



HUDSON RIVER HAPPENINGS & INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE Compiled by the HRBYCA <https://www.hrbyca.org> v 2022.04.

Government Affairs report 3/31/22:



Photo credit: Riverkeeper

Anchorage: HRBYCA (and many others) eagerly await the release of the report to Congress concerning the Hudson River Safety Navigation and Operations (HRSNOC) submission last fall to the US Coast Guard recommending 6 new anchorage locations on the river. The Report was due to be delivered to Congress and made public in January. You may recall the report was part of legislation passed by Congressman Maloney, Chair of the US Coast Guard Subcommittee, two years ago, which formally outlawed any new anchorages – but gave the HRSNOC some voice.

HRBYCA and 3 other partners on the committee (out of a total of 10 HRSNOC voting members) voted against the submission to the US Coast Guard as we believe it portrayed a too rosy picture on vessel safety with little concern for recreational boat and commercial vessel separation – but we were out-voted, 6 to 4, with commercial interests all in synch.

Some of the 6 anchorage locations proposed are located close to HRBYCA clubs and Hudson River marinas. We believe too close. Regardless we are a long way from any new anchorages (if at all) and it remains to be seen how the legislation that did not permit new anchorages would even potentially give us 6 new anchorages on the river.



Photo credit: Dave Jude, University of Michigan

The Round Goby

Photo credit: Dave Jude, University of Michigan

Champlain Canal / Round Gobies: There is the potential to stop navigation on the Champlain Canal this season as the result of a nasty little fish, the Round Goby, which is an aquatic invasive species (AIS) that was found last summer in the upper Hudson near Troy Dam. The concern is the fish will irreparably alter the Lake Champlain

ecosystem. Of course for us on the Hudson, but sadly, there's not much we can do. Today it is believed to be as far south as Poughkeepsie, and once it enters an waterway it cannot be removed. If you catch one destroy it per directive of NYS DEC.

The Nature Conservancy is lobbying to 'temporarily' close Champlain Canal lock C7 in Ft. Edward until a permanent solution is found. The Lake Champlain Basin program, as well as NY at VT, are fully engaged in planning to stop the fish with intermediate and long term solutions. More needs to be learned on Canada's participation on this effort as Goby has been in the St. Lawrence Seaway since 1996.

The fish, which originally came to the Great Lakes via ship ballast water, and then via Oswego and Erie Canal/Mohawk River, has many in the environmental community deeply concerned. BoatUS (full disclosure: this writer is a BoatUS employee) is supporting a NYS DEC and Canal Corporation intermediate plan that provides some balance between keeping navigation open, and employing effective measures that prevent the spread of the fish into the Champlain Basin, which is current home of some 51 non-native and aquatic invasive species. This plan allows for additional measures if necessary, but by no means are we certain vessel navigation is assured this season, or others.

As with some AIS, there is nuance as to their harm (yes I know that will get me hate mail). The Goby is an aggressive fish that crowds out other fish types – and will eat the worm off your hook in seconds. However, the fish also seems to have a following with bass anglers as it is a food source, but also keep in mind it also devours bass nest eggs when males are off the nest in the spring. Gobies can clean one out in about 15 minutes (one reason when you catch and release you do not delay and immediately get the fish back in the water).



Photo credit: NYS Canal Corporation
Champlain Canal

Regardless, erring on the side of caution and erecting a hard barrier or "berm" (with a travel lift to facilitate vessel passage) that hydrologically separates the Canal from the Champlain basin is where this is heading. This "portage" (as I call it) would still permit vessel transits and is likely the best win-win outcome. Also is simultaneously looking at the entire basin including Canada's Chambly Canal as AIS pathways. Live bait buckets, as are trailerable boats a concern as well.

Natural History Excerpt from Hudson River Almanac

Tom Lake NYS Naturalist

Can You Eat the Striped Bass from the Hudson River?

This is part of a series of submissions for the NYS Department of Health's Hudson River Fish Advisory Outreach Project (HRFAOP) by project grantee, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County, Diane Whitten, Resource Educator. Contact: dwhitten@cornell.edu

Striped bass are one of the most well-known fish in the entire Hudson River, prized by generations of fishermen. It's prized not only for its size (they can be upwards of 30+ pounds) and the exhilaration of catching one, but it's also prized for its culinary value. It's eaten by more fishermen than any other fish from the Hudson River. But, are they safe to eat?

Most anglers consider striped bass "ocean fish," believing they spend only a short portion of their lives in the Hudson River during their annual spring spawning run and believing striped bass are not as contaminated with PCBs as other Hudson River fish.

However, tagging studies done by researchers showing the migration of striped bass indicate that some striped bass stay in the Hudson River for much longer than previously thought. Researchers have discovered a legal-sized "resident population" that stays in the Hudson River, especially between Troy and Catskill, for much longer than their spawning run. Sampling of striped bass for PCBs by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) over many decades shows that these fish have PCB levels often three to four times higher than other striped bass found south of the Rip Van Winkle Bridge in Catskill, as high as catfish. The NYS DOH advice is that no one should eat striped bass caught between Troy and Catskill. This advice has been in place for more than 20 years.

To learn more, including what the chances of catching a striped bass contaminated with PCBs are, visit this NYS Dept. of Health website: <https://www.health.ny.gov/fish/stripedbass.html>

Croton Seal



3/5 – Croton Point, HRM 34: I spotted a short, blunt log out in the river off Croton Landing this morning. It dipped under the surface of the water, came up, and through my binoculars I could clearly see a hound dog face, diagnostic of a gray seal. With shoals of wintering striped bass in Croton Bay right now, a seal's appearance was not surprising. (Photo of gray seal courtesy of Tom Lake)

- Charlie Roberto

[Our list of Hudson River Estuary marine mammals documented in the Hudson River Almanac across the last 28 years includes:

- harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*)
- hooded seal (*Cystophora cristata*)
- gray seal (*Halichoerus grypus*)
- harp seal (*Pagophilus groenlandicus*)
- common (harbor) porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)
- Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*)
- bottlenose (common) dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*)
- Florida manatee-2006 (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*)
- minke whale-2007 (*Balaenoptera acutorostrata*)
- humpback whale-2016 (*Megaptera novaeangliae*).



3/9 –Verplanck, HRM 40.5: I was at Old Steamboat Dock this morning watching for eagles and waterfowl. Several skeins of Canada Geese, some mallards, a handful of common mergansers, great cormorants, black vultures, fish crows, and the usual gull assortment were there along with several bald eagles. At 7:30, I spotted a seal, its head popping out of the water. Its "dog face" look instantly recognizable as a gray seal. Last winter (February 16), I came upon a gray seal at the same spot, and I wondered if this one was the same one,

having returned. (Photo of gray seal courtesy of Steve Rappaport)

- Steve Rappaport

INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE-VIRTUAL BULLETIN BOARD

Two members of the Keyport Yacht Club are looking for rudders.
One member is seeking a rudder for a Tartan 37.
The other member is looking for a rudder for an S2 9.2

Please send any leads or suggestions to Jess Gregory
Marketing Committee Chair Keyport Yacht Club
jess.gregory@gmail.com
201 452 2834



The Hudson River Fisherman's Association

The HRFA's Annual Awards Dinner
Sunday April 3, 2022
4:00 - 8:00 PM

Cornetta's Restaurant
641 Piermont Ave.
Piermont, NY 10968

[click here](#) for information and reservations/payment

The Fred Mung Memorial Striped Bass Derby

Catch, Tag, Photo & Release or Catch, Photo & Release
Check their [web site](#) for more information

The HRFA's annual 'Catch & Release' and 'Catch, Tag & *then* Release' Striper Derby returns to the Hudson River and any of its tributaries south of the Troy Dam. Major tributaries include the East River, the Hackensack River, the Passaic River, Newark Bay and the Meadowlands. The Hudson River boundaries for the derby range from the Verrazano Bridge north, all the way up to the dam in Troy, NY.

Derby runs from 7:00am Saturday April 16
through 12:00pm Sunday May 15, 2022
ON LINE REGISTRATION WITH PAYPAL IS NOW OPEN!
[Click HERE](#) to register

SEAS

Sailing Westchester

SailHudson.org * 1-845-832-1920

seaswestchester@gmail.com

Kingsland Point Park, Sleepy Hollow, NY

Shattemuc Yacht Club, Ossining, NY



LEARN TO SAIL ON THE HUDSON THIS SUMMER!

2022 ENROLLMENT IS NOW OPEN FOR OUR BASIC SAILING COURSE

- **Certified Instructors**
- **Affordable Fees (SEAS is non-profit and all-volunteer)**
- **Four evening classroom sessions and two Saturday water training days**
- **Pick your class:**
 - 1st class starts May 18 (Wednes)**
 - 2nd class starts June 23 (Thurs).**
 - 3rd class starts July 19 (Tuesday).**
- **You choose to train:** on Sunfish board boats or our Newport 28 cruising boat.
- **More information:** <https://www.sailhudson.org/classes>

AFTER SUCCESSFUL COURSE COMPLETION, SAIL WITH US ALL SEASON

FOR EXPERIENCED SAILORS WHO WANT TO TEACH

Reservations are now being taken for a Sailing Instructor Certification course this spring. Must be a SEAS member. Inquire at seaswestchester@gmail.com

The Society for the Education of American Sailors has taught sailing for more than 35 years on the beautiful Hudson River. Come join us!