10% reduction, likely days
 - Tautog Make regs consistent with RI, 16" min only one fish >21"
 - Fluke 10% liberalization in rec catch, Regs TBD
 - Scup Status quo
 - Weakfish Status quo

ASMFC is seeking to streamline homogenize management decisions based on stock size and fishing pressure See attachment A at the end of this report.

Shellfish

- Dilution rates are being assessed in the N and S River watersheds by Dr. Chen at SMAST. Once that area is complete the proposed MMA combined sewer outfall (Bourne, Wareham, Marion) models will be run.

- Chrissy Pettipas presented at Plymouth's Blue Future Conference. This conference is working to keep shellfish aquaculture and the marine economy vital. Many of you or your kids who are interested in a sustainable and profitable career in the marine environment should explore the opportunities that these industries provide.

- <https://www.plymouth-ma.biz/conference/>

Diadromous

Harwich, Black Pond abutting the Brewster line will be getting a new fish ladder.

- Red Brook, Bourne, DMF improved fish passage to Red Brook. Noticed that a culvert was impeding passage. DMF is currently working with DOT to rectify.
- Other Diadromous projects include one in Gloucester and East Bridgewater.

From Barnstable Co. Mike Veloza asked about recreational crab and Lobster regulations. Yes, both rec crab and lobster taken by trap gear closed Nov 1. There are several exceptions for blue crab vs other edible crabs, so my best advice is to read the rules. If you still have question reach out to me at ross.kessler@mass.gov. See all Recreational Regulations here:

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/recreational-saltwater-fishing-regulations>

From Plym. Co. Paul Johnson posed a question to Jason Zimmer re Burrage and Cc'e me I reached out to Brad Chase, Diadromous, MDMF. See the email exchange below:

Paul to Jason (CC Ross)

Jason,

In your July Southeast District report you had a bullet point stating MDFW is working with the Army Corps on Burrage pond wetlands restoration. My question is Can we use these resources to remove remaining obstacles to herring getting all the way up to Burrage. I believe there were remaining obstacles that need to be removed or changed to have access for the fish. We don't want this to be forgotten.
Paul J

Ross to brad

Brad,

This below email was from Paul Johnson (Plymouth County League) to Jason Zimmer. Please remind me if this the watershed that you worked on a dam removal with the Plymouth County, Standish Club (maybe John Fabroski) on.

Thanks,

Ross

Brad to Ross

Ross – we have a contract with GZA now to design and permit a fishway at Stump Brook Bog Reservoir Dam. I got a 25K grant for this. The permit application was submitted and the first hearing was continued to Dec. 12th. Once permitted, we will build the ladder in our shop and install it next summer. Right now, with the new fishway, fish would continue past Burrage and run up Stump Brook to the

Monponsett Ponds. Passage into Burrage is limited now and I have questions on the habitat. It could become a future target. For now, the target is Monponsett.

Thanks, Brad

Brad Chase
Diadromous Fish Project Leader
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
brad.chase@mass.gov

Recreational Harvest Control Rule Framework/Addenda – Percent Change Approach:
 Process for determining the appropriate percent change in harvest

Future RHL vs Harvest Estimate	Stock biomass compared to the target stock size (B/B_{MSY})	Change in Harvest
Future 2-year average RHL is greater than the upper bound of the harvest estimate confidence interval (harvest is expected to be lower than the RHL)	Very high (at least 150% of the target stock size)	Liberalization percent based on the difference between the harvest estimate and the 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 40%</u>
	High (between the target and 150% of the target stock size)	Liberalization percent based on the difference between the harvest estimate and the 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 20%</u>
	Low (below the target stock size)	Liberalization: 10%
Future 2-year average RHL is within the confidence interval of the harvest estimate (harvest is expected to be close to the RHL)	Very high (at least 150% of the target stock size)	Liberalization: 10%
	High (between the target and 150% of the target stock size)	No change: 0%
	Low (below the target stock size)	Reduction: 10%
Future 2-year average RHL is less than the lower bound of the harvest estimate confidence interval (harvest is expected to exceed the RHL)	Very high (at least 150% of the target stock size)	Reduction: 10%
	High (between the target and 150% of the target stock size)	Reduction percent based on the difference between the harvest estimate and the 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 20%</u>
	Low (below the target stock size)	Reduction percent based on the difference between the harvest estimate and the 2-year average RHL, <u>not to exceed 40%</u>

The table above has been updated to reflect the options selected by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission on June 7, 2022. For additional information about this action, please see <https://www.mafmc.org/actions/hcr-framework-addenda>.

Key Terms:

- **Biomass (B):** The size of a stock of fish measured in weight. For summer flounders, scup, black sea bass, and bluefish, the biomass levels and biomass targets used in management are based on spawning stock biomass.
- **Biomass target (B_{MSY}):** The stock size associated with maximum sustainable yield (MSY), as defined by a stock assessment. B_{MSY} is the largest average catch that can be taken from a stock over time under existing environmental conditions without negatively impacting the reproductive capacity of the stock.
- **Confidence Interval:** the upper and lower bound around a point estimate to indicate the range of possible values given the uncertainties around the estimate.
- **Recreational Harvest Limit (RHL):** The total allowable annual recreational fishery harvest, set based on information from the stock assessment, considerations about scientific and management uncertainty, allocations between the commercial and recreational sectors, and assumptions about dead discards.

Ross K. Kessler

Public Access Coordinator
 Division of Marine Fisheries

ross.kessler@mass.gov

