



Martha's Vineyard Surfcasters Association

P.O. Box 3053 Edgartown, MA 02539

www.mvsurfcasters.org

"...to encourage the sport of surfcasting; to gather for entertainment and good fellowship; to promote and uphold sound conservation practices and laws, and to see that these laws are properly carried out by members; to further good sportsmanship; and to seek and protect public access to fishing areas on Martha's Vineyard." A. Spofford, 1989

Ed Lepore

The MVSA and the entire Martha's Vineyard fishing community lost a good friend, a good fisherman and all around good guy when Ed Lepore passed away after a courageous battle with cancer.

In addition to being one of the better fly fishermen on the island, Ed could always be counted on to help when asked or volunteer when he saw a need for his services. He was an outstanding fly tier and developed the extremely popular 'Bonito Bandit' fly which is a favorite among fly fishermen in the know. For many years his donations of hand tied fly's were highly prized items at MV Derby and MVSA raffles.

Ed loved the Vineyard and earned the nickname 'Bonito Ed' because of his propensity to catch the ever elusive bonito. Early August every year would find Ed and his fishing partner Steve Baccelli anchored up off the Oak Bluffs SSA pier or running and gunning along state beach looking for the first bonito of the year. He was almost always an annual winner in the MVSA In-House Derby as well as a consistent prize winner in the MVSB & BF Derby. His accomplishments were impressive:

- 1991 All Tackle Boat False Albacore 3rd
- 1992 Flyrod Shore Bluefish, 3rd
- 1993 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 2nd
- 2003 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Boat Bonito
- 2006 All Tackle Boat Grand Slam, 3rd
- 2006 All Tackle Top Rod Award
- 2008 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Boat Bonito
- 2010 All Tackle Boat Bonito, 2nd
- 2010 Arnold Spofford Award, Senior Boat Bonito
- 2011 Howie Leonard Memorial Award, Senior Boat False Albacore
- 2015 Roberto Germani Catch & Release Award
- 2015 Flyrod Boat False Albacore, 2nd

Condolences may be sent to the Family of Ed Lepore, 201 Skinner Road, Vernon, CT 06066. Memorial donations may be sent to the Hospice of Martha's Vineyard, PO Box 1748, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

April Meeting

President Scarpone announced plans for the 2017 MVSA In House Derby details of which are spelled out below. He said there will be fly fishing and boat divisions but both will require a **minimum** of four entries in each division to have prizes awarded. In addition, in order for an entry to be considered, the fish must be weighed on a digital scale or at a local tackle shop. Fish weighed on a boga grip or similar scale, will not be considered.

Don announced that a Ron McKee lure will be awarded to the member who catches the first striped bass and the first bluefish of the year. (*Jason Patterson caught the first striper on 4/26*)

Just another reminder that MVSA dues are due now. This is the last newsletter you will receive if your dues are not paid by May 15, 2017.

Also a final reminder about the 2nd Annual MVSA Used Tackle Sale. The sale will be held on May 27 at the MVRHS parking lot beginning at 9:00 AM. We are still looking for donations of used or unwanted tackle. Contact President Scarpone at donaldscarpone@yahoo.com Proceeds from this sale, will go toward the funding of a second college scholarship.

The May monthly meeting will be held at the MV Rod & Gun Club on Tuesday May 2 beginning at 7:00 PM. Ryan Collins, ***My Fishing Cape Cod*** will be our guest speaker. As always, pizza will be served.

Last call for the Cuttyhunk trip. Contact President Scarpone donaldscarpone@yahoo.com



John Shillinger demonstrates how to make emergency rod repairs.

BE A WINNER IN THE MVSA IN-HOUSE DERBY, *Dave Balon*

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:

Striped bass 32"

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)

Mail the slip 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 fall 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.

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.

There will be flyrod and boat divisions this year but a minimum of four entries per division must be received before a prize can be awarded.

A special prize will also be awarded to the member who catches and releases the largest striped bass over 20 lbs.

Also, as discussed and agreed upon over the winter, starting this year, there will be a new club award. An 'Angler of the Year' will be chosen. The award 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 to: MVSA, In-House Derby, at the above address or email to Dave Balon at WeighSlip@mvsurfcasters.org

In-House Derby entry forms may be obtained on the MVSA web-site www.mvsurfcasters.org (Then go to the Club tab, 2017 In-House Derby) The Official Weigh In Slip link is under the MVSA Derby Info section.

Beach Report, *Chris Kennedy*

Spring is in the air at Chappy and Norton Point. This past winter's storms are behind us and the prevailing winds are mostly from a southerly direction which has been favorable for beach growth (accretion) over the past few weeks. The beach is open for OSV access from the Norton Point Gatehouse to Cape Pogue gut with a few detours here and there.



It's interesting to note that the current April beach status map (above) looks the same as last year's status map from 4/16/2016! So, you'll note that the first half-mile of ocean beach is closed right now due to erosion but even this section of beach is looking better than it did two weeks ago. We're hoping it will get wider as the longshore currents move more sand to Norton Point Beach from Aquinnah. Also, the short section of outside beach from Aruda Point to the Jetties is closed due to erosion. On Saturday, Chief Ranger Rick Dwyer spotted 6 Piping plovers between the Norton Point Gatehouse and Leland Beach just north of Wasque Point. No plovers have started to nest but that should change quickly. Oystercatchers and Osprey are in abundance as are other migrating shorebirds. The beach looks terrific following the Earth Day Beach Cleanup—thanks to all of you who pitched in. All dune and shorebird area fencing is in place and we have begun our annual efforts to trap and remove skunks from the known nesting areas.

If you have not reserved your 2017-2018 permits yet, you still have until May 1 to order them online (<http://www.thetrustees.org/places-to-visit/cape-cod-islands/mv-osv-permits.html>) and receive a \$20 discount. After May 1, all permits will be charged at last year's rates.

Permits can also be obtained at the Trustees regional headquarters in Vineyard Haven, Coop's Bait and Tackle and the Dukes County administration building at the airport.

The Story of the Courtesy Patrol, *Janet Messineo*

In 1986, the Piping Plovers were listed as a “threatened species” by the US Fish and Wildlife service. Measures to protect the bird’s habitat are conducted each year, including controlling human access to nesting areas, nest monitoring and protection, limiting residential and industrial development.

As you already know, the Surfcasters began in 1989. A couple of years later we became aware that miles of driving beach on the cape were being closed because Piping Plovers were nesting on the barrier beaches. We began to do research

We reached out to fishing clubs and we had speakers from some of the groups come to the island to educate us on the situation of beach closures. A few members from the MA Beach Buggy Assoc. came to talk to us but they were very militant in their approach and we all knew that that would not work on Martha’s Vineyard.

The Cape Cod Salties sent members Lou McKail and Molly Benjamin. Molly was a sports writer for the Cape Cod Times. I do remember them saying that once they closed us down we would never be able to change the decision. True so far!

The Trustee’s are still trying to work something out with the government, so that the beach can be saved. We had many meetings brain storming trying to figure out how we could share the beaches with the birds and not close them down.

The Courtesy Patrol came into existence by way of all the discussion with the Trustee’s. The rest is history and although the Piping Plovers have made some recovery, our beaches remain closed until the young birds fledge.

The Trustee’s and the Surfcasters have been in communication since the beginning.

Chip Bergeron has been the coordinator up until last year when he wanted to step down and I volunteered to take his place. Chris Kennedy is our boss. The only thing I do as the coordinator is report to Chris. We report any major illegal beach events and he is especially interested in our summary. Everyone is required to keep a log and I collect and summarize those logs at the end of the season and send them to Chris.

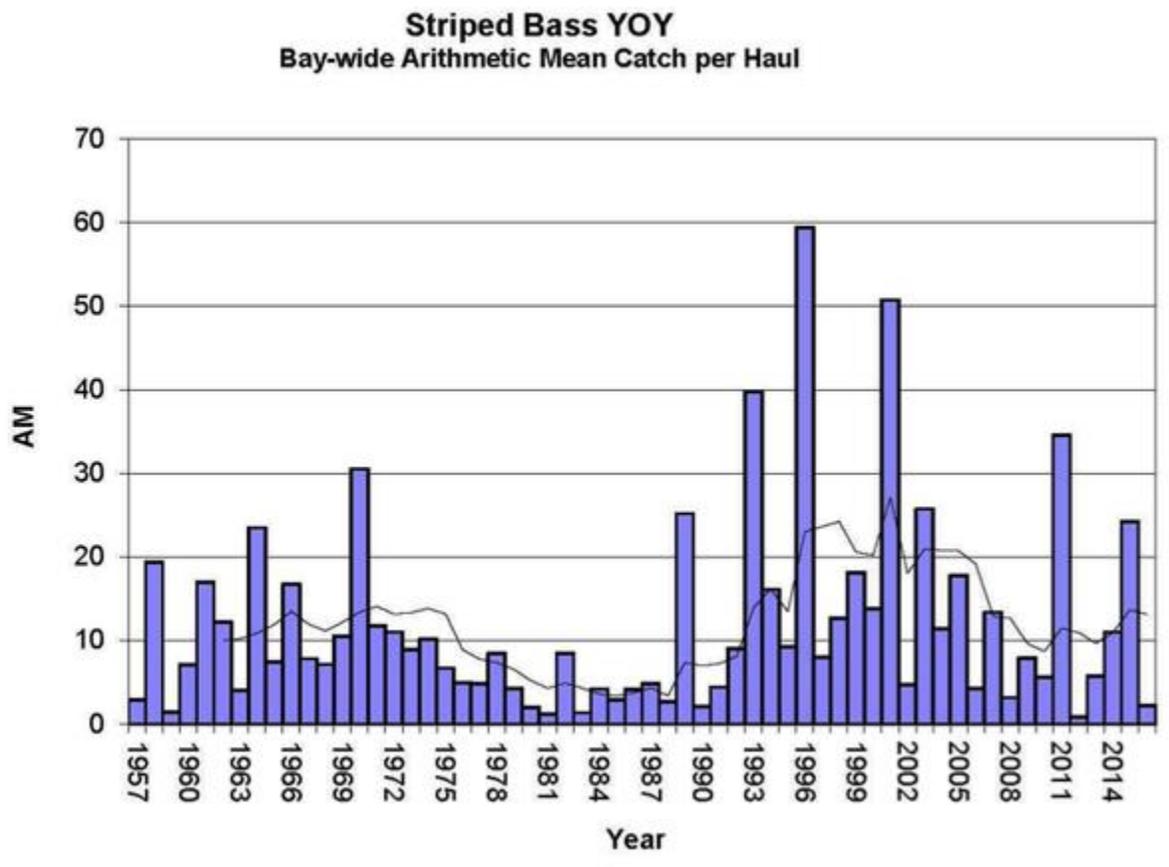
I’ve heard that some members feel that it is unfair that the same people get to be on the patrol. No members of the Courtesy Patrol choose who is going to become a new member. We meet with Chris each spring as a group. Chris wants the core members to stay the same each year. We accept his decisions. Unless someone decides they no longer want to be on the patrol, it remains the same. When a space becomes available a slate of Surfcasters that have shown interest in becoming part of the Courtesy Patrol are presented to Chris and he chooses the new participants.

We get complimentary beach stickers for our participation. We pay for our own magnetic signs. The Trustee’s are happy to have us be extra eyes and ears for them. Our purpose is to give information to the beach users and report to the Trustee’s any illegal activity. We do not enforce.

Trouble Ahead??

Strippers Forever recently sent an Action Alert to its members warning that Chesapeake Bay commercial interests are again demanding higher kill limits on striped bass. They want to roll back the modest conservation measures put in place during 2013 and return to the harvest levels that contributed to coast-wide recreational catch declines of up to 90%.

According to Strippers Forever president Brad Burns the decline in the recreational catch has cost multiple times as many jobs in the recreational fishery as all the commercial jobs that currently exist. Burns states that strippers should be managed for the far more socio-economically valuable recreational fishery, and that means more fish left in the ocean not less.



The chart above shows that under the higher catch limits the Chesapeake Bay year classes have become progressively less consistent and that the trend line for spawning success is down. Burns also stated that the number of really large striped bass in the population is much smaller than in the early 2000s. That was why the catch limits were all reduced just 3 years ago, and we should never return to those harvest levels.

On May 9th the Striped Bass Board of the Atlantic States Marine Fishery Commission "ASMFC" will consider whether or not to send this request for a larger striper kill out to public hearing. Stripers Forever is urging their members to contact their state's ASMFC representatives and request that they vote not approve this request.

This is a matter of extreme importance to all of us. Over the last few years we have seen the striper fishery dwindle to about 40% of what it was just seven or eight years ago and now selfish interests want to eliminate conservation measures that were instituted within the last three years. Striped bass stocks have already shown signs of improvement but the passage of this measure could set us back for years.

You don't have to be a Stripers Forever member to help on this matter of extreme importance. Simply copy and paste the brief note below into an e-mail with the copied email addresses for your state ASMFC representatives. Each state has three representatives so an email to all three would be helpful. In addition, add the governors and ASMFC reps from MD and VA, the states that are driving this change.

The entire process will only take about ten minutes of your time. ***Please do this!!***

[To:] field. In the [Subject:] field enter "Striped Bass Conservation" Change the message as much as you want into your own words or thoughts.

We also ask every member of Stripers Forever, no matter what state you live in, to send this letter to the governors and ASMFC representatives of Maryland and Virginia. It's easy, with one e-mail all of this takes just a few minutes and makes a huge difference.

MA- david.pierce@state.ma.us, sarah.peake@mahouse.gov, ray@capecodfishermen.org
RI- Janet.coit@dem.ri.gov, sen-sosnowski@rilin.state.us, lizzy2@charter.net
CT- david.simpson@ct.gov, craig.miner@uconn.gov, lancestewart@uconn.gov
NH- douglas.grout@wildlife.nh.gov, david.waters@leg.state.nh.us, r-dwhite@comcast.net
ME- patrick.keliher@maine.gov brian.langley@legislative.maine.gov
NY- jgilmore@gw.dec.state.ny.us, pboyle@nysenate.gov, ech12@cornel.edu
NJ- dave.chandra@dep.state.nj.us, asmandrzejczak@njleg.org, tfote@jcaa.org

MD <http://governor.maryland.gov/mail/default.asp>Contact: <http://governor.maryland.gov/mail/default.asp>

VA <https://governor.virginia.gov/constituent-services/communicating-with-the-governors-office/>
john.bull@mrc.virginia.gov

COPY THIS MESSAGE INTO YOUR EMAIL:

The quality of our striped bass fishery is very important to me. I do not want to see striped bass harvest levels returned to the levels of 2013 because I believe those levels will just continue to degrade this fishery. Striped bass are a great game fish and good fishing is extremely valuable to the 3,000,000 people who angle for stripers along the Atlantic coast. We don't want striped bass to become just another depleted commercial species. Please vote no on Addendum V to Amendment 6.

New Tool for Anglers Takes Fisheries Management Back to Basics

Another significant development during the last month was the launching of a new website designed to help the average angler better understand the complicated process of fisheries management.

Fissues.org was developed by MVSA member and fisheries advocate Captain Patrick Paquette and well know Long Island fishing guide Captain John McMurray.

Arlington, VA – The Marine Fish Conservation Network (Network) today launched a new online resource created for recreational fishermen that provides clear, reliable news and opinions about fisheries management in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Developed and administered by longtime fishermen and advocates, Captain Patrick Paquette and Captain John McMurray, Fissues.org simplifies the complicated fisheries management process for the species that matter to average citizens in order to better inform and engage anglers in important management decisions.

“Although U.S. fisheries are public resources that should be managed with community input, the reality is that the government process is too complicated for most of us to get involved,” said Paquette. “We launched Fissues.org to make fisheries management more accessible to everyone who cares deeply about catching fish.”

“Fissues.org boils fisheries management down to the basics that your average angler can understand,” said McMurray. “We want to provide the essential information needed for a conservation-minded angler to stay informed and get involved, such as writing a letter or attending a hearing, which could directly affect what happens on the water.”

The web site will focus on management by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, the New England and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Councils, plus Congress, Department of Commerce and NOAA Fisheries as it pertains to stocks in the region. It will feature those species most targeted by recreational fishermen, such as black sea bass, cod, blue fish, Atlantic herring and summer flounder, which are often the subject of the most complicated and controversial management decisions.

Fissues.org founders say creating the online tool for anglers is one of the many ways we hope to get fishermen more engaged in the decisions that affect them most.

The Network is piloting Fissues.org in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, and may extend its fisheries management coverage to other regions in the future.

*The **Marine Fish Conservation Network** is a coalition of commercial and recreational fishing associations, regional and national conservation groups, aquaria, and marine science organizations committed to sustaining fish populations, healthy marine ecosystems, and robust fishing communities. For more information, visit us at www.conservefish.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) or Twitter (@marinefishcons).*

Calendar of Events

May 2, 2017-7:00 PM, MVSA Monthly Meeting, MV Rod & Gun Club, Edgartown-Speaker, Ryan Collins-Fishing the Cape. Pizza

May 6-First light- til -MV Rod & Gun Club Annual Kids Trout Derby. Duarte's Pond, Lambert's Cove Road. Hot dogs for breakfast and something special this year in the form of some big brood stock in the pond. Cooper Gilkes, 508-627-3909

May 27, 2017-2nd Annual MVSA Used Tackle Sale. 9:00 AM, MVRHS parking lot. Don Scarpone donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

May 26, 12:01 AM-May 29 4:00 PM-Bob "Hawkeye" Jacobs Memorial Day Fishing Contest-Dicks Bait and Tackle. 508-693-7669

June 3-4, 2017 MV Rod & Gun Club Catch & Release Tournament, Cooper Gilkes at [508-627-3909](tel:508-627-3909), www.mvrodandgunclub.com.

June 16-June 18, 2017-9th Annual Island Cup Fishing Tournament, v.colantonio@gmail.com

June 20-June 22, 2017, MVSA Fishing Trip to Cuttyhunk, donaldscarpone@yahoo.com

Month of June-Larry's Tackle Shop Bass & Blue Battle, 508-627-5088, peter@larrystackle.com

July 8- 8:00 AM to July 9, 6:00 PM, Fluke for Luke Fishing Tournament, Registration at Dick,s Bait & Tackle, Coop's Bait and Tackle and CMS Tackle New Bedford.

July 8, 2017, MVSA 5:00 PM Annual Club Picnic, Bend in the Road Beach

August 2 -August 6, 2017-MVSA Annual Surf Shark Tournament, East Beach

September 10, 2017-October 14, 2017-“The Derby”