



Plymouth County League of Sportsmen

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Wankinquoah Rod and Gun Club

October 21 2020

At 7:02 pm we began our monthly business meeting with the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for all our friends and family members who have passed, 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 at our monthly meeting and thanked the Wankinquoah club for all they do in support of Sportsmen and Sportswomen. He also thanked the club for hosting the meeting and providing a supper. Club President Ron Enos spoke on behalf of the Club welcoming all in attendance and thanked the PCLS for all we do representing the sporting community. President Johnson reminded all in attendance that masks must be worn, and if any one is feeling ill during or after the meeting or think they may have been exposed to the Corona Virus to please let him know so that he can contact all the people on the attendance list from our meeting.

Roll Call: There were 22 Delegates representing 10 clubs present.

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

A reminder that all 2020/2021 Club Dues are to be paid by December 31, 2020.

Bills to be paid: President Johnson presented a bill he paid for the Robo calls made each month. A motion was made, seconded and passed to reimburse President Johnson.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the September 2020 minutes as published.

I have club status report forms that need to be filled out by each club every year. If your club has a web site please include the info on the Status report. please see me at our meeting to get a form or e mail your club information.

Communications: Bruce Wesgate's surgery went well and he is resting at home. Received a copy of Barnstable County League Minutes report. Received a letter from Sportsmen's Alliance thanking PCLS for renewing our membership.

Special Guest: No special guests were present

Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries Report: Ross Kessler was unable to attend the meeting but forwarded a report. President Johnson read the entire report. I have attached a copy at end of this report.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife Report: Jason Zimmer was Unable to attend the meeting but forwarded a report. I have attached a copy at end of this report.

Seven Person Board Report: No report was available

Hunter Ed: Minors between 15-17 yrs. Old can purchase there hunting licenses on line at: <https://form.jotform.com/200925785448061>.

A reminder that any youth 14 years old can apply for a FID card, they can not get card until their 15th birthday but can start the process early. If anyone has an issue with trying to apply before they are 15, contact President Johnson and he will forward them the necessary information.

Legislative Report: A drive to push for crossbow bill H.3866 is underway. The legislative session has been extended until December. Please contact Chairman Michlewitz and Speaker DeLeo **NOW** and ask them to schedule a hearing and to pass crossbow bill H.3866 in this session. Please be polite and respectful. The contact info is:

Email: Chairmen Aron.M.Michlewitz@mahouse.gov
Phone: Chairmen Aron Michlewitz 617-722-2990

Email: Speaker of the House Robert.DeLeo@mahouse.gov
Phone: Speaker Robert DeLeo 617-722-2500

Please forward the contact info to all your club members and any friends or family

members. Also post to any hunting websites or chat rooms that you know of. don't casually sit by and think someone else will do it and then wonder why it didn't pass. **We need to push for this now!**

Massachusetts Conservation Alliance: Crossbow bill H.3866 is stalled again and no one seems to know why. Please see info above and make calls now.

New Business: A motion was made, seconded and passed to give honorary membership to Bruce Westgate and also add his name to the Hall of Fame.

OLD BUSINESS: President Johnson read the letter we approved to send to Bob Perault, thanking him for all the help he provided with the Beaver Brook Club regaining its status with the town.

Annual Banquet: Our annual banquet will be held on April 24, 2021 at Camp Kiwanee in Hanson, Mass. Banquet tickets and Grand Raffle tickets have been ordered.

Good of the Order: A reminder that if your club is hosting an event, Secretary Birch has forms that you can fill out in order to get your information listed in the minutes report.

Carver Club Youth hunt was a huge success. Female participants outnumbered Male participants.

Wankinquoah Rod and Gun club currently has open membership. If interested in joining go on line @ www.wrgclub.org, fill out an application, and follow instructions.

If your club cannot host a meeting please let president Johnson or Secretary Birch know ASAP. If your club can host but cannot provide a meal, please let us know.

I have attached an updated host club schedule to end of report

Adjournment: The meeting concluded at 7:53 pm. **Our October meeting location has been changed.** We will meet at **Carver Sportsmen's Club**, 127 Main St. Carver, Ma. On November 18, 2020. Comradery at 6:00 pm and agenda at 7:00 pm. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we are limited to 25 attendees at our meetings. **Please RSVP** to Secretary Birch if you plan to attend the meeting by e-mail at PCLS_secretary@outlook.com or by phone at 508-254-2889. **Masks must be worn at the meetings.** If you are feeling ill please do not attend the meeting.

PCLS Secretary,

Ed Birch

2020-2021 PCL

Revised Host Club Schedule

MEETINGS ARE HELD THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

September 16 Samoset Rod & Gun Club
50 Matfield St, West Bridgewater, MA 02379

October 21 Wankinquoah Rod & Gun Club
92 Pine St, Middleboro, MA 02346

November 18 Carver Sportsmen's Club
127 Main Street, Carver, MA 02330

December 16 Holbrook Sportsmen's Club
150 Quincy Street, Holbrook, MA 02343

January 20 Scituate Rod & Gun Club
965 Chief Justice Cushing Hwy (Rte 3A)

February 17 Wankinquoah Rod & Gun Club
92 Pine St, Middleboro, MA 02346

March 17 Old Colony Sportsmen's Assoc.
159 Forest Street, Pembroke, MA 02359

April 21 Standish Sportsmen's Assoc.
1 Burr Lane, East Bridgewater, MA

May 19 Upland Sportsmen's Club
76 Upland Road, Plympton, MA

June 16 Carver Sportsmen's Club
127 Main Street, Carver, MA 02330

MDMF Fall 2020 Clubs Report

Fall 2020

Marine Fisheries Report
Ross.kessler@mass.gov

Mike Hickey retired this spring after 51 years in the Division. Anyone who worked with our shellfish department knew that Mike was a fixture. He will be missed.

PUBLIC ACCESS

- **Deer Island-** The pier was completed in the summer of 2020. A parking lot, lights, landscaping, and security cameras are currently being installed or completed. Covid-19 had a big effect on getting the project completed in a timely fashion
- **Future projects:** DMF currently is re-advertising for Engineering services at the Salem Willows Park in Salem MA.
- **Small Grant:** 2019 Small Grants are complete. Fall River received a digital kiosk that takes cash and credit cards at Bicentennial Park, The Buzzards Bay Coalition installed two cartop launches at their newly renovated Horse Shoe Mill Property on the Weweantic in Wareham, and the Town of Sandwich installed lights and a security cam at the boardwalk on Sandwich Cr. (Thank you John for providing the install)

Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP) – this program had a challenging year. Some head boat work was performed early on but only Massachusetts was doing head boat work. Currently, only shore side sampling is taking place

Fishing Programs-

- **Bass Tagging-** There will be no bass tagging this year
- **Resource Assessment** - There was no resource assessment done aboard the Gloria Michelle this year. Seine work was performed by DMF staff in estuarine waters.

Anadromous-

- 1.) Bourne Pond, Falmouth. Construction of concrete entrance box to existing fishway.
- 2.) Back River, Weymouth. Survey and repair of concrete fishway weirs and cracks in wall/pools.
- 3.) Herring Brook, Pembroke. Construction of new concrete fishway weir, and increase height of fishway walls and board slots in existing fishway.
- 4.) Nemasket River, Middleboro. Repair concrete fishway board slots and cracks in walls/pools.
- 5.) Elm Street Dam, Indian Head River, Pembroke/Hanover. Install new trash rack, board slots, and general rehab to aging concrete fishway. *Last field job of the season, scheduled for next week.*

After a strong year for river herring in 2019, 2020 was a step down at most monitoring stations. A few continued with good runs: Town Brook, Plymouth, Nemasket River, Middleboro, and Herring River Harwich had the highest counts at nearly 900,000.

Eel and smelt stations had lower numbers with only a couple exceptions. We kept up all monitoring efforts during this COVID year. We did cut out all planned river herring stocking events except one at

the Draka Dam, Three Mile River in Taunton. Most volunteer river herring counting project did not occur, but we don't manage that. And we really did not start anything new this year for research

- **Lobster-** There is currently a dead zone in CC Bay. Well, hopefully it's mostly gone after the recent wind event. This is the second year that lobster fishermen have faced this dead zone. So far it was less severe than last year. DMF has teamed up with the Mass Lobsterman's Assn., Center for Coastal Studies, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts Climate Change Resilience in Fisheries and Aquaculture Grant Program, and the National Sea Grant Lobster Initiative to DMF. Any questions or reports regarding a suspected low dissolved oxygen area please contact Tracy Pugh at DMF at: tracy.pugh@mass.gov

In other news the lobster fishery remains open but faces litigation. There is no other news available currently.

- The Shellfish Department built a webpage dedicated to aquaculture. As you know aquaculture has become a big industry coastwide. <https://www.massaquaculturepermitting.org/>
- **Commercial Sea Bass-** The directed pot fishery trip limit was increased from 300 to 400 pounds, and the directed hook and line fishery trip limit was increased from 150 to 200 pounds. The commercial seasonal weir fishery set-aside was increased from 15,000 pounds to 24,000 pounds. The bycatch limit for trawlers during April 23 – June 9 was increased from 50 pounds to 100 pounds with open fishing days seven-days per week (still capped at 50,000 pounds in aggregate). During the summertime large mesh mixed trawl fishery beginning June 10, trawlers may now retain 100 pounds of sea bass on the open fishing days
- **Commercial Fluke-** Trawlers may now retain 100 pounds of sea bass on the open fishing days in the commercial summer flounder fishery (Sundays–Thursdays), rather than the previous rule of 150 pounds but only on open fishing days in the commercial black sea bass fishery (Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays) beginning July 9.
- The striped bass commercial season has been liberalized in the number of days/week fishermen can land commercial stripers. As you already know commercial fishing for striped bass in the Cape Cod canal is now against our rules.
- **Other Regulatory-**
 - Due to Covid charter and head boat captains were allowed to have their clients take fish after the scheduled recreational closure.
 - \$28 million is being distributed to commercial fishermen and for hire recreational anglers.

ANY QUESTIONS FOR DMF EMAIL ME AT ross.kessler@mass.gov
/monitoring.

MassWildlife Southeast District Report – October 2020

- Fall Trout stocking was completed during the first week and a half of October.
- Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging and monitoring was completed on several salter brook trout populations in Red Brook, Quashnet River, Childs River, Third Herring Brook and the Coonamesset River.
- The Childs River restoration project officially kicked off and Steve Hurley, our District Fisheries Biologist who has played a key role throughout the process, will continue to monitor its progress and provide technical advice.
- District staff assisted MADEP with sampling of fish from Ashumet Pond as part of an ongoing study looking at contamination of ponds and fish with PFAS.
- District staff continued to assist with an aggressive coyote situation in Fall River, coordinating with the Fall River Police, MA Environmental Police, our furbearer biologist to monitor the situation, provide technical advice to residents and place out a trap and trail camera for potential future efforts to attempt to trap the animal.
- Staff met with Natural Resources personnel and the Army National Guard to plan and carry out controlled hunting programs at Joint Base Cape Cod this Fall. The youth hunt was held successfully on October 3 with 9 youth participants killing a total of three deer.
- The District took possession of a slip-in prescribed fire tank from the Army National Guard and began to disassemble the tank to conduct necessary repairs to once again make it a functional unit. Once repaired, it will increase our capacity to conduct prescribed fires on our lands.
- District staff cleaned up an illegal camp site on our Maple Springs WMA that was reported to us following a small brush fire that originated from the site.
- District staff assisted with Sandplain Gerardia surveys at the Frances A. Crane WMA.
- Boundary marking was completed at the Taunton River WMA. Additionally, working with the MA Environmental Police, staff removed a sizable illegal camp structure (shed, picnic table, abundant trash) along the bank of the Taunton River. The process was very involved and required multiple boat and truck trips to transport all of the materials off the WMA.
- Staff were contacted by both MADEP and the City of Brockton Water Department about concerns relative to beavers in stump brook causing damage to the Brockton Dam. Staff responded to the site, evaluated the situation and eventually trapped and removed one adult beaver from the site, which so far has remedied the situation.
- Herbicide applications to combat invasive species were conducted at several WMAs including Burrage Pond, Frances A. Crane, Erwin S. Wilder, and the Agawam Mill Pond Access site.
- Trash cleanup was conducted at multiple WMAs. Most notably, a major illegal dumping violation at our Noquochoke WMA was cleaned up. Staff picked through the trash and located multiple documents with names and addresses on them which were handed over to the MA Environmental Police as evidence. They are continuing to investigate the matter.
- WCE monitoring visits were completed and monitoring reports filed for many properties in the past month.
- The Fisheries Biologist routinely monitored the White Island Pond dam and herring run and adjusted the herring run to ensure the outmigration of young of the year herring.
- Staff completed all mowing and roadway maintenance to facilitate pheasant and quail stocking and they assembled our large quail holding pen.
- Check station materials were delivered to all open deer checking stations in the District.
- The District Manager participated in a stakeholder meeting pertaining to the contaminant PFAS (and other related contaminants) hosted by MADEP.
- District staff posted advisories related to cyanobacteria documented at Big Sandy Pond and

Halfway Pond in Plymouth.

- **Important Harvest Reporting Information for Shotgun Deer Season:** Normally, all deer taken during the first week of shotgun season must be brought to a physical check station so that MassWildlife staff can collect biological data. However, due to restrictions related to COVID-19, [online harvest reporting using MassFishHunt](#) will be allowed during the first week of the 2020 shotgun season, and will be the preferred way for hunters to report their harvest. We expect to return to normal physical checking during the first week of the 2021 shotgun deer season. Check our MassWildlife website for additional information on check stations and phone assistance with online harvest reporting.
- Please see the following link to all seasonal MassWildlife updates:
<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/seasonal-announcements-from-masswildlife>

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone should you or any of your club members or friends need any assistance with any matter related to fish, wildlife, habitat management, hunting/sporting license sales or harvest reporting.

Jason