



TO: Marine Resource Advisory Council
FROM: Major Timothy A. Duffy
RE: NYSDEC Marine Enforcement Report-June 2012
DATE: June 28, 2012

MARINE RESOURCES

Short Fluke (Queens County)

On May 6, ECOs Gregory Maneeley, George Scheer and Christopher Lattimer were on boat patrol in Jamaica Bay when they stopped to check a recreational fishing vessel with two occupants. ECO Lattimer boarded the vessel and spoke with the owner who stated he had two fish on board. The Officer looked in the live well and observed two fluke both under 15 inches. Officer Lattimer then released the fish back into the water and issued the subject a summons for possession of undersized fluke.

You Got Me Good...Today (Bronx County)

On May 20, ECO Nathan Favreau received a phone call from a trusted source in the Turtle Cove area of Bronx County. The caller stated that an individual was out on a rowboat and keeping several striped bass that looked to be undersized. The caller also stated that this was one of a group of individuals that routinely poach in the area and then sell the fish illegally. Unable to respond, ECO Favreau forwarded the information to ECO Eric Dowling who acted quickly, responding to the area. Upon arrival, ECO Dowling saw an individual coming back to the shore and waited until he brought his boat in. ECO Dowling approached the individual and asked him if he had caught anything. Recognizing there was no way to escape, with a black plastic bag next to him, the man responded, "You got me good today." When asked how many fish he had, the man responded, "A lot." Upon checking the bag, ECO Dowling discovered 11 striped bass inside, only one of which was of legal size. The man claimed the fish were still alive and could survive if returned to the water. After several unsuccessful attempts to let the fish go, it was clear none of them were going to survive. The man was issued three summonses for: possession of over the limit, undersized striped bass and failing to release fish without undue harm.

The Crabs Are Only For Bait (Suffolk County)

That was what a Patchogue resident told ECOs Mark Simmons, Tim Fay and Matt Krug who were on a boat patrol after midnight on May 22, 2012 off Howells Point in Patchogue Bay on the lookout for crabbers. The vessel trip limit of horseshoe crabs had just been lowered to 30 and the Officers were in a boat using night vision when Officer Krug observed a boat running to the east. With Officer Simmons at the helm, they were soon alongside the 18-foot vessel. The Officers immediately noticed that there were horseshoe crabs stacked high enough to be crawling over the gunnels of the boat. When asked for his Horseshoe Crab (HSC) Harvesters Permit, the fisherman said he did not have one, but the crabs were only for bait. All he could do was hang his head as the Officers counted 704 horseshoe crabs. The man was issued two

criminal summonses for possession of HSC without a permit and possessing 674 crabs over the limit.

Man Overboard Rescue (Nassau County)

On May 28, MEU ECOs George Scheer and Brian Farrish along with ECOs Erik Dalecki and Matt Garrigan were on boat patrol in Oyster Bay, Nassau County. While the ECOs were fueling up the SAFE Boat, someone shouted, "Man overboard!" A boater had fallen off his boat while trying to secure it to obtain fuel. The man was in a potentially dangerous position, caught between his boat and the dock. Responding quickly to the call for help, ECOs Scheer and Garrigan were able to render assistance, lifting the subject out of the water and back onto the dock. Once safely on the dock, the ECOs stayed with him until he was stabilized.

Memorial Day Striper Poaching (Westchester County)

On Memorial Day weekend, as a result of multiple complaints of striped bass poaching at Croton Gorge, ECO Aaron Markey responded to the location each day and recovered a total of 17 illegal striped bass and issued 14 tickets for various violations of the ECL. This small piece of State land is a DEC Unique area, and is closely watched by local residents, who report activities to the ECOs. Upon informing the complainants of the outcome, they were extremely pleased with ECO Markey's response and enforcement efforts.

Boat Patrol Finds "The Beast Of The East" (Suffolk County)

Over the three-day Memorial Day Weekend, ECOs Jeremy Eastwood, Liza Bobseine and Don Damrath patrolled the waters of Eastern Long Island from Mattituck Creek to Wading River and Jamesport to Shinnecock Bay. The officers checked compliance with the Marine Fishing Registry of some 200 plus fishermen, issued summonses for short fluke and unregistered vessels, and assisted Southampton Town Bay Constables with a disabled boater. The ECOs most exciting encounter came during a check of a commercial fisherman. Although the fisherman complained about the apparent absence of scup on the north shore this year, he did manage to land a beast of a blackfish. The titanic tautog was 29 inches long and weighed approximately 17 pounds.



Sizing Them Up (Nassau County)

On June 3, ECO Erik Dalecki and MEU ECO Sean Reilly were on boat patrol on the Region's 25' Mako patrol vessel in the Long Island Sound, near Execution Rock. While checking anglers in the area, they checked one boat with two anglers on board. When asked if they had any fish on board, the anglers replied, "Yes, a striped bass and bluefish." Upon inspection of the angler's cooler, a legal sized striped bass, a bluefish, and two undersized fluke were also found, measuring 15 and 16 inches respectively. The anglers were then asked what the size limit for fluke was, to which the anglers replied, "Sixteen inches?" The anglers were each given a summons for possession of undersized fluke and educated to the legal size limit for fluke.

All In A Day's Work (Suffolk County)

On June 10th and June 17th, ECOs Matthew Krug and Christopher Lagree conducted boat patrols of the Long Island Sound between Rocky Point and Wading River. During the two boat patrols, the ECOs terminated three voyages for failure to carry life jackets and also issued a total of 25 tickets. The tickets were for a variety of ECL and Navigation Law offenses including no marine registry, taking undersized porgy and fluke, taking out-of-season winter flounder and blackfish, failure to have PFDs and operating an unregistered vessel.

MISCELLANEOUS/MEETINGS

I Fish NY (Queens County)

On May 16th, Officer Doreen Lum participated in an I Fish New York with NYS DEC Fish and Wildlife staff at Kissena Park in Queens County. The I Fish New York program is very popular in Region 2 as the program introduces fishing to many urban students for the first time. Kissena Park, in northwestern Queens County, features a lake that is filled with all type of freshwater fish. With the assistance of ECO Lum, students from a local public elementary school were able to catch and release approximately 15 fish and a couple of hungry turtles.

Jamaica Bay Kayak Fishing Tournament (Kings County)

On May 18th, ECO Matthew Nichols attended an annual kayak fishing tournament in Brooklyn. Over 300 fishermen participated in this year's three day event. Despite the windy weather, the sun was shining and the fish were biting. The tournament is a catch-and-release event where the fish are measure and photographed to determine a winner.



I Fish NY Kissena Lake (Queens County)

On May 31st, ECO Christopher Lattimer attended the I Fish NY outreach at Kissena Lake in Queens County. The event consisted of three classes of third grade students from P.S. 33 along with accompanying parents and teachers. The students were given instruction on how to safely

and properly hold and cast their fishing rods. Officer Lattimer assisted in the instruction along with answering questions regarding fishing regulations within New York State. He also helped the students with re-baiting their lines and releasing any fish that were caught. During the one hour classes, many fish were caught and safely released back into the pond.

ECOs & Cub Scouts At An I Fish Event (Suffolk County)

On June 16, ECOs Alena Lawston and Don Damrath joined Fisheries Chief Chart Guthrie and other DEC Personnel at an I Fish NY Event at Deep Pond Boy Scout Camp in Riverhead. The ECOs taught fish identification and explained fishing rules and regulations to a group of enthusiastic Cub Scouts. The picture perfect weather was topped off by excellent fishing with nearly all the participants catching fish making for a memorable day by the future sportsmen and women in the Region.



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