

# Fishing Pier Progress Report

*By: Dave Nash*

In our last newsletter I reported on an upcoming meeting set up as a result of our attendance at a Steamship Authority monthly board meeting. That meeting was held on July 13 and at the last minute Carl Walker, SSA engineer, invited Doug Cameron of the Massachusetts Dept of Fish and Game, Office of Fishing and Boating Access. At the time, Carl was not even aware of an existing state program that makes funding available for public access projects with fisheries related benefits. Mr. Cameron was visibly excited about the possibility of the Oak Bluffs fishing pier developing into one of his divisions' next projects. If this were to happen, all funding, permitting, bidding and construction would be managed directly by his office-----more on this later. That was the big surprise of the day. Initially we had expected more of the discussion of why it would be difficult for the SSA to include a public access pier with their reconstruction plans.

We were hearing the same issues of cost, security and liability and while they are certainly challenges, we were hoping that the merits of the project would win out. When Mr. Walker mentioned the possibility of state assistance I made arrangements for some extra attendees. Steve Ewing, Steve Morris and Cooper Gilkes all came to the meeting and provided invaluable assistance in the form of practical and historical knowledge of fishing this area as well as tides, storms, and pier construction. In my opinion, their attendance added an element of local authority and concern for this kind of a project and, regardless of the out come, we owe them our thanks for giving up a few hours of their time at a time of the year that is busiest for all of them. Kerry Scott also assisted in having Nancy Phillips, chair of the Oak Bluffs beach committee and Michael Dutton, town manager attend.

So back to the meeting! After a brief summary of the history so far, the discussion turned to Doug Cameron. As I mentioned he immediately felt that this would be the perfect project for his office and was almost surprised that someone had not brought it up previously. The location, the fishing access, the proximity to town, the availability of parking, (there were empty spaces that morning!) all contributed to making it an ideal project. Likewise, with the town interested in sprucing up the beaches from the harbor entrance down to Inkwel, it began to have the feeling that this was a good match. We debated location for a while and our local experts were unanimous in the opinion that the location should be between the existing SSA pier and the harbor jetty. With that decided, Cameron talked about a project that he could see involving a pier of 150 to 200 feet in length, 12 to 16 feet wide with a "T" configuration at the end possibly at an angle matching that of the SSA pier. The public access pier would be high enough to avoid storm surf, have non-skid sections and sections that would drop down to nearer water level for handicapped access. Funding would also provide for modifications of the shoreline to create appropriate access down to the pier. What was also encouraging is that these funds are earmarked specifically for **fishing** access so design and accessibility issues will need to accommodate the fisherman. Everyone was so encouraged that the meeting was officially declared a pre-application meeting. Since then, the town has formerly indicated their intent and Cameron has now done some preliminary coordination with folks like the Division of Marine Fisheries as well as his own board. The project continues to get a green light at the state level and this has resulted in the preparation of a draft Land Management Agreement which has been sent to Oak Bluffs for their review. This agreement will be between the town and the state so that the state can legally manage and maintain the pier (yes, maintain it!). Once this agreement is finalized, Cameron's office then begins the design and permitting process. They are funded and staffed to provide for most of this.

Of course this won't be fast or necessarily easy and one of the more difficult parts of the project will involve funding. This is also provided by the state in the form of bond money and is a routine part of the process according to Cameron (it is a very common way for government to fund capital improvement projects). The bonding authority provides for funding of a certain number of projects every year and it is simply a matter of generating some support to be able to have this project considered over others. We may be called upon to help with our legislative leaders and Michael Dutton is already making plans for a coordinated lobbying effort in the fall.

In summary, these recent developments seem very encouraging and even if only indirectly, our petitions and our persistence have generated some interest for a project long overdue.

*Note: Dave Nash is Chairman of the MVSA Action Committee and has done an outstanding job of keeping this project on the front burner, first with the SSA and most recently with Oak Bluffs and state officials.*

## **Island Plan Update**

*By: Dave Nash*

Some of you may remember that we put together a map last winter indicating desired locations for fishing access around the island. That map was given to the Island plan committee which is looking at the topic of the "Natural Environment" on Martha's Vineyard and how the future will impact it. (The Natural Environment has four topic areas; Recreation, Natural Character, Biodiversity and Working Landscapes). Will Geresy is carefully guarding that map until after the derby to "protect" information on island "hot spots". Seriously though, when a group of Surfcaster members attended the workgroup meeting at the Sailing Camp last month we were surprised to see our map now included as part of the committee's recommendations. There it was up on the wide screen projection noting all those wonderful locations around the island where we would like better access (i.e. not trespassing, bribing or begging for a place to park and fish). This is good news not only to have our input provided for the Island Plan process but even more impressive is the fact that organizations are beginning to use the information generated by the island planning process in decision making. The MV Commission added a geothermal heating requirement to the YMCA project as a result of the recommendations of the Energy and Waste workgroup. Organizations like the Land Bank can use the information we have provided as a framework for making decisions on land purchases and how to manage those lands for public use. They have expressed an interest in using that information. Change comes slowly but the Island Plan process may become one of those quietly utilized planning aids that will help form the island's future. More on the Island Plan process is at [www.islandplan.org](http://www.islandplan.org).

## **Osprey Survey Results**

Dick Jennings, who many of you may know from his work as a TTOR staff member, works as a volunteer osprey nest observer to help monitor osprey nest productivity on Martha's Vineyard. Surfcaster member Dave Nash is one of his helpers. This year, 68 nests were observed to have nesting related activity and were tracked through the late spring and into the summer months to determine if they were able to successfully raise young. Of those nests, 6 turned out to be "housekeepers" which is another term for birds that haven't quite figured out what nesting and breeding are all about. They will hopefully try again next year and be more successful at it. Another 13 nests actually failed for a variety of reasons and the adults did not try again. That left us with 49 nests that resulted in young totaling 86 that eventually fledged. That is a 1.26 young per nest average that is a bit higher than previous years (there is not a great deal of data available

but only 2002 yielded a higher ratio). This year Rob Bierregard, a naturalist with the University of North Carolina/Charlotte, who manages this program, fitted three young birds with transmitters to evaluate their migration efforts. The birds tagged this year included Felix, from the nest at the Felix Neck Sanctuary; Luke, from a nest at Mink Meadows; and Conomo, from a nest at Lobsterville Beach. These birds will all be tracked as long as their transmitters are functioning as they migrate south for the next two years of their lives. Hopefully, when they are done with their teenage wanderings, they will come back to Martha's Vineyard to breed.

## *Short Casts*

**Ralph Peckham Wins Shark Tournament-**By virtue of catching the only brown shark in the two-week event, Ralph Peckham is this year's Chappy Beach Shark Tournament winner. Peckham and fishing partner Paula Sullivan outlasted twenty other entrants who battled beach closures and heavy weed conditions along the outer Chappy beaches. In addition, due to the breach on Norton Point, entrants were also limited to fishing the hours between 7:00AM and midnight. Ralph's shark was 63" long and weighed approximately 90lbs. The fish was released.

This marks the third straight year that only one shark was caught during the fourteen-day event.

**The Derby-**Change the line on your reels, stock up on your favorite snacks, kiss your spouse and kids good-bye, blow off your chores and job, and get ready for the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. This year the event runs from 12:01 AM on Sunday September 9 and ends at 10:00PM on Saturday October 13 with the Awards Ceremony on Sunday October 14 at The Outerland.

As in the past, the MVSA will be well represented on Awards Day. The MVSA has had a Grand Prize key holder in four of the last six Derby's and last year, MVSA members walked away with six major awards, thirteen weekly prizes and more than ninety daily pins. This year should be no exception.

**Ag Fair Display-**The MVSA recently sponsored an informational display at the 146<sup>th</sup> Martha's Vineyard Annual Agricultural Fair. The eye-catching display was centered around a 24" disk of the MVSA logo and called attention to the activities of the club as well as the skills and talents of our members and our contributions to the Island community. The display caught the attention of fair goers and judges alike as the display won a First Place Blue Ribbon in the Fishing Category as well as two special awards including the Emma Mayhew Whiting Special Award "*for the regular exhibit which typifies to an unusual extent the traditional way of life on the Island community*".

A committee consisting of Paula Sullivan, Janet Messineo, Peter Johnson and Ron Domurat put the display together. Phil Cronin, Ron Rizun, Walter Lison, Ed Lepore, Gary Mirando and Tom & Conor Smith contributed to the display.

**VFW Fluke Tournament-**The Fraser family proved they are as good on the water as on it's edge when they walked away with awards in the recent VFW Fluke Tournament. Denise Fraser won the women's division with a 7.9lb doormat. Doug Fraser took second place in the 13-16 age group with a 5.2lb fish and in the age 12 and under category, Brian Fraser was third with a 5.6lb fish.

In the hotly contested team competition member Jim Cornwell was part of Team Payback that won the division with a total of 46.5lbs for the four-man team.

**Striper Cup**-For the second consecutive year an MVSA member was named Shore Angler of the Year in the On The Water Striper Cup contest as Morgan Taylor won the coveted award by out fishing more than 2000 surf casting anglers from New Jersey to Maine. Last year member Pat Toomey won the same award. Led by a shore best 52lb striper, Morgan's top five fish weighed 183lbs for an average of more than 36lbs per striper. Taylor was also a weekly and monthly winner and is eligible to win a Toyota Tundra in a drawing of the monthly winners at the Striper Fest Awards Ceremony in late September.

Thanks in no small part to Taylor's two big fish and Julian Pepper's 43lb striper, the MVSA finished a very respectable fifth in the club competition with 466.88 points. The club division was won by Stripers.Com who amassed a total of 532.87 pts.. All of their fish were caught from the surf. They were followed by Team Jersey Shore who was second with 497.36 pts, also all shore caught fish. Last year's winner Linesider's Bass & Brew captained by noted guide and author Charley Soares and including MVSA member Charlie Cinto of 73 lb striped bass fame, finished sixth this year. ) Last year's runner up Team Dick's (Dick's Bait & Tackle), finished fourth with 471.30pts. There were forty entries in the club division this year. Last year the MVSA finished tenth out of thirty clubs.

Weighing in the top ten stripers for the MVSA were Taylor with 52 and 38.8lb fish, Julian Pepper 43.2 and 33.0, Pat Toomey 35.7, Ron Domurat 34.9, Chet Loiselle 33.2 and 28.2, Jim Fraser 30.1. Chuck Wendel contributed the only boat caught fish with a 39.05 lb striper.

## Past Derby Accomplishments

Over the years, MVSA members have distinguished themselves as outstanding anglers by winning major prizes in the prestigious Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. We thought it would be good to recognize their accomplishments. The list is impressive!

<b>Ernie Baracchini</b>	1998 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 2nd
<b>Chip Bergeron</b>	1984 All Tackle Shore Bass, Non Resident 1st 1991 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 1st 1992 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 3rd 1995 Flyrod Shore Bass, 1st 1995 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 3rd 1995 Flyrod Shore Bonito, 3rd 1995 Flyrod Shore Grand Slam, 1st ( <i>Derby Record</i> ) 1997 Flyrod Shore Bass, 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2004 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 1 <sup>st</sup> 2005 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 2nd
<b>Fran Clay</b>	2001 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 1st
<b>Bob Clay</b>	2001 All Tackle Boat Bonito, 1st ( <i>Grand Leader</i> ) 2005 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 3rd 2006 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 3 <sup>rd</sup>

<b>Jim Cornwell</b>	2003 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 1 <sup>st</sup> ( <i>Grand Leader</i> ) 2003 Brickman Award, Senior Shore Bonito 2003 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Shore Bonito
<b>Win Crocker</b>	2005 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 3 <sup>rd</sup>
<b>Phil Cronin</b>	2005 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 1st 2006 Flyrod Boat Bonito, 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Ron Domurat</b>	1993 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 1 <sup>st</sup> 2004 Kastmaster Joe Memorial Award.
<b>Frank Dougherty</b>	1995 All Tackle Shore Striped Bass, 1 <sup>st</sup> ( <i>Grand Leader</i> ) 2005 Howie Leonard Award Senior Boat False Albacore
<b>Dan Geary</b>	2002 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st ( <i>Grand Leader</i> ) 2002 Bob Post Memorial Award, Senior Shore Bluefish. 2002 DaRosa Award, Senior Shore Bluefish. 2002 James P. Catlow Memorial Award, Heaviest Resident Shore Bluefish. 2002 George H. Pye Award, Senior Resident Shore Bluefish. 2002 Chamber of Commerce Award, Senior Shore Bluefish 2002 Madison Alwardt Senior Memorial Award, Shore Bluefish.
<b>Cooper Gilkes</b>	1987 All Tackle Boat Bonito, 1st ( <i>Grand Leader and Boat Winner</i> ) 2003 Inducted into the Derby Hall of Fame
<b>George Gomez</b>	2005 George Pye Award, Senior Shore Bluefish 2005 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Shore Bonito
<b>Phil Horton</b>	2006 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 2nd 2006 Abe Williams Memorial Award, Shore Grand Slam
<b>Bob (Hawkeye) Jacobs</b>	1995 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 3rd 1997 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd 1998 All Tackle shore Grand Slam, 3rd 2001 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1st 2001 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd 2001 Robert "Huff" Langley Award 2002 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>Ed Jerome</b>	2001 Inducted into the Derby Hall of Fame
<b>Lois Kelly Stout</b>	2003 Ray Metcalf Award, Senior Boat Striped Bass 2005, Ray Metcalf Award, Senior Boat Striped Bass
<b>Tom Kieras</b>	2003 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1 <sup>st</sup> ( <i>Grand Leader and Truck Winner</i> ) 2003 David Finkelstein Award, Shore Bluefish 2003 The DaRosa Award, Heaviest Shore Bluefish 2005 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 2nd

**Karen Kukolich** 1986 Flyrod Boat Bluefish, 3rd  
1988 Flyrod Boat Bluefish, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1995 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 1st  
1995 Pierre Aetello Award, Women,s largest False Albacore  
2001 All Tackle Boat Bluefish, 1st (**Grand Leader**)  
2001 Dr David Finkelstein Award, Boat Bluefish,  
2001 Carol Driscoll Memorial Award, Boat Bluefish  
2001 The DaRosa Award, Boat Bluefish  
2001 The Musia Fly Fishing Award  
2006 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Bob Lane** 1993 All Tackle Shore Bass, 2nd

**(Bonito) Ed Lepore** 1991 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 3<sup>RD</sup>  
1992 Flyrod Shore bluefish, 3<sup>RD</sup>  
1993 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
2003 Arnold Spofford Award, Bonito  
2006 All Tackle Boat Grand Slam, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2006 All Tackle Top Rod Award

**Walter Lison** 2004 Chamber of Commerce Award, Senior Shore Bluefish  
2004 George Pye Award, Senior Shore Bluefish  
2004 Madison Alwardt Award, Senior Shore Bluefish  
2004 Howie Leonard Award, Senior Shore False Albacore

**Jack Livingston** 1985 Resident Shore False Albacore, 2nd  
1996 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 1st, (**Grand Leader**)  
2001 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (**Grand Leader**)  
2001 James P. Catlow, Memorial Award, shore bluefish.  
2001 Dr. David Finklestein Award, shore bluefish.  
2004 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1<sup>st</sup>  
2004 Abe Williams Memorial Award, Shore Grand Slam.

**Don MacGillivray** 1990 All Tackle Boat False Albacore, 1<sup>st</sup> (**Grand Leader**) (**Derby Record**)  
1993 All Tackle Boat Bonito, 1<sup>st</sup>  
1993 All Tackle Boat Triple Crown, 1<sup>st</sup>  
1995 All Tackle Boat Grand Slam, 2nd  
1995 All Tackle Boat Bluefish, 2nd  
2000 Flyrod Boat Bonito, 1<sup>st</sup>  
2000 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Boat Bonito

**Keith McArt** 2003 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 1<sup>st</sup>  
2003 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
2004 All Tackle Shore Striped Bass, 1st (**Grand Leader**)  
2005 All Tackle Shore Striped Bass, 2nd

**Janet Messineo** 1984 All Tackle Shore Resident Bass, 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
1984 The Thomas Goode Special Memorial Award  
1985 All Tackle Resident False Albacore, 1st

1985 All Tackle Resident Bonito, 1st  
 1987 & 1988 CB Stark Award, woman's heaviest shore fish.  
 1991 CB Stark Award, woman's heaviest shore false albacore  
 1996, 98, 99, 00, 01 Carol Driscoll Award, woman's heaviest shore bluefish  
 1998 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam 2nd.  
 1998 Sunglasses USA Award, woman's heaviest shore striped bass.  
 1998 Sunglasses USA Award, woman's heaviest shore bluefish.  
 2005 Inducted into the Derby Hall of Fame

**Gary Mirando**      2002 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 2nd  
 2003 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 3rd

**Don Mohr**            1984 All Tackle Shore Bass, Resident 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 2003 Inducted into the Derby Hall of Fame

**George Moran**      2004 Flyrod Shore Striped Bass, 1st

**Dave Nash**          1993 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 2nd  
 2002 Fly Rod Shore Bonito, 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Leong Ngor**         2005 All Tackle Shore Bonito, 3rd  
 2005 All Tackle Shore Grand Slam, 2nd

**Scott Patterson**    2005 Flyrod Shore False Albacore, 1<sup>st</sup>

**Al Premo**            1998 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Boat Bonito  
 2003 Howie Leonard Award, Senior Shore False Albacore

**Paul Schultz**       1995 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (*Grand Leader*)  
 1999 All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 1st (*Grand Leader*)

**Jeff Sayre**          1996 Flyrod Shore False Albacore, 1st  
 2001 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 1st

**Connor Smith**      2005 Junior All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 2nd  
 2006 Junior All Tackle Shore Bluefish, 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Tom Smith**          2005 All Tackle Shore False Albacore, 3rd

**Wayne Smith**       1998 Flyrod Shore False Albacore 1<sup>st</sup>

**Hank Unczur**        2001 Ray Metcalf Senior Memorial Award, boat bass

## ***In House Derby Standings*** (As of 9/5/07)

### **Open Division**

#### **Shore Striped Bass**

1. Ron Domurat, 34.9lbs
2. Chet Loiselle, 33.2lbs
3. Chet Loiselle, 28.2lbs

#### **Shore Striped Bass Release**

1. Ron Domurat, 40"

#### **Shore Bluefish Release**

1. Peter Sliwkowski, 34"

#### **Boat Bonito Release**

1. Peter Herrmann, 24"

### **Senior Division**

#### **Shore Striped Bass**

1. Will Point 23.9lbs.
2. Jim Cornwell, 23.6lbs
3. Jim Cornwell, 22.6lbs

#### **Boat Striped Bass**

1. Chuck Wendel, 39.05lbs.

#### **Shore Bluefish**

1. Jim Cornwell, 8.30lbs

### **Flyrod Division**

1. Peter Herrmann, 25" (released)

***“Braggin Board”*** (As of 9/14/07)

**Conor Smith, 10.56lb False Albacore**

**Ron Domurat, 34.9lb Striped Bass**

**Morgan Taylor, 32.6, 31.1lb Striped Bass**

**Peter Swilkowski, 34” Bluefish (released)**

**Julian Pepper, 200lb. Big Eye Tuna**

**Julian Pepper, 10.17lb. False Albacore**

**Phil Cronin, 12.46lb Flyrod Boat False Albacore**

**Phil Cronin 11.65lb Flyrod Shore False Albacore**

***Calendar (Please Post)***

**62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Martha’s Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby September 9, 2007 thru October 13, 2007. Awards Ceremony 1:00PM Sunday October 14, Outerland.**

**Octoberfish-Larrys Tackle Shop-October 1, 2007-October 31, 2007.**

**November 13, 7:00PM, MVSA Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club**

**December 11, 7:00PM, MVSA Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club**

**January 26, 2008 12:00PM, MVSA Annual Awards Ceremony and Raffle, Old Whaling Church, Edgartown.**