

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

WWW.CTFLYFISH.ORG

November 2020

2020 Mid-Season Long Island Sound Report It's been an interesting first half to the fall salt-water season! If you've had your heart set on Albies and Bonito, you've often had to compromise because we haven't seen a consistent push yet this year. There was a flurry of activity in early September, which got everyone's hopes up, but those fish raced through from Stonington to Old Lyme in a single day. After that, they vanished. My wife and I were lucky to capitalize on that one morning. A couple weeks later, some Bonito showed up at Fisher's Island, only to disappear after a couple of days. Once again, we were in the right place at the right time somehow. Typically, short-lived appearances like this have to do with a lack of bait, but that is not the case this year. There are loads of Anchovies in the Eastern Sound and the table is set very well. I'm guessing the inconsistent fishing has to do more with water temperatures and the storms that have blown through. The good news is that there are some fish starting to show up again, and there have also been plenty of other options to pursue. Spanish Mackerel have been around for nearly two months now, and they are a blast. They love flies, but if you go for them, make sure you use a 40lb shock tip-pet. That's not needed because they're strong, but because they'll bite off instantly. I also wouldn't use your favorite fly for them, because after 1-2 fish, it'll be gone--even with synthetic materials! The Blues bite has also been outstanding this year, with 8-10lb fish the normal in the rips at the usual spots. Bluefish

may not be the glamour species that Bass are, but you'd need an awfully big Bass to get you into backing the way a 10lb Blue will! Speaking of Bass, it's also been a good year. We don't fish Rhode Is-



land much, where things have been really hot, but Connecticut has had a nice season as well. We're finding that the near-shore action is slower than last year so far, but out at the rips, it's been very consistent. We've gotten slot size fish regularly. Finally, the Chub Mackerel is another interesting fish that has saved a lot of days for us. They're around in good numbers, and they're essentially mini Albies. They're small but they run like crazy! October has a good setup, and once water temperatures cool and more bait gets flushed out of the estuaries, things are really bound to heat up. All hope for Albies and Bonito is not lost, as Montauk saw its very first Albies (and a lot of them) in the last week of September. We've also noticed that CT almost always sees a nice push of Bonito in the Eastern Sound around October 10th. Tight lines to everyone out there giving it a shot!

I want to thank Mark Casali for sending us some great pictures again and letting us know about his saltwater fishing he enjoys so much with his wife





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Zoom invite for What Trout Like to Eat & Flies to Feed Them

Topic: Tim Flagler's Presentation to CFFA "What Trout Like to Eat & Flies to Feed Them"

Time: Nov 11, 2020 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85238257911>

BIO: Tim Flagler is the owner of Tightline Productions, L.L.C., a video production company located in Califon, NJ. Although he produces video programs over a wide range of topics, his specialty is fly fishing. Tim is a well-known fly tying instructor. His YouTube videos are some of the best in the business and his YouTube channel, practicalpatterns.com currently has over 80,000 subscribers and 24 million views. Almost every week he produces a new fly tying or "how to" video which appear not only on his YouTube channel but on Midcurrent and the Orvis fly fishing blog as well. They're also featured on Trout Unlimited's national website and in the Orvis Learning Center. In addition, he has a regular column "Beginner's Masterclass with Tim Flagler" in Fly Tye magazine. Many of his tying videos take the viewer well beyond just the tying of the fly and show what it looks like underwater, what natural it represents and how it can be fished.

From the vest of the President

www.youtube.com/channel/UCIdlkp_uBiYEw-Pb4-BDBjw



November is here and our country is still in the middle of the pandemic. Eight months of this terrible disease and really no end in sight. There has been some promising talk about the vaccines now being tested on a sample of people around the world. Let's hope our most brilliant minds have come up with a solution that works and puts this pandemic behind us. Until that happens our functions at CFFA will remain on hold. I sure miss the social aspect of what we do and I am sure most of you do also.

By now you should be aware that our meetings are being brought to you wherever you are instead of you traveling to the clubhouse in East Hartford to get to a meeting. We have done this by using the ZOOM format for our meetings in September and October. The attendance in October was higher than it was in September and we hope this trend continues. In an effort to get more participants I did post our upcoming November meeting featuring Tim Flagler as an event on our CFFA Facebook Page. By posting it as an event anybody that follows our Facebook Page will receive a reminder prior to the actual event. At this time as I write this we have 1,119 people that like our page and 1,198 that follow our page and if you would like to be reminded of our upcoming events please visit us at <https://www.facebook.com/CTFlyFish> and click the follow button. If you have never had the opportunity to see and hear Tim Flagler you are in for a treat. I have had the good fortune of tying flies with Tim on two occasions sponsored by Farmington Valley Trout Unlimited. Both were very enjoyable and I am now a frequent visitor of his YouTube channel <https://>

I wish all of you a very happy thanksgiving holiday this month. Even though we are in a very rough and trying situation at the current time we all have something to be thankful for.

Gary

Several weeks ago Kevin Fuller and I went to New Hampshire to fish for landlocks. We were to fish with our guide from last year but rain changed that. He was fishing on the last day of the season with his friends but still helped Kevin and I. But he fished with us and it was a pleasure for us to net his fish. John Springer



Environmental Report

9/2/20

Rollbacks by the current administration on environmental law have been done by executive order eliminating completely by [defunding or partially defunding sections of each Act covered in this report](#). As explained in the 8/5/20 report this impacts the CFFA Policy Statement adopted by the Board on 3/5/2017. Impact statements will include the following laws:

[The National Environmental Policy Act](#)

The Endangered Species Act

The Clean Water Act

The National Historic Preservation Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Conservation Act

The Clean Air Act

The impact of the White House efforts to reduce environmental regulatory burdens on federal agencies has led to multiple lawsuits against the administration. Kristen Boyles, an attorney with Earthjustice stated, “Gutting the National Environmental Policy Act silences voices and puts vulnerable communities, health, and our environment – including our air and water – at risk. We’re not going to sit back and allow a decision that could harm public health during a public health crisis go unscathed. We will see them in court.”

The National Environmental Policy Act (Sometimes called -The People’s environmental law)

Is a United States environmental law that promotes the enhancement of the environment and established the President’s Council on Environmental Quality. The law was enacted on January 1, 1970. To date, more than 100 nations around the world have enacted national environmental policies modeled after NEPA.

The **administration changes** open the door for government exemptions for pipelines, large-scale logging operations, waste incinerators, highway projects and countless other federal actions from environmental review and sharply limits local communities’ ability to participate in the environmental decision-making process.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973

Is the primary law in the United States for protecting imperiled species. Designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction, “as a consequence of economic growth and development untampered adequate concern and conservation”, the ESA was signed into law by Presi-

dent Nixon in 1973, The purpose of ESA is two-fold: protects species from extinction including the ecosystems upon which they depend, and to recover species to the point where the law’s protections are not needed. The U.S. Supreme Court found that “the plain intent of Congress in enacting ESA was to halt and reverse the trend toward species extinction, whatever the cost.” The lead agencies for implementation – U.S. Fish and Wildlife (FWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Species included are birds, insects, fish, reptiles, mammals, crustaceans, flowers, grasses and trees.

The **administration rules** tighten links between protections and threats to the listed species and make it harder to protect species that are imperiled by climate change. One of the most critical changes are the regulators will now be able to **weigh the economic costs of protecting species and that climate change will be of less importance**. If the administration succeeds with this new rule, it will severely undercut ESA’s habitat protections. It adds a new definition of “habitat” that would leave areas important to imperiled species’ survival and recovery open to exploitation by big polluters, like oil, gas and mining companies.

The Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act is the primary federal law in the United States governing water pollution. Its objective is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters; recognizing the responsibilities of the states in addressing pollution and providing assistance to states to do so, including funding for publicly owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment; and maintaining the integrity of wetlands.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. **The basis of the CWA was enacted in 1948 and was called the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, but the Act was significantly reorganized and expanded in 1972.** It gave the federal government the authority to oversee a wide range of lakes, streams, and wetlands that connect to large waterways strengthening restrictions to ensure clean drinking water and safe habitats for wildlife.

The **administration eliminated** the clean water regulation that limited the amount of pollution and chemicals in the nation’s rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands. The water rules eliminated by executive order because the president criticized the regulations for curbing the rights of real estate developers, the landowners and farmers.

The National Preservation Act

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America’s historic places.

The U.S. Government significantly contributes to the funds governed by this Act. These resources are used to protect and preserve state and tribal historic places.

The administration proposed drastic reductions in preservation initiatives in the Historic Preservation Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund and the National Trust for Historic Preservation Fund.

The Migratory Bird / Treaty Act

Is a United States federal law, first enacted in 1916 to implement the convention for the protection of migratory birds between the United States and Great Britain. The statute makes it unlawful without a waiver to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, or sell birds listed therein as migratory birds. The statute does not discriminate between live or dead birds and also grants full protection to any bird parts including feathers, eggs, and nests. Over 800 species are currently on the list. For over a century now, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 has been in place to protect birds from unnatural threats to their habitat — including the growing and increasing encroachment of human developments like oil drilling and construction. Currently, these deaths can result in hefty fines of up to \$15,000 per bird killed. Under the Trump administration's reading of the rule, they would be effectively stripped of any penalty for what, are considered to be, "incidental" killings of birds.

The administration moved to weaken the rule, allowing for industry interests to turn birds into collateral damage as they continue their polluting, harmful practices. That includes, death as a result of oil slicks, hitting wind turbines, getting shocked by

power lines, or spraying pesticides — even ones that are considered to be illegal to use.

The Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act of 1963 is a United States federal law designed to control air pollution on a national level. It is one of the United States' first and most influential modern environmental laws, and one of the most comprehensive air quality laws in the world. As with many other major U.S. federal environmental statutes, it is administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with state, local, and tribal governments.

The administration does away with a decades-old air emissions policy, opposed by fossil fuel companies, a move that environmental groups say will result in more pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it was withdrawing the "once-in always-in" policy under the Clean Air Act, which dictated how major sources of hazardous air pollutants are regulated.

Under the EPA's new interpretation, such "major sources" as coal-fired power plants can be reclassified as "area sources" when their emissions fall below mandated limits, subjecting them to differing standards. The Clean Air Act defines a "major source" as one that has the potential to emit 10 tons or more per year of any hazardous air pollutant, or 25 tons per year of any combination of hazardous air pollutants. For more than 20 years, EPA's "once-in always-in" required major sources to remain subject to stricter control standards, even if they took steps to reduce their pollution below the threshold.

Continued on Page 6

Big Win in Congress for Fish Habitat and Stream Access by Clayton Elliott

This summer, the U.S. Congress passed landmark conservation legislation that will secure more public access in Montana and invest millions of dollars into the restoration of coldwater fisheries on our public lands under the bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), S. 3422/H.R. 7902. The bill will (finally) fully and permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), as well as create a new fund that will provide up to \$9.5 billion to address significant maintenance backlogs on federal public lands, including the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and others.

Montana has regularly reaped the benefits of LWCF projects, receiving \$597 million in LWCF dollars to fund everything from half of the state's fishing access sites, to key public land acquisitions, such as the recent BLM acquisition of over 7,000 acres east of Missoula that will help protect Gold

Creek and Belmont Creek, both spawning tributaries to the famed Blackfoot River that are home to wild and native populations of Westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout. LWCF monies were also essential in acquiring property along Tenderfoot Creek in the Smith River drainage that preserves and enhances public access and protects spawning habitat for wild fish. Furthermore, more than half of the state's fishing access sites have benefited from LWCF funding.

While most of the national and state press reports highlight the win for LWCF and our National Parks under the bill, the often-forgotten investment in the maintenance backlog on our public lands, like the Forest Service and BLM, component stands to have some of the most direct benefit to coldwater fish and their habitat in Montana. From reclaiming abandoned roads to fixing fish barriers like antiquated culverts, these dollars will mean better habitat for wild and native fish.

MTU has actively pushed for the legislation for years, including working directly with all three members of our Congressional delegation and pushing for inclusion of the public land maintenance backlog fund. All three voted yes on the bill, and Senators Tester and Daines were lead Senate co-sponsors. Countless MTU members wrote notes, made calls, and submitted letters to the editor to highlight the importance of this legislation to our coldwater fishery legacy. Those efforts made this win possible.

President Trump signed the legislation into law on August 4, finalizing this significant victory.

Big conservation wins like this don't happen that often in Congress, and they do not happen by accident. Thanks to you for making your voice heard! Crack open a cold one on the river this summer and raise a toast to the Great American Outdoors Act!

Habits and Routines by John Springer

When I joined TU back in 1986 I met an older fellow who told me a story how he moved to Connecticut from NY to be by his friend who he had fished with for many years, when he moved here his friend passed away. Being much younger then I said that's sad did you find a new friend? And he said no he had all but given up fishing as it would not be the same. We fished a few times but his heart was



not in it. After over 30 year of fly fishing I also had a few regular people I fished with and very rarely fished with anyone else. I'm thinking many of you reading this understand that and have the same habits and rou-

tines yourself. Over the years I lost several guys who showed me the way and helped me out to understand

our sport. Each became a very big part of my life I miss them a great deal and think of them often. But I never gave up fishing as I know they would not have wanted me to do that.



Last fall I started to fish with some people I had not fished with before, we had a great time and it was sorta like starting all over again. What I mean by that is I put some effort into learning new spots and with the help of DEEP's maps and signs in trees it was pretty easy to do. Driving around became like an Easter egg hunt. Oh I came up empty a few times but all and all it worked out well and there is nothing like learning new "secret" spots. Several people I know had to fish on weekends, something I try not to do. They retired we got to spend time together talking and fishing, and of



Paul's Fly Box

Tying instructions & a video on how to tie this pattern can be found at

<http://tightlinesflyfishing.blogspot.com/>



Hook: Tiemco 3769 Size #12-#18 (or similar hook of choice).

Bead (Optional): Gold, Copper, or Black Tungsten Bead to match.

Thread: UT Ultra thread 70 Brown, Black, or Olive.

Tail/Body Shuck: Sparkle Yarn (Color to match Naturals – Some tiers also use Antron or Zelon).

Body: Sparkle Yarn mixed with U/V Hare's Ear Dubbing.

Wing: Deer Hair (Color to match naturals).

Thorax/Collar: Fur Dubbing (color to match).

course eating a streamside lunch. People I worked with



spent time on the river but only after I eat at his old time dinner in



that knew how much I fished and saw pictures of the beautiful places it took me were very excited to go, I even let them spin fish while we work up to using a fly

rod! Better to know there is something in the water before they spend time casting a fly rod and not catching, you all know what I am



talking about.

Over the past few months I reconnected with people I knew years ago like Jamie who was a kid who my friends and I taught at Norwich Fish and Game years



ago came back into my life, because he is much older now he breaks my chops as much as I break his, makes for a great day. My wife's little sister from well over 30 years



ago came back into our lives, her boyfriend loves to fish and hunt and wants to learn to fly fish. Jake and I have

New London. And oh can he cook comfort food. Take a look at the pictures of these guys fishing we had many great times and I look forward to many more. When Covid is over and we go back to meetings and having a banquet I look forward to them at my table. So many new stories and experiences to relive.



They say you can't turn the clock back, well this set mine back a bit just think what it was like when you were just starting out and met new people. Never forget your mentors but when they are no longer in your life for whatever reason, try new water and taking someone new fishing.

Continued from page 4

Republicans quickly cheered the move by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, especially those **from states that produce oil, gas and coal.**

The entire spectrum of environmental laws has been under attack from this administration apparently for reasons based in reducing the scientific and analytical integrity of environmental impacts on humans and other species that are essential to their quality of life and for corporate greed.

Phil Apruzzese Environmental V.P.

Lines & Leaders

The Newsletter of The Connecticut Fly Fisherman's Association

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Monthly Meetings

7 p.m. on the second Wednesday
of the month AS USUAL!!

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
MEETINGS WILL BE HELD
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