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THE PLUM LINE

The Official Newsletter of The Plum Island Surfcaster
P.O. Box 364 – Newburyport, MA 01950
<http://plumisland.surfcaster.com>

SEPTEMBER 2006

Presidents Message

September is finally here and so are the peanut bunker, and with their arrival it seemed like every fish in the area was between the mouth of the river and parking lot 2 last Wednesday. Of course by Sunday the cold front had blown all the bait offshore, but that's fall fishing on Plum Island. The wind plays a greater role in your fishing success at this time of the year than any other time of the season. I'd like to give a shout out for a great and relentless job Chuck Cassella did in shooting down Bill 2575. His efforts played a huge roll in its defeat .Thanks Chuck. The September "GO FISH" EVENT is the 16th. We and the M.B.B.A. are trying to work out some problems with the new management out at the wildlife refuge and to be honest we haven't been having a lot of success. I will be able to go into more detail at the general meeting. Until then, get out and hit the beach. It's the best fishing of the year and it will be winter before you know it.

Kevin M. Moore

JR's Program

The " GO FISH" event is taking place on the 16th at the wildlife refuge parking lot 1 from 7 A.M. TO 2 P.M. Bait, rods, breakfast and lunch will be provided. Sept. 29th and Oct. 13th are scheduled for overnights out on the refuge but as of right now the beach is still in terrible shape. I have not registered my truck for its drive on permit for fear of flats. I know there are guys driving the beach so maybe its not as bad as it looks. I'll know better on the 16th. There's a beach clean up scheduled on the day of the "GO FISH" event. There's an awful lot of lumber with nails in it right now. Hopefully things will improve, but safety with the kids, their parents/guardians, and their vehicles will come first.

K. Moore

Jr's. Program Schedule

Friday September 29th: Plum island overnighter

Friday October 13th: Plum island overnighter

Saturday September 16th: Beach Blast

Go Fish! Kids Fishing Day

September 16, 2006
9am-3pm

(Rain date Sunday Sept. 17, 2006)

@

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge
Parking lot #1

BRING THE FAMILY

Sponsored by:
Plum Island Surf Casters
Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association
The Friends of the Plum Island Wildlife Refuge

Including: activities for kids, live animal demonstration, casting and fishing demonstrations (mentors will be on hand for instruction) fishing poles, tackle and bait will be provided.

Lunch will be provided by the Massachusetts Beach Buggy Association.

FREE to the public on this day.

LEGISLATION

Ocean Legislation

RFA Successful on Striped Bass in EEZ

In a move that will surprise many, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) announced on September 8, 2006 that it will continue the closure of striped bass fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The EEZ includes all of the coastal waters from three miles off shore out to the United States' territorial waters.

"This news is a great relief to striped bass fishermen everywhere," said Jim Donofrio, Executive Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance

(RFA). "It was a bad idea from the very beginning, but we have seen this kind of thing happen before. An idea is floated and a few who might benefit from it in the short run get it rolling like a down hill freight train. They do not care about the long term effect to the majority of others involved in the fishery. It is just a bad idea."

The RFA and the Plum Island Surfcasters were part of a massive letter writing campaign supporting the continued closure. NMFS received nearly 8,000 comments from RFA members from Maine through North Carolina pointing out that lifting the harvest ban would, in the long-term, damage the stock.

Striped bass produces a tremendous economic impact for the recreational fishing industry. The successful rebuilding of the striped bass fishery is responsible for generating \$2.41 billion in direct sales and supporting 68,301 jobs. The unique aspect of the striped bass fishery is that it is a stable, consistent fishery, which has given anglers the confidence to make substantial investments and upgrades in the fishery. Such a tremendous economic boom could not have been achieved without this consistency.

"Striped bass are one of the most important inshore species for recreational anglers and the recreational fishing industry," continues Donofrio. "This is a prime example of how effective conservation and management can greatly benefit coastal economies."

Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to hold Striped Bass Hearings

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries will host an ASMFC hearing on Draft Addendum I to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass at 5:30PM on Monday, September 25th at the Annisquam River Marine Fisheries Station (30 Emerson Ave., Gloucester). This Addendum is primarily drafted to identify strategies that address the by-catch of striped bass in other fisheries. States along the east coast will be required to institute programs that monitor and document the fisheries and gear that contribute to striped bass by-catch and also attempt to quantify that by-catch. This Addendum does not contain any elements that would change the current harvest rates (commercial or recreational) under the current striped bass management plan, Amendment 6.

Defeat of Massachusetts Ocean's Bill Got Help From Above

As many of you are probably all aware, the exhaustive efforts of the Recreational Fishing Alliance were a major contribution to the defeat of the proposed Ocean Management bill this past summer. Along with the RFA efforts and those of the PISC, I just need to mention that there were

two other people who helped us realize our success. Lt. Governor Kerry Healey and Reed Hillman met with several of us from the RFA on separate occasions to discuss the impacts of the ocean bill. They recognized the threat it had to the daily management of our ocean resources and more importantly recognized the attempt of private environmental groups to gain control over marine policy for Massachusetts state waters. I can honestly tell you that we would not have been successful without their support on this issue. They are extremely familiar with the issues that we as sportsmen face and have pledged to have an open-door policy to discuss future issues.

TOURNAMENTS

Club year long tournament standings:

As of Sept 1, 2006

Striper from Surf Kept - Senior

- 1st place – Aaron Quinlan - 30 lbs 1 oz.
- 2nd place – Kevin McGrath - 27 lbs 8 oz.
- 3rd place - J.P. Gregoire - 23 lbs 1/4 oz.

Striper from Surf Released - Senior

- 1st place - Mark Fulton - 41.5"
- 2nd place - Kevin McGrath - 40"
- 3rd place - Tim Brooks - 34"

Striper from Boat Kept - Senior

- 1st Place - Norm Tabor – 43 lbs 12 oz.
- 2nd place - John Noonan - 23 lbs 8 oz.
- 3rd place - Mark Nelson - 21 lbs 11 oz.

Striper from Boat Released - Senior

- 1st place - Sean King - 45"
- 2nd place - John Noonan - 43"
- 3rd place - Rodney Radcliffe - 39"

Bluefish from Surf Kept - Senior

- 1st place – Chuck Casella - 8 lbs 11 oz.

Bluefish from Surf Released - Senior

- 1st place – J.P. Gregoire - 34".

Bluefish from Boat Released - Senior

1st place - John Noonan - 34"

Striper from Surf Released - Junior

1st place - Emily Noonan - 34"

2nd place - Colleen Noonan - 21.5"

3rd place - Jacob Gregoire - 19"

Plum Island Year Long – May 1st – October 31st

Tri-State Tournament – Maine Leg – September 8th, 9th, 10th

Exotics – October 1st – November 1st

Tri-State Tournament – Rhode Island Leg – October 27th, 28th, 29th

Die Hard – November 1st – November 30th

2006 SCHEDULE:

Sept 19 – Steve McKenna, “Techniques for Big Bass After Dark”

Oct 17 – Round Table Discussion

Nov 18 – Saturday Awards Banquet/Photo Contest/Fish Stories

Dec 19 – Yankee Swap – Gifts and Desserts

The board is taking nominations for the **John Walden Memorial**, this award is presented every year to a member of the club that has contributed above and beyond the call of duty. If you would like to nominate someone please see a member of the board.

REFRESHMENTS

NO TIME TO EAT BEFORE THE MEETING, NO WORRIES.

The refreshment committee will be offering a nice home cooked meal before each meeting for a donation of \$3.00. Below you will find the menu for the next three months. So come **HUNGRY!!**

September:

October:

Coffee and snacks will continue to be offered for a small donation. The refreshments committee, and the JR. Surfcasters Thank You for your continued support.

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