



HUDSON RIVER HAPPENINGS & INTERCLUB INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Compiled by the HRBYCA

<https://www.hrbyca.org>

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Update from Government Affairs VP Scott Croft

As a result of discussions at the general meeting Tuesday, July 27 hosted at the Minisceongo Yacht Club the HRBYCA is looking to undertake several initiatives related to safety, navigation and related matters which will be presented in a supplemental edition of Happenings.

Natural History

News from the Hudson River Estuary Program

Invasive Fish Caught in the Hudson River

DEC Marine Fisheries captured four round gobies at two locations in the Hudson River approximately 12 and 25 miles downstream of the Troy dam during routine fish sampling on July 13 and 14 marking the first documented occurrence of this invasive fish in the Hudson River.



The [round goby](#) is native to the Black and Caspian seas and was likely introduced by ballast water to the Great Lakes in the 1990s. It has the potential to cause ecological and recreational impacts. These fish are voracious feeders and compete with native species for food and spawning habitat. Their diet includes small invertebrates, mussels, and the eggs of native species and popular sportfish such as smallmouth bass and walleye. They also can be a nuisance to anglers.

If you catch round goby in the Hudson, take multiple photographs from different angles, and record the date and location of capture. Email photographs and information to: isinfo@dec.ny.gov.

Report Shark Sightings to DEC Shark Spotter Digital Survey

[Sharks](#) are apex predators at the top of the ocean food chain, and they have been successfully roaming the seas for over **400 million years**. Sharks play an important role in regulating and maintaining healthy and balanced marine ecosystems.

Many [shark species](#) are vulnerable to heightening fishing pressure due to low reproduction rates, older maturity ages, and longer gestation periods. Protecting and conserving vulnerable apex predators like sharks is essential because their presence has complex consequences on marine ecosystems.

[DEC Shark Spotter](#) is a citizen science-based program that seeks public sightings of sharks in New York waters using an online digital survey. This program was developed to gather valuable data to gain a better understanding of local shark populations and their behavior. Check out the [Shark Spotter Public Viewer](#) for a catalog of sharks reported to DEC.

Visit DEC's website for more information on [Coastal Sharks in New York](#).



The graphic features the New York State logo and the Department of Environmental Conservation name at the top. Below this is a stylized shark silhouette with the text "HAVE YOU SPOTTED A SHARK IN NY?". A list of three steps is provided: 1. Take pictures, 2. Record date, time, and location, and 3. Submit sighting on Shark Spotter. A QR code is shown with the instruction "Scan to report your sighting!". At the bottom, it says "learn more at: on.ny.gov/sharks".

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Environmental Conservation

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Hudson River Boat & Yacht Club Association
Summer Rendezvous and Barbecue
at
Shattemuc Yacht Club

August 7, 2021

5:00 PM Social Hour Hors d'Oeuvres

6:00 PM BBQ Dinner

**London broil, burgers, hot dogs, chicken,
salads, sides, non-alcoholic beverages, cash bar**

\$25.00 (\$35.00 after Aug. 4) 12 yrs old and under \$10.

**To make BBQ reservations, go to
shattemucyc.org under What's New at Shattemuc
For more details go to hrbyca.org**

**Come by boat, slips as available. Make reservations at DOCKWA
using coupon code HRBYCA21 to get Aug. 7 night free**

Flotilla to Stop the proposed Danskammer Expansion! Wednesday, August 4th, 12 pm

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Food & Water Watch, members of the Stop Danskammer Coalition, and others will be holding a very important flotilla on August 4th. Please join the Clearwater Sloop, the Woody Guthrie Sloop, sailboats, kayaks and other paddle boats as we take to the water to stop the a new Danskammer fracked gas plant from being built on the shore of the Hudson.

The NYS Siting Board is currently reviewing an application to expand operations of the Danskammer fracked gas power plant in the town of Newburgh. Wall street-backed private equity firm, Tiger Infrastructure LLC, has filed an application to replace the old barely running Danskammer with a brand new, fully operational gas plant. If approved, the plant will go from running just 5% of the year to over 70%. This will dramatically increase our exposure to cancer-causing chemicals like benzene, formaldehyde and nitrous oxide.

The Hudson River is a precious resource to many of us here in New York. The expansion of the Danskammer Plant threatens our water and air and would worsen the climate crisis. We will launch boats out on the waters and call on Governor Cuomo to Stop the Danskammer Plant and, instead, commit to 100% renewable energy.

The paddlers will meet at the public boat ramp in the Hamlet of Chelsea to launch, traveling about a mile across the Hudson, passed Danskammer. After the paddlers drop off their boats they will go to Hidden Rose Catering at 33 Chelsea Rd, Wappingers falls, NY 12590 to park a half mile away and will be shuttled back to the dock.

Sign up below if you can join us or can help by inviting other paddlers in your community to join the flotilla. You will receive updated info, as we get closer to the date, regarding logistics.

What: Flotilla to Stop Danskammer!

When: Wednesday August 4th.

Time: 12 noon: Paddlers will gather, unload and park

Where: Meeting at the Chelsea public boat ramp, 3 front St., Chelsea, NY

The Sloop Clearwater and the Woody Guthrie will leave from Beacon and meet the paddlers at Chelsea, with the Woody in the lead and the Clearwater bringing up the rear.

For safety and environmental reasons, we are only including non-motorized boats -- primarily kayaks and canoes with experienced paddlers -- in this event (except for a safety vessel and the sloops which will be under sail). Experienced paddlers only, with proper life vests are invited to the flotilla. A signed waiver will be required to hold event planners harmless. This information will be sent to everyone when they register to join the flotilla.

At 1 pm, right after the paddlers set out to meet up with the Sloop Woody Guthrie, there will be a Flotilla Rally, Press Conference and Photo Op at the Public Boat Ramp in the Hamlet of Chelsea. There will be additional media opportunities after they return at 3 p.m.

If you have any questions or need further information, please email Matt Salton at Matt@clearwater.org (914-844-9821), Manna Jo Greene at mannajo@clearwater.org or Emily Skydel at eskydel@fwwatch.org.

Visit <https://stoptheplant.org/> to learn more about this environmental threat and our campaign to stop it!

Irvington Boat Club, TZC Headed to Mediation Over Runaway Barge

From River Journal Robert Brum — July 18, 2021



The runaway barge (seen here alongside Irvington Boat Club's pier) smashed into and damaged the pier during a storm on May 2, 2018. Photo: Irvington Boat Club

More than two years after a runaway barge from the Mario M. Cuomo Bridge construction site smashed into the Irvington Boat Club's pier, the club and bridge builder are headed to mediation over the cost of the damage. The mediation option was accepted just as the club was preparing to launch a lawsuit alleging that the Tappan Zee Constructors' insurer was only offering to cover a fraction of the cost to replace the pier, which was battered by the barge during a May 2, 2018, storm.

Part of the wooden pier's entrance off Bridge Street broke off completely and its pilings were badly damaged, leaving members with no way to reach their boats, said Frederic Mishkin, the club's commodore. He's the last member with a boat in the club's moorings, using a kayak to get to his 22-foot sailboat. Mishkin called the damage "heartbreaking." "Who wants to put a boat on a mooring when they can't get to it from our dock to load people?" he said. "It basically has done severe damage to boating for the club. If we don't get this pier repaired, boating is basically going to die in the Irvington Boat Club."

An initial estimate by Liberty Mutual, the bridge builder's insurer, pegged the cost of repairs at about \$107,000, but the club soon learned a state Department of Environmental Conservation permit would be required before any work could be

done. After a two-year permitting process, it turned out that the extensive DEC regulations heaped on additional costs, raising the estimate to about \$390,000, according to Mishkin. That's when the trouble started, Mishkin said.

Liberty Mutual determined the needed repairs fell below the state threshold that required "substantial reconstruction" of 50% or more damage. It said Liberty was not on the hook for the club's "unilateral decision to completely replace and upgrade the entire pier" instead of "simply repairing the damage done to the barge by TZC Barge 908," according to correspondence dated April 8, 2021, from the insurance company. Liberty offered \$85,000 to settle the claim.

The boat club argued that the scope of the damage was well above the threshold required under state regulations.

Besides the cost of the rebuild, the nonprofit club which rents the property and chiefly subsists on membership dues, wants to be compensated for lost rental income from the Irvington Fire Department's boat and costs associated with debris cleanup.

While the club's boaters have sailed to calmer waters, its membership has actually grown from about 65 to about 90 in the past two years. One of the pandemic's silver linings has been a rising tide of vacation-starved members who've joined for access to the club's 50-foot stretch of Hudson River beach. The influx of newbies led the club to change its name to the Irvington Boat and Beach Club.

An email sent to Tappan Zee Constructors was not immediately returned. Mishkin said the two sides were in the process of selecting a mediator.

Society for the Education of American Sailors

For more than 30 years, SEAS Westchester has been teaching basic sailing along the Hudson River.

As your local chapter of the Society for the Education of American Sailors, our all-volunteer team of instructors, dock-masters, and water assistants have educated more than 2,000 sailors in the greater Westchester area. SEAS Westchester is a non-profit committed to safe, affordable, environmentally-conscious use of the Hudson River for recreational sailing.

Our colorful fleet of Sunfish and Phantoms adds a picturesque touch of activity and summer fun to the reviving waterfront. We conduct classes and launch from Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow, NY, and venture on open sails as far north as Croton Bay!

We also offer sailing classes on a 28' keelboat, giving you the opportunity to learn on a bigger vessel. LunaSea is based out of Shattemuc Yacht Club in Ossining NY.

Contact seaswestchester@gmail.com 845 832 1920

wanna get on the Hudson?

Learn to Sail!

SEAS

Society for the Education of American Sailors
A nonprofit teaching safe sailing in
Sleepy Hollow & Ossining for 30+ years



Affordable Summer Classes

- Sailboats & safety gear included!
- Certified instructors on motorboats
- Weeknight Classroom Sessions (7-9pm)
- Saturday on-the-water training (9am-5pm)

Memberships Available

- Experienced sailors welcome!
- Join for open-sails with our fleet
- Sunfish, Phantom, Dufour-class boats

REGISTER
ONLINE

SailHudson.org

✉ SEASwestchester@gmail.com

845-832-1920 ☎