



## **Plymouth County League of Sportsmen**

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## **Wankinquoah Rod and Gun Club**

**October 20, 2021**

At 7:04 pm we began our monthly business meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence in memory of long time Standish Club Delegate Al Fruzzetti, 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 kitchen crew for a wonderful meal and thanked the Wankinquoah club for there support of the Sporting community. Club President, Ron Enos, 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 22 Delegates and 1 Guests representing 11 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:** There were no bills presented for payment

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the September, 2021report as published.

A reminder that each club needs to fill out a Status report each year. Please see me at a Meeting or call me at 508-254-2889. It is vital that we have correct names, phone numbers, and E-mail addresses for club Presidents, Secretaries, and Delegates.

**Communications:** Albert Fruzzetti passed away September 30, 2021 at the age of 89. Al was a long time Delegate from the Standish club as well as an active member of the Satucket Sportsman's Association. He was also a competitive pistol shooter. Donations in Al's name can be made to the Fisher House which benefits military families at [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org).

President Johnson sent a letter of support for the Bio Reserve issue.

**Special Guest:** We have 2 new Delegates from the Sagamore Club. Please extend a warm welcome to Lou Wilson and Peter Hathaway.

**Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report:** Ross Kessler attended the meeting a gave a report as well as answered questions from the Delegates. I have attached a copy of the report to the end of this report.

**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report:** Jason Zimmer was unable to attend the meeting, but forwarded me a report which I have attached to this report following the report from Ross.

**Seven Person Board Report:** No report

**Legislative Report:** No report

**Massachusetts Conservation Alliance:** The MCA is working with the lobbyist to come up with a list of 5 bills that we support and 5 bills that we oppose.

Sent a draft letter to DFW in support of S-2507

**Old Business:** The Audit Committee concluded their review of the finances. There is a small surplus of funds which could not be explained. The Audit committee feels that is most likely a mistake made by the bank. There was a question asked about hiring an outside Audit firm in the future. After discussion it was decided that it is not necessary.

The 2021/2022 Host Club schedule is the same as last year

**New Business:** there was a discussion concerning the use of dogs to track blood trails of wounded Deer. All Delegates are asked to discuss this topic with their clubs and bring feedback to the PCLS.

A motion was made, seconded and passed for PCLS to purchase a square in the gun Raffle to be held at Marlborough Sportsmen club in support of the MCA lobbying effort.

**Annual Banquet:** Our annual banquet will be held on April 24, 2022 at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson, Mass. Vice President Jim Smith is interviewing new caterers. Jim will provide a report at the next meeting. Due to the rising cost of food and services, there will be an increase in ticket price. Jim is working hard to keep the increase minimal. Any caterer chosen and ticket prices will be brought up for vote to the Delegates at a future meeting.

**Good of the Order:**

The fundraiser to support Mass Conservation Alliance Lobbying effort has been rescheduled at Marlborough Sportsmen's club on January 29, 2022.

The Standish Sportsmen Show will return in 2022. the dates of show are February 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Standish club 1 Burr Ln. East Bridgewater, Mass.

Trout Unlimited is hosting a Fundraiser on May 10, 2022. More details will be provided at a future meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting came to a close at 8:31 pm. Our next meeting is scheduled at Hanson Rod and Gun Club, 1 Davis Rd. Hanson, Ma. On November 17, 2021. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm.

PCLS Secretary

*Ed Birch*

**Public Access:**

- Deer Island is complete
- Salem Willows Park Pier is in the permitting, planning, and engineering phase and is being fast tracked. Should begin construction in the summer of 2022
- Looking forward we are looking at Somerset Ma, Fall R. , Dighton as this area has been mostly overlooked.
- Small Grant is now closed. The Division will be evaluating the applicants in the coming weeks. Last year we funded a project in Beverly (planking on a fish pier), Chilmark (lights on a pier), and Danvers (funded surveying and signing public ways to water).
- BBC pushed a project in Onset on to this FY. Rebuilding a stone pier in Onset Bay.
- DMF will resume attending shows this winter assuming things remain as they are.

**Current Commercial Landings:**

FYI commercial striped bass season closed October 1.

QUOTA MANAGED SPECIES 2021 Landings and Quota Information as of Oct 20, 2021 - 09:49 A.M.					
Species	Current Status	2021 MA Landings	2021 Quota	Quota Type	Percent Landed
<a href="#">Black Sea Bass</a>	OPEN	646,604	791,700	MA	81.7%
<a href="#">Bluefish</a>	OPEN	219,757	235,904	MA	93.2%
<a href="#">Dogfish</a>	OPEN	3,286,156	17,144,556	CW	<a href="#">to NMFS</a>
<a href="#">Fluke</a>	OPEN	604,932	1,025,159	MA	59.0%
<a href="#">Horseshoe Crab*</a>	OPEN	146,119	165,000	MA	88.6%
<a href="#">Menhaden (Quota I)</a>	CLOSED	5,479,487	5,479,487	MA	100.0%
<a href="#">Menhaden (EESA)</a>	CLOSED	1,962,248	TBA	CW	<a href="#">contact DMF</a>
<a href="#">Menhaden (Quota II)</a>	CLOSED	2,302,187	2,435,326	MA	94.5%
<a href="#">Scup (Winter I)</a>	CLOSED	179,684	9,240,000	CW	<a href="#">to NMFS</a>
<a href="#">Scup (Summer)</a>	CLOSED	530,624	1,723,757	MA	30.8%
<a href="#">Scup (Winter II)</a>	OPEN	72,576	6,683,454	CW	<a href="#">to NMFS</a>
<a href="#">Striped Bass</a>	CLOSED	728,984	735,240	MA	99.1%
<a href="#">Tautog</a>	OPEN	46,001	64,753	MA	71.0%

MA = Massachusetts-specific quota

CW = Coast-wide quota shared between MA and other Atlantic states prompt

\*Horseshoe Crab quota and landings reported as count of individual crabs harvested for non-biomedical purposes.

**Diadromous-**

Slower than average season for Fishway Crew jobs on the Cape.

--Fishway Crew completed a job in September at Tom Matthews Pond on the bay side in Yarmouth.

Rebuilt fishway entrance box

--Much lower herring run counts on Cape in 2021 than 2020. Large reduction in most runs in MA that may be related to earlier summer droughts.

Herring River, Harwich, went from 880 to about 450K. Still 2<sup>nd</sup> largest run in MA in 2021.

--DMF has started an update of our fish passage survey last conducted in 2000/2001. We are out on the Cape now recording existing conditions with recommendations on improvements. Only the 4th such survey done by the state in over 100 years.

**Rec Fish**

**Bass Tagging,** We resumed striped bass tagging this fall. The division completed ten trips and tagged

463 striped bass.

**MRIP** will continue through November.

### **Sharks**

Tagged 30 so far this year, mostly acoustic tags but also 7 acceleration data logging camera tags.

Testing blimp-mounted camera system all summer/fall at Nauset Beach to observe white shark and seal behavior. Continued testing real-time receivers that notify lifeguards of the presence of tagged white sharks at 5 Outer Cape beaches.

### **Re Lobster Lawsuit with Max Strahan**

Waiting for the judge's decision. No idea when decision will be handed down. We thought it would be last month.

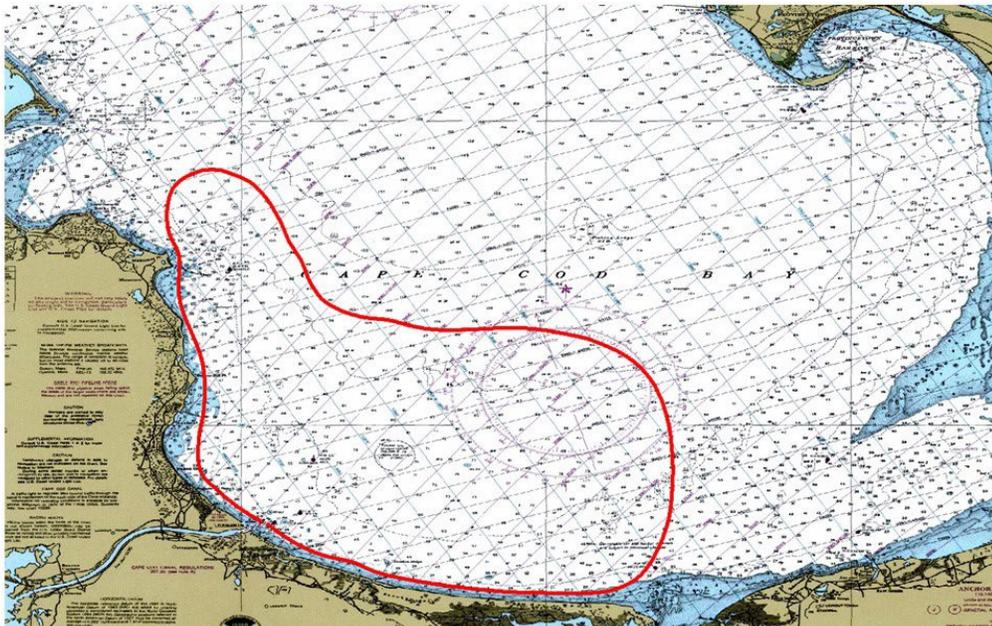
### **Cape Cod Bay update, from Tracy Pugh, Lobster biologist:**

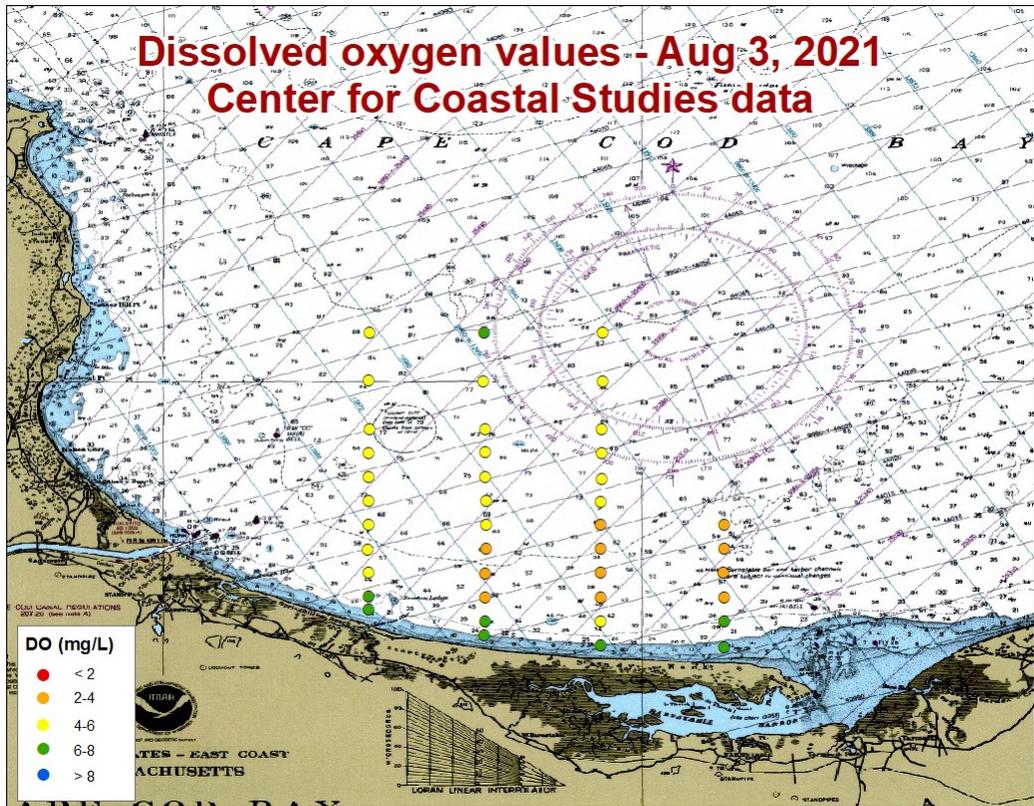
Low dissolved oxygen conditions developed relatively early this year, for about 2 weeks in mid-August until the storm, Henri on Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> mixed the water column and improved conditions. While lower than normal for that time of year, conditions did not deteriorate to below 2 mg/L (which is where we worry about mortality) according to the study fleet loggers and Center for Coastal Studies surveys. This early decline seemed to be more to the east than we've seen previously.

Conditions appeared to be declining again post storm, with some study fleet data loggers off of Sandwich showing levels below 4 mg/L at the end of September. This is the time period when we've seen hypoxic conditions develop over the past 2 years. Since September some samples have been taken with low but not alarming levels mostly 5s with a couple of 4s. Many samples are taken with instruments placed on lobster gear. The fleet has not been in the area as catch is low there currently. Maybe related, maybe not. Regardless, DMF is not getting enough samples to get a better picture of the current state of the area.

For reference: values less than 4.0 mg/L are considered mildly hypoxic, and values less than 2.0 mg/L are severely hypoxic.

See end of this report for a graphical representation of the areas with low DO.





### Notes and questions from last night's meeting

**Notes re sewer outfall in Bourne from my email with R Amidon:** Note current outfall is 70,000 gal/day not 40,000 or 400,000 that I mentioned.

I was at the Barnstable County League meeting last evening and it was a topic of conversation there. They were circulating a petition opposing it. This morning I called John Mendez the local area biologist in the shellfish dept and he gave me a brief explanation but directed me to Greg Sawyer who deals with waste water treatment issues. The long and the short of it is that the project is on their radar. It sounds like this will be a combined treated sewage outfall for Marion to the tune of 750K gal/day and Wareham 1.1-1.2 million gallons/day. According to what was discussed last evening the release is currently 70,000 gal/day from Bourne. The outflow sounds like it's at or near the Maritime Academy but the RR was mentioned as well so it could be closer to the RR bridge. Greg does not feel that completion of this project is close. On a side note Marion had some trouble with their WWTP guy, Ray Pickles, embezzling about \$450K and then dying shortly after being charged. Yup, the wild west is still alive and kicking in the east...

### One item I meant to discuss:

Last month I cut my hand on a fish's mouth and wound up with a BAD infection. I caught it kind of early but not early enough to escape two weeks of Doxycycline and a lot of pain. The wound is still healing, and it started as a very minor scrape. The doc mentioned that saltwater fish have worse bacteria than fresh water fish. My advice is to clean a wound derived from a fish immediately. If its bleeding give it a squeeze to flush out what you can. A friend of mine who had similar now keeps hand sanitizer with alcohol on his boat and washes fish cuts with that. In short, it kind of sucked and could have been worse. My former co worker Paul Caruso ended up with MRSA which involved wearing a intravenous bag of antibiotic for a month. I had a prior go around with fish poisoning years ago as well. Wash those cuts!

I'll be sending an email to the folks at DER and find out about Burrage and Setucket. More later.

## Southeast District Report – October 2021

**New Pheasant Hunting Regulations Approved:** At the public hearing last month, the Fisheries and Wildlife Board approved changes to the pheasant and quail hunting regulations including officially establishing the pheasant/quail permit (previously approved as part of the license fee increase package), eliminating the seasonal bag limit for pheasant and quail, removing rooster-only restrictions, and eliminating the hunter registration process for pheasant hunting at Martin Burns WMA.

**Pheasant/Quail Stocking:** Pheasant and quail stocking is underway and going very well so far. The birds have been good quality. You can access a list and map of stocked areas here:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-pheasantstocked-area>

**Fall Trout Stocking:** Fall trout was completed in the first week of October. Our fall trout allocation this year was approximately 11,200 12-14"+ rainbows.

**NEW MassFishHunt System Coming Soon!** – MassFishHunt, the official licensing and harvest reporting system for Massachusetts, is getting an upgrade. The new system will be live starting December 1, 2021. As always, anglers, hunters, and trappers will be able to buy licenses and permits, report a harvest, and access account information online. The new MassFishHunt's secure, modern platform offers new features designed with the customer in mind. After taking a few moments to set up your account, you will be able to access new features, including linked accounts for families; auto-renew option to keep your licenses up-to-date; buy-it-again for quick checkout; an improved mobile experience; and simple registration for outdoor skills classes. For returning customers who have purchased a fishing, hunting, or trapping license online in the past, your account information will automatically transfer to the new system. When you visit the new MassFishHunt site for the first time, you will be prompted to claim your account and add a unique email address and password. Once logged in, you will have access to your order history and any current licenses or permits. You will also be able to purchase new products and report harvests. For new customers who have never had a license before, you can easily sign up for a new account by entering some simple information like your name, address, and email. The new MassFishHunt system will launch during hunting season. Your license, permit, and harvest reporting history will transfer seamlessly to the new system. After the first week of the shotgun deer season (Nov. 29—Dec. 4) when all harvested deer must be brought to a physical check station, hunters will be able to use the new MassFishHunt to report harvests online similar to previous years. Before December 1, you should use the existing MassFishHunt system to report harvests online. Requiring an email address and password in the new MassFishHunt online system is an important new feature to keep your information secure. If you do not have an email address, you can still buy licenses or report harvests in-person. As we approach launch day on December 1, you can find more information about the new system, harvest reporting, customer support, and tutorials by visiting [Mass.gov/NewMassFishHunt](https://www.mass.gov/NewMassFishHunt).

**October 24–31 is Bat Week:** Bats are often misunderstood or even feared. But these fascinating flying mammals play a critical role in our environment and many bat species are in decline. Massachusetts is home to nine species of bats, five of which are considered endangered. You can learn how to celebrate bat week here: <https://www.mass.gov/news/celebrate-bat-week-this-octobe>