



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

April 2023 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters!

Who's caught their first schoolie or keeper of the season? If you have/when you do, please email me pictures for the newsletter.

We had an awesome April meeting, talking about the Island Cup, future club activities, and a great talk from Shelley Edmundson of the MV Fishermmen's Preservation Trust. Read about all of this below.

For all updates and news on Oversand Vehicles on Chappy, we recommend joining the MVBAG Facebook group. MV Beachgoers Access Group is actively involved in all aspects of the Trustees and Chappy homeowners discussions and our much-loved and much-needed access to Chappy beaches.

www.facebook.com/groups/mvbeachgoersaccess.

Don't miss our May 1 meeting. Andrew Jacobs, the laboratory manager and environmental technician, will be our guest speaker. Join us to hear how the tribe is working to protect our waters, our fish, and our beaches for today and future generations. The Prez is also going to share all the info on our club fishing contests.

Tight Lines!

Lisa



Club Meeting Notes

1. This year the Island Cup will be on Nantucket from June 23-25. We will travel as a team on Friday afternoon and return Sunday afternoon. If you would like to be on the MVSA team, please let Lisa Belcastro or Peter Sliwowski know. The Island Cup is a super fun fishing tournament. If you haven't participated in the past, it's pretty simple: one year we go to Nantucket and one year they come to MV. The competition is fierce but friendly. Lots of laughter and good food and hours of fishing.
2. The Club has about a dozen honorary members and 105 paid members.
3. We want more members, so we're running a promotion: Anyone who brings in a new member will receive a fabulous MVSA bag when your friend joins. And, you receive a ticket for a yearend raffle for a \$100 gift card to a local tackle store. Time to invite your fishing friends to join the Club!
4. **BIG NEWS!** We are hosting a cool raffle! The Club is auctioning off a boat! Okay, maybe not a boat, But we are auctioning off a fishing trip with Scott on his 23-foot Steincraft. The winner will launch out of Vineyard Haven and head out for Black Sea Bass or Bluefish or your first keeper Striper. The trip will be in June. You can purchase tickets by cash, check, or Venmo. Members only! Raffle drawing will be May 15.
5. The Prez bought Striper Maniac plugs at the Rhode Island fishing show for our monthly prizes.
6. The first person to land a Striped Bass from Vineyard shores — any size — wins a Striper Maniac lure. Call or text the Prez after you land your fish. I would appreciate a picture for our newsletter. Please email me at: mom1runner@aol.com
7. The first person to land a Bluefish from Vineyard shores — any size — wins a Roberts lure. Call or text the Prez after you land your fish. I would appreciate a picture for our newsletter. Please email me at: mom1runner@aol.com.
8. Our Annual July Beach Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 8 at 4:30 pm. We will gather at Bend-in-the-Road Beach. The Club will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring your own beverage of choice. Rain date will be July 9th.
9. Our annual Father's Day BBQ on Chappy will be over the June 16-18 weekend on the best day (sun, wind, weather - fish optional). The guys from CT will be serving up a fish fry, among other delectable goodies. More information to follow.
10. April 22 was Earth Day. We had about seven members cleaning the beaches at Right and Left Fork.
11. The Prez welcomed new member Chris Reed. Chris had grown up on the Island and has now returned home. He lives in Oak Bluffs and will once again be an avid shore fisherman.
12. The Prez urged everyone to go through our tackle and get him as much gear as we could for the upcoming tackle sale. The Prez has already sold about \$1,200 in merchandise in various Facebook groups. We raised \$13,500 last year. The Prez wants to beat that. Donate now. Donate often!
13. The Scholarship Committee met and selected two winners out of 15 strong candidates. Scholarship recipients will major in marine biology, earth science or environmental science. Winners will be announced in June at the annual MVRHS Grad Night at the Tabernacle.

14. Our awesome VP, Kevin, is organizing a fly-tying station at the High School. Kevin will be working with Coop, who price out the supplies and decide what the first station will be.
15. Kevin also suggested the Club put together beginner fishing sets – rod, reel, lures – and give them to people who can't afford to purchase new equipment. The Club voted a unanimous “yes.” Kevin and The Prez will get the gear together and Lisa will photograph and post on Facebook to let people know.
16. We discussed our Derby Lure Box again. We definitely need a new poster, something to grab people's attention when they're at the weigh station. Kevin said he would reach out to Featherstone and see if one of the children's art classes could submit drawings. We also talked about doing a special Lure Donation Day during the Derby. Encouraging people to donate lures for kids.

Have you purchased your raffle tickets yet for the fishing charter on Scott's boat?

Raffle drawing is May 15. Don't miss your chance to win!



MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust

Shelley Edmundson, the Executive Director of MVFPT, shared the history and mission of MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust. The Trust exist to support local fishermen. Their mission is to preserve the Island's rich fishing history and the current fleet, maintain a working waterfront, and facilitate a sustainable local seafood industry. "We want to make sure we have fishermen here for the next generation harvesting from our waters," said Shelley.

MVFPT created Luke's Legacy in memory of Luke Guerney. Through Luke's Legacy, the Trust purchased Luke's costly fishing permits. During open permit season, a group of local fishermen were then able to buy Luke's permits.

Phoebe Walsh, who heads up the MVFPT's Seafood Collaborative, explained what the Collaborative is doing. Coming into its third season, the Collaborative is a wholesale fish market in Menemsha. Local fisherman can sell their catch to the Collaborative at competitive prices. The Collaborative filets and flash- freezes the fish, then gives some fish to Island Grown Initiative for their Island food programs, and then sells the remaining fish to local restaurants and fish markets and at the Farmer's Market.

Last year Island Grown Initiative made gallons of Black Bass Seafood Stew from MVFPT locally caught fish. All of the stew was given away to Islanders. "It's nice to have a ready-made meal," said Phoebe.

MVFPT is working on sustainability through many channels, including two ongoing research projects. The Whelk Study Fleet has fisherman measuring and recording whelk sizes and health. The information they gather helps regulators make more informed decisions. They are also participating in the Conch Fishery Alternative Bait research study. Horseshoe crabs have been the traditional bait for conch and whelks. Fishermen are now testing alternative baits. They have some video cameras recording how the conch are feeding on the new bait.

MVFPT is also working on seafood education, speaking at community centers and libraries to educate the public, and they are offering information to local chefs on what exactly is Island fresh and caught locally. "We want to drive the demand for local seafood," said Phoebe.

If you have any recreational fishing concerns, please let Shelley know. You can reach Shelley at: 508-687-0344 or info@mvfpt.org

The goals of the MVFPT are the same as MVSA: keep people fishing Vineyard waters and educate the public. There are two easy ways we can help out the MVFPT: volunteer for filet duty and eat/buy local seafood.

You can learn more about the MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust on their website: www.mvfishermenspreservationtrust.org. Don't miss this year's Meet the Fleet on August 3, 2023.



Calendar of Events

May 1 – Monthly Meeting – Edgartown Rod and Gun Club – 7 PM for Pizza. Meeting begins at 7:30.

June 16-18 – Father's Day BBQ on Chappy. Stay tuned for more information.

June 23-25 – Island Cup – Martha's Vineyard versus Nantucket. This year we're competing on Nantucket. If you want to join the best team and a whole lot of fun fishing, call Peter Sliwowski at 617-834-4722 or Lisa Belcastro at 508-560-3678.

July 8th – MVSA Annual Beach Picnic - Bend-in- the-Road Beach, 4:30 pm. The Club will supply the hamburgers, hot dogs, and chips. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Bring your own beverage of choice. Rain date will be July 9th.

BE A WINNER IN THE MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY

MVSA In-House Derby - This is a fun and loosely run tournament based solely on the honor system and club members are eligible to win prizes by submitting entries for one or more of the eligible species (striped bass, bluefish, false albacore, bonito). Fish can be kept but catch and release is strongly encouraged. To determine the weight, the fish can be weighed or the weight can be estimated by using the following formula. (length x the girth squared, divided by 800=total weight). It's surprisingly accurate.

HOW TO ENTER -----

You must be a paid in full member before catching and weighing in any fish.

Use the weigh-in slip on the MVSA website and make as many copies as you need.

When you catch a fish you want to enter, use the calculation above or weigh on a digital fishing scale. To be eligible for consideration, your fish must conform to the minimum sizes below:

Bluefish 22" Bonito 21"

False Albacore 25"

Boundaries: To be eligible, a fish must be caught in or around the waters of Martha's Vineyard, within MVSB & BF Derby Boundaries. (Fish caught during the trip to Cuttyhunk are not eligible for any prizes)

DIVISION AND AWARDS

A monthly pin will be awarded to the member that submits an entry for the largest fish in each species. All monthly entries will participate in a "luck of the draw" raffle to win a Ron McKee custom lure. All first, second and third place monthly winners will also be entered into a year-end raffle to win new fishing reels. There will be three raffles, one each for all first, second and third place entries.

The 'Angler of the Year' will be determined by a point system based on monthly entries. Five points will be awarded for a first-place monthly winner, three for second, and one for third. The member who finishes the year with the most points will be declared the 'Angler of the Year'.

Entries: Must be received within seven days after the catch and may be submitted by email to Dave Balon at: WeighSlip@mvsurfcasters.org . If you do not have an email account, mail your entry to: MVSA In-House Derby, P.O. Box 3053, Edgartown, MA 02539

Slips must be postmarked within seven days of the date of catch. During the MV Bass & Bluefish Derby, there is no need to fill out our weigh-in slip; simply mail in the official MV Derby weigh-in slip. In-House Derby entry forms may be obtained on the MVSA web-site www.mvsurfcasters.org.