



## **SALTY BYTES**

The quarterly newsletter of the Saltwater Fly Anglers of Delaware

**September, October, and November 2018**

**Writer/Editor: Roy Miller**

On the internet at [sfaod@outlook.com](mailto:sfaod@outlook.com); our club message board is at [www.TidalFish.com](http://www.TidalFish.com)

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### **-A Note from the Editor-**

As always, contributions of articles, comments, or pictures that I can include in subsequent newsletters are welcome. You can reach me at home (see above) or by email.

**Sep. 12** – Regular Club meeting, Mark Sampson, speaker

**Oct. 7** – Coast Day at U of D in Lewes

**Oct. 10** – Regular Club meeting

**Oct. 13** – One Fly Contest

**Nov. 14** – Regular meeting and elections

**Dec. 12** – Regular meeting, Roy Miller to speak on ASMFC matters

**Jan. 4, 2019** – Annual dinner meeting

**Jan. 5** – Fly tying from 9-noon at Lewes Harbor Marina every Saturday

**Jan. 25-27** - Fly fishing show in Edison, NJ at the Convention and Expo Center

**Feb. 13** – Regular Club meeting

**Mar. 9-10** Fly fishing show Lancaster County Convention Center, Lancaster, PA

**Mar. 13** – Regular Club meeting

### **SFAOD Meeting Sept. 12, 2018**

Start: 7:10 p.m.

Board members present: Ron Smith, John Lupinetti, Bob Kutay, Bernie Stasko,  
Paul Temple, Ed Barry

Absent: Roy Miller

Speaker for the evening: Captain Mark Sampson of Fish Finders Adventures, Ocean City, MD.

Captain Sampson's experience and reputation have made him a sought-after guide for shark tagging and other conservation techniques to gather data on different species of sharks. He spoke about one of his latest adventures with the OCEARCH research team made up of different research groups which sponsor the program. Captain Sampson's job is to catch the sharks, whether they are makos, sand tiger sharks, hammerheads or other species. He and the crew then tag the dorsal fin with a SPOT tag. This type of tag only records and transmits the position of the shark and water temperature each time the dorsal fin is exposed at the surface.

Depending on the particular research project he is involved in, some sharks are simply measured, recorded and released; while others are fitted with satellite transmitters and a multitude of other data is recorded, even blood samples, before releasing the shark. This type of transmitter commonly is placed on mako and various hammerhead sharks which track their habits, travel routes and catch rates.

Only non-offset circle hooks are used to catch sharks, however, Capt. Sampson observed that at least 5-10% of the time the shark would swallow the hook. So he devised a "blocker-rig" (in 2008) which prevents the shark from swallowing the hook. This rig has a 100% success rate of preventing gut hooking.

Capt. Sampson has a 40 ft (Fish Finder) boat which he uses out of Ocean City during the summer through fall. He will guide for fly fishers as well as standard gear. He also guides in the winter in the Florida Keys on a 17 ft. Fish'N Fly. Check out his web site (BIGSHARKS.COM) for pictures of the shark research and his Block-Rig and also guide trip information.

The monthly raffle was completed. Club hats, shirts, books and flies were offered for sale.

### **Club Business**

Membership is 140 regular and 18 honorary, with no new members this month.

Treasurer's Report for August:

Starting balance \$ 3,864

Deposit \$ 47

Ending Balance: \$ 3,911  
A full report is available upon request.

### Club News

October 7<sup>th</sup> is Coast Day- SFAOD will have a table; we need volunteers to help with the all day event. There will be space for fly casting as well. Contact: Ron Smith, Hours from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
October 10<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting- Rich Seagraves will report on Climate Change and effects on coastal fishes.

October 13<sup>th</sup> One Fly Contest – Bring two identical flies; one for participants to draw from for fishing and the other goes to the winner. Sign up by 8 a.m. at the Club House in Rolling Meadows. Various soups will be served at lunch.

### Board

Two new board members have been appointed to take the place of Frank Danner and Shawn Rakes: Paul Temple, and Ed Barry. John Lupinetti stated his goal was to have Chairmen for different activities. Ted Morlock volunteered to be Solicitation Chairman for sponsors. We need a Chairman for Special events such as the holiday dinner and club picnic. Also, we need a Program Chairman. These responsibilities have mostly been falling on one Board member. It would be much appreciated if these responsibilities were shared – “many hands and many feet make the burden lighter.”

Steve Halsted asked if there would be interest in demos with Switch rods which make it easier on the shoulders. There was some talk about different lines. John Lupinetti suggested we set a demo up for next year and have a speaker address the many different fly lines available now.

Guests: There was a student from Argentina named Santiago with his sponsor, Jim Donato. The student fly fishes and found SFAOD on the web and asked to come to the meeting. Both sponsor and student came down from Dover. Another guest that night was a fly tyer who is hoping to learn more about fly fishing.

### Fishing Reports:

John L., Ron S. and Shawn R. fished Indian River Inlet a few nights ago. The water was dirty and only 6 stripers were caught in 3 hrs. Members Jerry Groll and Allen Cairncross fished Cape Shores Pier and caught 3 stripers on floating Clousers. The water temperature has really dropped in the last week. Jim Donato fished White Clay Creek where the dam is but had no luck. Walt Clark fished Roosevelt Inlet and caught many stripers at night. Those that fished the IRI talked about the 75 ft. rule imposed by the Coast Guard. It is the Coast Guard's obligation to inform you of the rule, but they rarely chase you away. Shawn Rakes talked about his trip to the Florida Keys where he caught some exotics, a gar, some cichlids, tilapia and got some hits from Oscar fish. A general discussion ensued regarding all the regular fishing spots.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Meeting minutes were compiled by Loretta Smith.

### **SFAOD Meeting Oct. 10, 2018**

Start: 7:06 p.m.

Board members present: Ron Smith, John Lupinetti, Bob Kutay, Bernie Stasko, Paul Temple

Absent: Roy Miller, Ed Barry

Speaker for the evening: Our speaker, Richard J. Seagraves, retired in 2018 as Senior Scientist with the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Dover, De. where he worked for 27 years. He is one of the authors of a research paper published in 2018; “ **Projecting shifts in thermal habitat for 686 species on the North American continental shelf.** “ This paper can be found at the following link:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0196127>

Mr. Seagraves basically summarized for the Club what impacts climate change is having and will have in the foreseeable future on fish stock management along our coast lines. The fish species are gradually moving north seeking cooler waters. This shift in species distribution has been happening for a number of decades due to the warming of the oceans. The changes in the ecosystem not only impact distribution of fish but also natural mortality, growth and maturity, general health and loss of habitat. For more in-depth information, please review the article found on the link above.

### Club Business

Our Club membership is 143 regular and 18 honorary with two new members. John Campbell-retired a year ago, is looking forward to fly fishing and Gary Needham is from PA.

Treasurer’s Report for September:

Starting balance: \$ 3,911.04

Ending Balance: \$ 3,999.04

A full report is available upon request.

### Club News

Ron Smith thanked everyone who came out to assist at the table and fly casting at Coast Day. He mentioned Rick, Loretta, Joe, Walt, Bernie, Frank, and Clyde in particular.

October 13<sup>th</sup> One Fly Contest – Bring two identical flies; one for participants to draw for fishing and the other goes to the winner. There will be gift cards for the largest fish and for the most fish. Report in by 8 a.m., at the Club House in Rolling Meadows to register. Fishing will be in tidal waters only. Check in by 3:30 p.m. Various soups will be served at 12 noon for lunch.

The speaker for next month, November 14<sup>th</sup> is Paul Dolbek who will talk about two-handed rods. Roy Miller will speak at our December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting regarding Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission deliberations and recent and anticipated changes to marine fisheries management in our area.

Our Club’s annual holiday dinner is Friday night January 4 at the Lewes Presbyterian Church in Lewes. The cost is \$10 per person.

Paul Temple reports that our website is working well. He requests that members do not reply back to him when he posts news, and instead look for the email of the original sender of the news item. Any links members want to see on the website should be sent to Paul.

Bernie Stasko still has Club flies for sale. No hats or tee shirts were available at this meeting.

Leadership for Project Healing Waters in our area has been taken over by Russell Martin, who is a member of our Club. However, the Club no longer has a Memorandum of Agreement with PHW. PHW is now under a national umbrella which releases our Club from any liability in the event that someone is injured during a PHW activity. This is good for the Club and good for PHW.

Steve Halstead reminded everyone the Club Library is listed on the web site. He will respond to any requests for books or tapes by bringing them to the next Club meeting.

Shawn Rakes announced the remains of Lefty Kreh's fly fishing estate will be auctioned off on Langsauction.com October 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Shawn also read current "A Good Year" fishing contest list of participants. December 15<sup>th</sup> is the cut off for AGY.

## Board

John Lupinetti announced that Bernie Stasko has been appointed the new Vice President of our Club. He will take over whenever John is not present. Also, Bill Lacata and Walt Clark have volunteered to be Co-chairmen of Events. Ted Morelock is our Solicitation Chairman.

The Board made the decision to raise the membership dues in 2019 in order to ensure the Club meets its responsibilities. The cost of goods and services keeps rising and the Board felt the club needed to keep up as well. The club has had discussions regarding paying for speakers and this is one of the things we may have to do in the future. It is getting harder to obtain free speakers. The club also subsidizes our events such as the picnic and yearly dinner; also snacks and drinks at regular meetings. The club also has liability insurance to pay as well as rental fees for the club house. The new dues will be \$25 per year. If a member pays yearly dues before April 1<sup>st</sup> it will be \$20. After April 1<sup>st</sup> it will be \$25.

## Fishing Reports:

Shawn and Ethan Rakes were in Pulaski, NY. The water was very high, and unfortunately no fish were caught. Jim Donato fished the upper Susquehanna River and fell in because the water was very fast. He caught a fallfish and a small walleye. Jim took Santiago, a visiting student from Argentina, fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and sunfish.

Walt Clark and Bill Licata went fishing with Ron Smith on his boat in the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal at night. They caught white perch and striped bass up to 19 inches (see below).



Here's Bill Licata (left) and Walt Clark (right) with some of their catches on Ron Smith's boat on the Lewes and Rehoboth Canal. Bill is holding a striper and Walt has a nice size white perch. Ron took the photos.

Mike Gorland went kayak fishing and caught one fish.

Bill L. and Ed Barry fished the L&R canal and caught many sub-legal stripers at night.

Steve Halstead caught a Northern stargazer at Roosevelt Inlet from shore on a fly.

Frank Danner fished the mouth of the Chester River and caught white perch and schoolie size stripers.

Ron Smith stated that the lights were out at the State boat ramps on the Broadkill River in Lewes. He also stated that his boat was checked by a Fish and Wildlife enforcement agent for the first time ever. It seems they had an intern training session. All went well.

Dennis Lahiff suggested getting a group together for a trip to Martha's Vineyard next June. John L. said he and Ed Barry are working on gathering information for group trips in 2019 as well.

The annual door prize drawing was completed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. Many thanks to Loretta Smith for preparing the minutes in Sept. and Oct. during my absences (Roy Miller, editor).



Roy Miller (left) and Loretta Smith (right) found some small stripers in Indian River Inlet October 17 fishing with Captain Aaron Hurd of Gale Force Charters. These fly rod fish were taken while it was still day light!

### **SFAOD Meeting November 14, 2018**

The meeting started at 7:05 PM at the Rolling Meadows Club House in Lewes.

**Board Members Present:** John Lupinetti, Ron Smith, Bernie Stasko, Ed Barry, Roy Miller, Bob Kutay

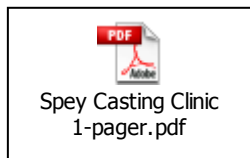
President Lupinetti introduced our speaker Paul Dolbec who will discuss 2-handed fly rodding. He plans to debunk a lot of misinformation this evening.

Spey casting started on the River Spey in England around the middle 1800s. These rods are properly called 2-handed rods, not Spey rods. The term Spey refers to the line or the cast. The anchor is the tip of sinking line or leader and fly at the end of the fly line. The Deer Creek TFO rod is a good price point rod for this type of fishing. Paul has a Beulah 2-handed rod that is his personal favorite. Lines you can use include: Spey, Skagit (shorter with



multiple tips), and Scandi. These rods will save wear and tear on your shoulder and enable you to cast longer lines with ease. He recommends them for steelhead and salmon rivers and saltwater applications like fishing the surf. He urged everyone to be careful when buying a 2-handed rod because fitting the correct weight line is critical to rod performance. He will do an outside demonstration next year for those who want to learn how to cast a 2-handed rod. He favors 2-handed rods that are 13 ft. or longer as opposed to switch rods that are 11-12 ft. long.

Here is a one-pager Paul sent out subsequent to the meeting that summarizes his advice. Just click on it to download it:



**Fishing reports** – Dennis Lahiff only lasted 0.5 hr. on the beach today before the weather got the best of him. Ron Smith was in St. Martin recently. There were lots of tarpon of 60-70 lbs. back in the lagoons. He had a 7 wt. and lighter tippet with him. He had two on for 10-15 minutes with 30 lb. bite tippet which wore out before he could land the fish. Jim Donato caught some rainbow trout at the Tuckahoe below the dam. He also hooked a snakehead which snapped the leader as he was trying to land it. Walt Clark fished in Hatteras last week and was unable to fly fish because of conditions. His group caught 60 six lb. bluefish on metal and a 6 ft. sandbar shark using conventional surf tackle. The storms have made a mess of the overpass and you can get stranded for 6 hours if you are not careful. Rick R. had some action on the Point at Cape Henlopen with small stripers.

At the recommendation of Rick Ranalli we made long-time Club member Roger Hone an honorary member. Ron Smith said that if you fish the Canary Creek Bridge, be careful not to let your rod touch the bridge while fighting a fish or it might break. There are a few striped bass under the Bridge, but it is fished every day by anglers using conventional gear.

The monthly door raffle was held at the conclusion of the fishing reports.

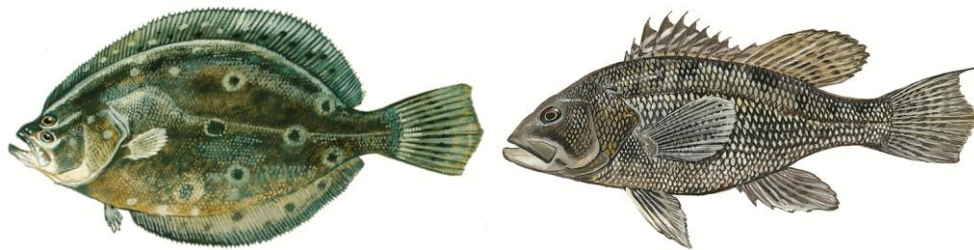
**Business Session** - Peter Lawrence is a new member who reversed the trend by moving here from Miami Beach, FL. He has a total of 20 minutes of fly fishing instruction and wants to learn more. He lives near Milton and has done a lot of kayak fishing. Bob Kutay sent out membership renewal notices. Ron Smith said that in Oct. we started with \$3,999 in the Club treasury. Our Holiday Dinner will be on Jan. 4 at 6:00 PM at the Lewes Presbyterian Church. Bill Licata and Walt Clark are coordinating this event and Walt will take reservations. The cost is \$10/person. Please bring door prizes so that everyone gets something to take home. For participation in our annual John Meaghre Fly Tying Contest, bring your single best saltwater entry to the next meeting and give it to Bob Kutay in a sealed envelope with your name on it. Awards for the best flies will be given at the annual dinner. The AGY fishing contest closes on Dec. 15 and probably will not be renewed in 2019 unless there is a groundswell of support and someone volunteers to coordinate this contest during Shawn Rakes absence in 2019. Hopefully we will have fly tying this winter at Lewes Harbor Marina on Saturday mornings, but this has yet to be finalized. Bernie Stasko has Club flies for sale. Ed Barry is selling tickets for the Grand Raffle to be held in June of 2019. John reminded everyone that we have to nominate Board members for the coming year, and fill the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Frank Danner moved that we nominate the current Board and Secretary and Treasurer for another year, and this motion was approved by unanimous consent. We will vote on these candidates next month. Roy Miller will be the speaker in December, and he will provide an update on Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission undertakings and what we can expect in the way of fishing regulation changes in 2019. If he has time, he also may show some slides of his fishing trip to Montana this past summer.

For something new in 2019 we will consider having a yard sale this spring. We also are considering having more outside meetings this year between June and Sept., and we might have a pot luck dinner in 2019. A suggestion

was made that our website would benefit from an events calendar. Our Club trip coordinator for 2019 is Ed Barry. He is considering Air B&Bs at Martha's Vineyard for a Club trip in Sep. 2019. Other suggestions for Club events in 2019 are welcome. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned around 9:30 PM.



Club member Rich Seagraves has been racking up incredible numbers of both fresh and saltwater species on a fly this year, especially in FL this fall. Just two examples include false albacore (left) and Mayan cichlid (right) taken from his Facebook postings.



## Biologist Corner

Management of two of our most important local saltwater species, summer flounder and black sea bass, is slated for some changes in the year(s) ahead. Since these species are found in both inshore and offshore waters, management jurisdiction is shared between agencies: the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) which approves management plans for species that occur mostly inside the Territorial Sea (inside the 3-mile limit), and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) which approves management plans in conjunction with the federal government for those ocean species that occur mostly beyond the 3-mile limit. The crux of the problem is that both summer flounder and black sea bass have been impacted by climate change (as we heard in Rich Seagraves presentation to our Club last month). What this has meant is that stocks of both of these species have been occurring more offshore or further north or both. Locally this climate change impact has meant that our fisheries for both of these species have been declining in inshore waters, at least for harvestable size fish. Legal-size summer flounder and black sea bass are now more prevalent outside of Delaware's 3-mile jurisdiction in federal waters. Consequently, if you want to catch and keep some summer flounder and black sea bass, you better plan on fishing further offshore than we did 20 years ago. Legal size summer flounder and black sea bass are now comparatively rare in Delaware Bay, although sub-legal fish of both species continue to be caught inside. The New England states of CT, RI and MA have seen large increases in black sea bass, and to a lesser extent, northward range extensions by summer flounder, to the point that there are concerns about the effects of black sea bass predation on juvenile lobsters in the once-fertile lobster areas off of Massachusetts.



In recognition of this new reality, the ASMFC and MAFMC are examining new procedures for setting annual catch limits. Both of these species are managed presently on a “target quota” basis. For summer flounder, 40% of the total allowable harvest is allotted for recreational landings (the rest of the allowable harvest is set aside for commercial interests), and the recreational target for black sea bass is 51% of the allowable harvest. Summer flounder recreational allocations will be based on the most recent coastwide stock assessment. For 2019 this will amount to 5.15 million lbs. as compared to 3.77 million lbs. in 2017 (see attached Table 3). These 5.15 million lbs. can be allocated state by state, or by regions. In recent years, the regional allocation has been utilized rather than state by state allocations. Recreational harvests from the prior year are compared to the current year recreational harvest limit to determine whether coastwide harvest needs to be reduced or allowed to increase. For summer flounder, six regions have been established as follows: 1) MA; 2) RI; 3) CT and NY; 4) NJ; 5) DE, MD, and VA; and 6) NC. For black sea bass there presently are 3 management regions: MA through NY, NJ, and DE-NC. The black sea bass recreational harvest limit will be 3.27 million lbs. in 2019 compared to 4.29 million lbs. in 2017 (see attached Table 4). It is proposed that the ASMFC and MAFMC will decide on regional allocations annually by a process known as specification setting. By this process decisions will be made on harvest liberalization or reductions among the regions based on the most recent stock assessment, resource distribution and availability, angler effort, and prior year fishing harvest. This will allow some flexibility to account for altered species distributions caused by climate change. To learn more about this process visit the ASMFC website at <http://www.asmfc.org/> and click on draft Addendum XXXII (32). A hearing on this draft addendum was held in Dover on November 8, but almost no one came other than the sponsoring agencies. Written comments from the general public on this draft addendum will be accepted until November 29, 2018 at [comments@asmfc.org](mailto:comments@asmfc.org). How all of this will play out in Delaware remains to be seen, but I expect to see discussion of allowable minimum size limits, daily harvest limits, and seasonal restrictions for these two species in the year ahead at the joint ASMFC/MAFMC meeting on December 11-12, with implementation by all the states before the spring of 2019.

**Tables 3&4 from ASMFC Addendum XXXII to Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass Plan.**

**Table 3. 2017–2019 summer flounder specifications pertinent to the recreational fishery, as based on the 2016 stock assessment update.**

Management Specifications	2017	2018	2019
	mil lb.	mil lb.	mil lb.
OFL (Overfishing Limit)	16.76	18.69	20.60
ABC (Acceptable Biological Catch)	11.30	13.23	15.41
Recreational ACL (Annual Catch Limit)	4.72	5.53	6.22
Recreational ACT (Annual Catch Target)	4.72	5.53	6.22
Recreational Harvest Limit	3.77	4.42	5.15

**Table 4. 2017–2019 black sea bass specifications pertinent to the recreational fishery, as based on the 2016 benchmark stock assessment.**

Management Specifications	2017	2018	2019
	mil lb.	mil lb.	mil lb.
OFL (Overfishing Limit)	12.05	10.29	9.18
ABC (Acceptable Biological Catch)	10.47	8.94	7.97
Recreational ACL (Annual Catch Limit)	5.38	4.59	4.10
Recreational ACT (Annual Catch Target)	5.38	4.59	4.10
Recreational Harvest Limit	4.29	3.66	3.27

## PHWFF

Our local Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing liaison is Russell Martin 302-535-9896 and his email address is [rtlmartin1980@gmail.com](mailto:rtlmartin1980@gmail.com). Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a Club-sponsored program and all club members are invited to help with this exciting and rewarding program. Please join the group at one or more of the periodic programs at the Veterans Home in Milford. See Russell for more details on dates and times. You won't be sorry that you donated your time and talents to this very worthy cause.

## SFAOD SPONSORS

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- WHITING FARMS, INC.

- **WRIGHT & MCGILL, CO.**



The lead picture of an avian fisher was taken in October by Roy Miller at Gorden's Pond, Cape Henlopen State Park.  
The sunset photo was taken this fall by Ron Smith at Simpson Bay on St. Maarten.