



## MVSA March 2016 Newsletter

### March Meeting

Fourteen members attended the March 1 meeting at the MV Rod & Gun Club. It was our first meeting since our annual awards luncheon at the Old Whaling Church in January and President Scarpone formally thanked everyone involved with the event which raised more than \$5500.

**Used Tackle Sale**-Don then turned his attention to the upcoming year and we discussed the second annual used tackle sale which will be held rain or shine on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to Noon. The sale will be publicized and open to the public. Scarpone said he wanted to make this a charitable event and after much discussion it was agreed that the cost to participate as a seller will be \$20 which will be donated to charity of our choice. Sellers will retain any and all profits beyond that.

In addition to members' tables Don said he will set up an MVSA table. The club recently received a very generous donation of a pick-up truck full of tackle from Jim Fraser who cleaned out his attic and basement. The total sales revenue from Jim's donation will also go to charity. Contact Don Scarpone [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com)

**First Fish of the Year**- A Ron McKee custom lure will be awarded to the first member to catch a "migrating" striped bass and a Robert's Ranger will go to the member who catches the first Bluefish of the year. Catches should be reported to President Scarpone, [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com) This is an honor system contest but photos are encouraged and may be sent to Ron Domurat, [rd\\_bjr@msn.com](mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com)

You can also win a lure(s) by predicting the dates the first migrating striped bass and bluefish will be caught even if it's not by a member. Send your prediction to Ron Domurat [rd\\_bjr@msn.com](mailto:rd_bjr@msn.com) or sign up at the April meeting.

It promises to be an early start to the season. As of March 15, the water temperature on the bottom of the off-shore tower a mile off of South Beach stood at 42.5 degrees. We didn't reach that mark until April 16 last year! Start your engines!!!

**Earth Day**- Dave Nash reported The 24th annual beach clean-up will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2016, starting at 10:00 am; rain or shine. As in past years the MV Surfcasters have volunteered to take on South Beach. We meet around 10:00 a.m. at left fork where bags and gloves are available as well as a dump truck for the trash we pick up. We work at cleaning up the parking areas, the front beach at both left and right fork if enough people show up. A few of us usually head over-sand down Norton Point. Following the beach clean-up, we are all invited to lunch provided by the Harbor View Hotel while it lasts.

**Make Your Own Lure Contest**-The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Make Your Own Lure Contest will be held at Wasque Point on Saturday May 21, from 1:00- 5:00 PM rain or shine. This year there will be no prizes awarded for the best home-made lure but members whose lure (s) catch the biggest or most fish will win a prize. Last year's lures are eligible. An awards ceremony and picnic will be held after the event.

**April Meeting**-The April meeting will be held on Tuesday April 5 and feature Pat Toomey who will discuss the cleaning and preparation of striped bass. Pat is the proprietor of Among the Flowers restaurant and a former winner of The Striper Cup, Shore Angler of the Year Award.

**Club Library**-Newly elected MVSA secretary Dave Kolb has also taken on the duties of club librarian. Through the generosity of club members, the MVSA has accumulated a nice library of books and videos which are available at club meetings. Books may be borrowed at monthly meetings and returned the following month. New additions to the library are always welcome.





**E-mail Addresses**-Dave Kolb also said he is not sure he has all the correct mail and/or e-mail addresses of our members. If you, or a member you know have not been receiving regular correspondence from the MVSA, please forward your updated information to Dave Kolb, [LAMA1954@yahoo.com](mailto:LAMA1954@yahoo.com)

## **2015 Striped Bass Harvest-**

As most of you know, an addendum to Amendment 6 of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) Striped Bass Interstate Fishery Management Plan in October of 2014 required all states to adopt regulations that would reduce annual harvest in relation to 2013 by 25% on the coast and 20.5% in Chesapeake Bay. Many felt that 25% was not deep enough and that the plan had only a 50/50 chance of success while others felt it was too deep and should be phased in over time. Massachusetts slashed their recreational daily bag limit by 50% to one fish at 28" and reduced the commercial quota by 25%.

The good news is that we did better than hoped and exceeded the target reduction of 25%. Preliminary ASMFC estimates indicate that in 2015 we caught 15,318,614 lbs. of striped bass which represents a 42% reduction from 2013. The addendum seems to have worked, at least for last year. The bad news is that the overall stock has continued to shrink but last year's landings still represent a 36% reduction from **2014**. With the exception of New Jersey which manipulated the system and reduced its catch by only 1% in relation to 2013 and actually killed 19% more fish in 2015, every other **coastal** state contributed more than its share to the conservation effort. Massachusetts reduced its total catch by 38%.

But there's some bad news. In Chesapeake Bay, Virginia managed only an 8% reduction which is less than half of what was required and Maryland blew through its cap of 20.5% and landed 133% more than 2015, most of which was made up of fish from the big 2011 Young of the Year class.

The bottom line is this. Even with the overages in Chesapeake Bay, the system worked- at least for last year. Landings were reduced by more than the 25% target which can only mean good things for the future. Let's be cautiously optimistic and hope anglers and regulators stay the course and not get complacent. Let's also hope that New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia fall in line with the rest of the striper coast!

## **Piping Plovers Regulations** *by Victor Colantonio*

As you may know, the Feds and the State are considering changes to the regulations governing Piping Plovers, Least and Roseate Terns.

In the past month U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Region has invited comments on proposals to lessen the restrictive nature of rules imposed on land owners and managers of our coastline where these birds nest. The documents and comment instructions are available at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) under docket number FWS-R5-ES-2015-0182. Or you can find the documents at [fws.gov/newengland](https://www.fws.gov/newengland) and the notice of availability at <https://www.federalregister.gov/a/2016-01111>.

As a fin and shell fisherman and especially as owner of a cottage property identified in Table 3-1 of the EA "Norton Point/Leland/Cape Poge Elbow", (CPWR), I commented both within the confines of the proposed changes and, in some cases, beyond their guidelines. Why? Because I have lived in the wildlife refuge for 15 breeding seasons and have explored the topography of the nesting areas and breeding bird behavior. I have also seen the property shut down for a single chick - leaving friends and family stranded on but the tiniest stretch of one of the most desirable shorelines on the East Coast. It is not good policy for local residents, visitors, land managers and especially those with a tight window for family vacations falling within the breeding/ fledging period.

Overall, I favored lessening restrictions and for issuing "Take Permits" (ITPs) specifically for CPWR. I favored moving nests and recommended that "move eligible criteria" be adopted for vacant nests (nests without eggs) if nest density is less than one per 5 acres and for nests with eggs when nest density is less than one per 10 acres. I recommended that ALL second nests after a first failure for any reason be eligible to be moved. I recommended that any nest known to be in harm's way (i.e., over-wash areas, dredge tailings, private property) be automatically eligible for moving. I recommended that moving nests at CPWR be made to either high density nesting areas elsewhere on Norton Point/Leland/Cape Poge Elbow property, to the Audubon's Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary or preferably to Nomans Island, Chilmark where a 'first in the nation' Massachusetts Endangered Species Wildlife Sanctuary should be established in perpetuity for relocated Piping Plovers, Least and Rosette Terns or until such time that endangered species regulations on these species are rescinded.

I felt ITPs will encourage public and private land stewards to increase management expenditures, implement more site specific Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) which will result in diminished habitat loss, increased wildlife populations and still allow for public enjoyment.

I suggested that monies and energies be diverted to public awareness of 'best conservation practices' to care for diminishing wildlife habitat. That increased public access to the Mass coastline will offer firsthand experiences to help people recognize their responsibility to live and let live, respect all things big and small and perhaps embrace public policies that promise to preserve habitat and grow sustainable populations of endangered and troubled species.

I felt a "one size fits all" policy is a mistake with respect to setbacks and set offs from nests and chicks. HCPs must be specific to each property. Distances used to off-set from nests and chicks should be based on dimensions, geography, topology, and marine conditions of each property.

Lastly, I asked that the USFWS consider density criteria such that extremely sparsely populated nesting could be "move eligible". It is silly that one chick can lock-up ten miles of shoreline for the prime summer season. "Move Eligible" criteria should be developed for "Vacant Nests", "Nests with Egg(s)" and "Reestablished Nests (second tries)". This doesn't mean that the nests must be moved, only that it is eligible to be moved under specific criteria.

**Island Cup Challenge**-This year will mark the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in the competition for bragging rights between surfcasters on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket . The two teams are currently tied for wins at four each. The MVSA will host the event which will be held on June 17, 18 and 19. Team Captain Victor Colantonio says he is always looking for new team members and any angler wishing to join our team should get in touch with him at 617-413-6140 or [v.colantonio@gmail.com](mailto:v.colantonio@gmail.com)

## Calendar

**April 5, 7:00 PM, Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club, Speaker Pat Toomey- Pizza [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com)**

**April 30, Earth Day Beach Clean-up, 10:00 AM, Rain or Shine, Right Fork**

**May 21, 1:00-5:00 PM, Wasque Point, Make Your Own Lure Fishing Contest-Cookout**

**May 28, 8:00 AM –Noon. MV Rod & Gun Club, Used Tackle Sale, Rain or Shine [donaldscarpone@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldscarpone@yahoo.com)**

**June 11, 5:00 PM, Meeting, East Beach, Fishing Contest-Cookout**

**June 17, 18, 19, Island Cup Fishing Challenge, Victor Colantonio, 617-413-6140, [v.colantonio@gmail.com](mailto:v.colantonio@gmail.com)**

**July 9, Time TBA (late afternoon) Annual Club Picnic, Bend in the Road Beach**

**August 13, 5:00 PM, Meeting, East Beach, Fishing Contest-Cookout**

**September 3, 5:00 PM, Meeting, East Beach, Fishing Contest- Cookout**

**September 11, 12:01 AM-October 15, 10:00 PM, "THE DERBY"**



The "new" Swan Pond, Bob Mason Photo!!