



## Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

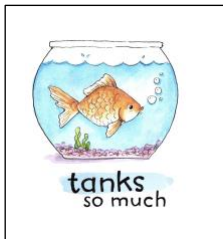
P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

[www.mvsurfcasters.org](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org)

### February 2024 Newsletter

Hello Surfcasters,

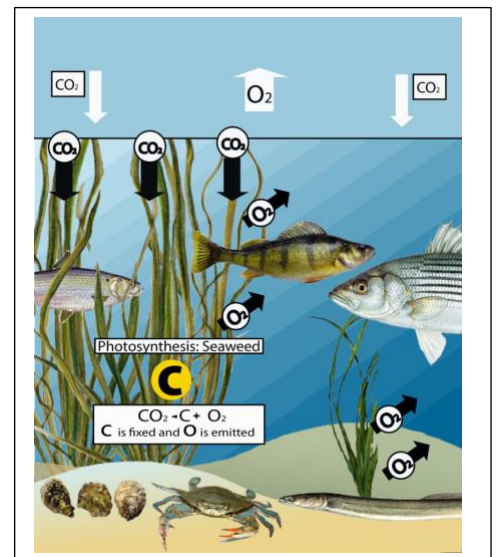
I'm grateful that so many of us were able to get together a couple of weeks ago for our annual banquet. Such a great time. Truly one of the best banquets yet. Scroll down for pictures and all the news from the banquet.



The Prez gave a huge shout of thanks to all the people who helped put the banquet together, who picked up donations, oysters, food, and to everyone who came to celebrate another great year of fishing, friends and fun.

MVSA officers were elected. It is no surprise that The Prez was elected president, Kevin Seger is VP again, Dr. Dave is our secretary again, and Phil Horton will once again serve as treasurer. The Prez announced that 2024 is last year!!!!

Our next meeting is Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Our guest speaker is David Bouck, the Director of Science and Collaboration of the Great Pond Foundation. David is an MVRHS graduate. He received a B.S. in environmental studies from Endicott College in 2009, and a master's degree in coastal zone management from the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science in 2018. David is going to talk with us about water quality in the ponds.



I hope to see you on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at the Edgartown Rod and Gun Club at 7 pm for our next meeting.

Lisa

## Yearend Awards



Kevin Seger won the coveted Angler of the Year Award. I don't know if anyone fishes as often, as long, or as enthusiastically as Kevin does. A well-earned award. Congratulations, Kevin!



Zach Magid won First Place Bluefish for his 16.59-pound blue. Zach also won first place in the MVSA Triple Crown Award with a total registered weight of 31.53 pounds.



Luke Brewer was all smiles collecting his First Place Bonito award. Luke caught his 7.09 bonito during the Derby, and picked up a few nice Derby awards too.



Hunter Creanga accepted the First Place False Albacore Award for Grandma Kathi Pogoda.



# Club Meeting Notes – The Annual Banquet



1. **Thank You from The Prez** – The Prez thanked Bob Yapp for collecting prizes. He thanked the board members for their hard work. He thanked the Edgartown Shellfish Department for the yummy oysters and clams, and thanked Ralph for digging up all the clams. The Prez thanked Dave and Victor for their continued work on our club website. The Prez thanked Dave Balon for overseeing the inputting members' In-house Derby and Ron Domurat for compiling the club members' In-house and Derby statistics. The Prez thanked Lisa for her work with the newsletter and Steve for mailing out the hard copies of the newsletter. The Prez thanked Jim Cornwall for picking up the club pizzas for our meetings and Chris Edwards for coordinating the speakers for our club meetings.



2. Phil Horton gave the Treasurer's report. "It was a very good year," said Phil. We had a total income of \$26,682. We spent a total of \$9,231. We donated a total of \$11,500. We have \$5,000 in the operating account. We awarded \$12,000 in scholarships and currently have \$19,000 in the scholarship account. All the proceeds from the used tackle sale go directly into the scholarship fund. "We will be able to provide some very nice scholarships to a few graduating seniors in June," said Phil.
3. Matt Bass from the DEP (Environmental Protection) spoke to us about the new and current saltwater fishing regulations. Matt said that fluke and scup both took a hit last year and are down in population. The legal limit for fluke will probably be 17 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Sea Bass will remain at 16 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches. We are limited to three bluefish daily. Keeper stripers must measure between 28 inches to 31 inches. **See chart on next page for all fishing limits.**
4. Andy Kelly, the Director of Edgartown's Parks and Recreation Department, gave us a welcome update on Norton Point. Andy thanked everyone for the support MVSA members gave to him and his team in their first year of managing Norton Point. Andy said he hopes to open the beach in April and would love to see everyone out there taking rides on the beach. **Pre-sales for beach stickers should open in April.** Last year Norton beach passes brought in \$270,000, which pays for staff and beach nourishment. Andy talked about the winter storms and the pummeling the beaches took. He noted they are working on Atlantic Drive and South Beach, but it is going to take time, and about 1.5 million dollars. Andy is looking for Rangers, if anyone wants to apply. <https://rb.gy/qyzt6z>

5. Andy's parting words:  
When Norton opens: DRIVE THE BEACH!



6. John Piekos gave us a brief update from MVBAG. John noted that MVBAG is thrilled with Andy and what is happening on Norton Point. John reminded us that TTOR has filed two NOIs. That TTOR needs an Order of Conditions – permission to drive through wetlands. John mentioned a new NOI submitted by a private landowner. **John stressed to all members that we must use our voices and write to the Edgartown Conservation Commission and attend the Zoom meetings!**

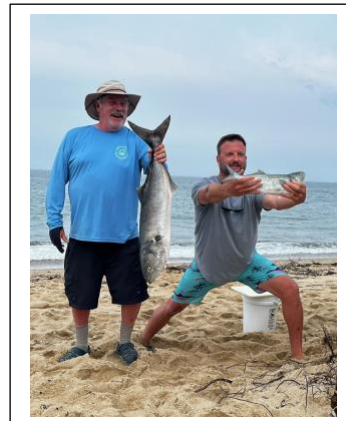


7. The Prez announced we are going to have another pig roast on the beach over Father's Day Weekend. More information to come. Day will depend on weather, hoping for Saturday.
8. The annual club shark tournament will be in July or August when the sharks arrive. Stay tuned.
9. Phil Horton sent out an update after the banquet. Money. The raffle brought in \$2715. Members paid \$2,040 in dues, both before and at the banquet. Dues is expected to trickle in via snail mail as the season goes on. The silent auction brought in \$1,675. The 50/50 raffle earned \$375 for the club. We sold \$70 in merchandise, and members donated \$370. In total, the banquet raised \$7,245.
10. We had donation buckets at the banquet for members to give to MVBAG. If you'd like to give now, you can scan this QR code.



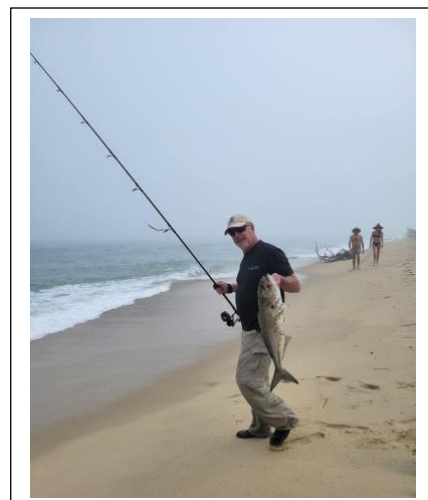
## Reel Winners are Real Winners

Luck of Draw for all Monthly Third Place Winners:  
Matt Brewer



Luck of Draw for all Monthly Second Place Winners:  
Matt Brewer

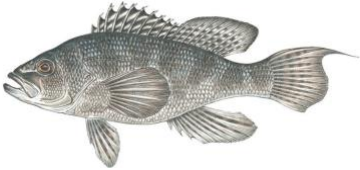
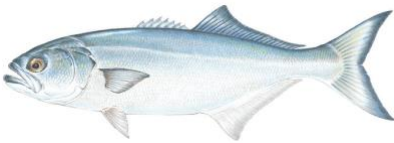

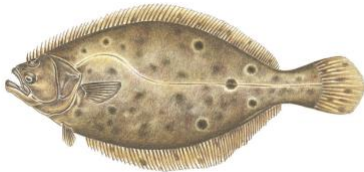

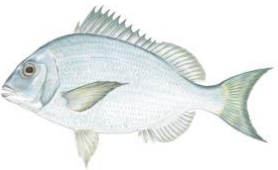

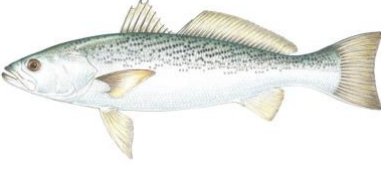
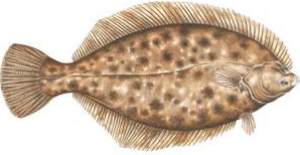

Luck of Draw for all Monthly First Place Winners:  
Ralph Peckham





Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Marine Fisheries**  
 (617) 626-1520; [www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)  
**Size & Bag Limits for Saltwater Fish in MA Waters**  
**2023**



<div><div><b>BLACK SEA BASS</b></div><div></div><div><p>Open Season: May 20 - Sep 7 Minimum Size: 16.5" Possession Limit: 4 fish</p></div></div>	<div><div><b>BLUEFISH</b></div><div></div><div><p>Open Season: Year Round Minimum Size: No Limit Possession Limit: 3 fish</p></div></div>
<div><div><b>ATLANTIC COD*</b></div><div></div><div><div><p><u>North of Cape Cod</u></p><p>Open Season: Apr 1 - Apr 14; Sep 1 - Oct 7 Minimum Size: 22" min Possession Limit: 1 fish</p></div><div><p><u>South of Cape Cod</u></p><p>Aug 1 - Apr 30 22" min to 28" max 5 fish</p></div></div></div>	<div><div><b>FLUKE (SUMMER FLOUNDER)</b></div><div></div><div><p>Open Season: May 21 - Sept 29 Minimum Size: 16.5" Possession Limit: 5 fish</p></div></div>
<div><div><b>HADDOCK*</b></div><div></div><div><div><p><u>North of Cape Cod</u></p><p>Open Season: Jan 1 - Feb 28 ; Apr 1 - Dec 31 Minimum Size: 17" Possession Limit: 20 fish</p></div><div><p><u>South of Cape Cod</u></p><p>Year Round 18" No Limit</p></div></div></div>	<div><div><b>SCUP</b></div><div></div><div><p>Open Season: May 1 - December 31 Minimum Size: 9.5" from shore; 10.5" from vessel. Possession Limit: 30 fish per angler. <i>During the open season, aggregate vessel limit may not exceed 150 fish.</i></p></div></div>
<div><div><b>STRIPED BASS</b></div><div></div><div><div><p>Open Season: Year Round Size Limit: 28" to less than 31" Possession Limit: 1 fish</p><p><i>Gaffing prohibited. Use of in-line circle hooks is mandatory when fishing with whole or cut natural baits, except with artificial lures.</i></p></div></div></div>	<div><div><b>WEAKFISH</b></div><div></div><div><p>Open Season: Year Round Minimum Size: 16" Possession Limit: 1 fish</p></div></div>
<div><div><b>WINTER FLOUNDER</b></div><div></div><div><div><p><u>North of Cape Cod</u></p><p>Open Season: Year Round Minimum Size: 12" Possession Limit: 8 fish</p></div><div><p><u>South of Cape Cod</u></p><p>Mar 1 - Dec 31 12" 2 fish</p></div></div></div>	
<div><div><b>TAUTOG</b></div><div></div><div><div><p>Open Season: April 1 - May 31 Size Limit: 16" - 21" Possession Limit: 3 fish</p></div><div><p>Jun 1 - Jul 31 16" - 21" 1 fish</p></div><div><p>Aug 1 - Oct 14 16" - 21" 3 fish</p></div><div><p>Oct 15 - Dec 31 16" - 21" 5 fish</p></div></div><div><p><i>During the open season, 1-fish per person per day may exceed 21" &amp; the aggregate vessel limit may not to exceed 10-fish.</i></p></div></div>	

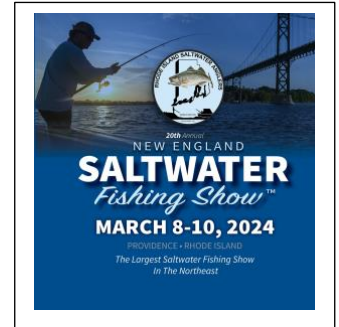
\* Regulations for cod north and south of Cape Cod and haddock north of Cape Cod are subject to change pending final rule-making by NOAA Fisheries. Please visit our website ([www.mass.gov/marinefisheries](http://www.mass.gov/marinefisheries)) to get the most up-to-date recreational fishing limits.

# MVSA Upcoming Calendar

1. March 4<sup>th</sup> - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club -  
The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.



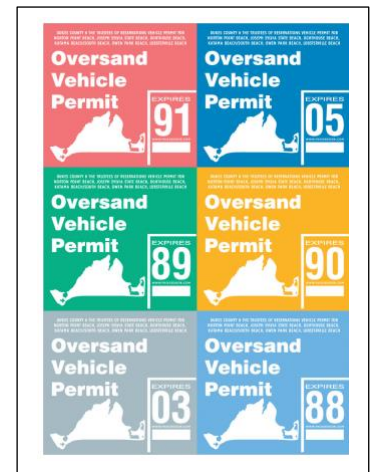
2. March 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> – **New England Saltwater Fishing Show** – A bunch of club members are going. Contact The Prez if you'd like to go.



3. March 13<sup>th</sup> - **Con Com continued review of NOI submitted by Rachel Self**  
Check ConCom's website for the Zoom link:

[www.edgartown-ma.us/departments/conservation](http://www.edgartown-ma.us/departments/conservation)

4. March 20<sup>th</sup> – **Edgartown Conservation Commission Meeting** via  
Zoom at 4 pm. OSV access on Chappy is being discussed. Don't miss  
this meeting! [www.edgartown-ma.us/departments/conservation](http://www.edgartown-ma.us/departments/conservation)



5. April 1<sup>st</sup> - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club -  
The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.



6. May 6<sup>th</sup> - **Monthly Meeting** - Edgartown Rod and Gun Club -  
The pizza arrives at 7 pm. The meeting begins at 7:30 pm.

7. **Father's Day Weekend – Pig Roast on the Beach** – More information to follow.

8. July 13<sup>th</sup> – **MVSA Annual Beach Picnic** – Bend in the Road Beach. Stay tuned for more info.

9. July/August – **MVSA Annual Shark Tournament** – Stay tuned for shark updates.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.mvsurfcasters.org) (Then go to the Club tab, 2018 In-House Derby) The Official Weigh-In Slip link is under the MVSA Derby Info section.