

PLUM ISLAND SURFCASTERS  
CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Amended: February 20, 2002  
May 16, 1995  
January 6, 1987 by the By-Laws Committee, Executive Board  
March 16, 1993  
September 2016 by the Executive Board  
January 2018 by the Executive Board  
September 2019 by the Executive Board

ARTICLE I-TITLE

This organization shall be called the Plum Island Surfcasters, Inc.

ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this Corporation shall be:

- A. To promote and encourage the sport of fishing from surf and boat.
- B. To gather for education, entertainment and good fellowship.
- C. To promote and uphold sound conservation practices and laws, and to see that these laws are carried out by its members.
- D. To further good sportsmanship.

ARTICLE III – OFFICERS

The officers of this Corporation shall consist of President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV - EXECUTIVE BOARD

There shall be an Executive Board consisting of the Officers of the Corporation, Elected committee chairmen, Delegates of the Corporation, and the past President who most recently held that office.

ARTICLE V - ELECTIONS

The following officers \*shall be elected by the general membership at the November meeting each year. It shall be voted with a secret ballot if any officers are contested. Those elected will take office as of January 1st of the following year. They will hold that office until their successor has been chosen and shall have accepted office. All other committee chairmen, and delegates are to be appointed by the President.

*President Membership	Sargent of Arms	Ways & Means
*Vice President	News Letter Editor	Refreshments
*Recording Secretary	Programs	Legislation
Corresponding Secretary	Tournaments	*Treasurer

Sandy Point Rep.  
Membership

Juniors Program  
Essex County League Rep.

Social Media  
Fundraising Chair

#### ARTICLE VI-REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS

The absence of any elected or appointed officer, committee chairperson, or delegates from four consecutive meetings (Executive Board and general membership) shall be justification for the removal from office. The Executive Board may declare a position vacant and appoint a replacement with the following procedure:

1. An opportunity shall be provided the delinquent member to discuss their absence with the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board, at its discretion, may remove the member from elected or appointed office, with a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Executive Board.
3. The Executive Board may fill the vacant position by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.
4. Until a successor has been appointed to fill the vacant position, one appeal may be made for re-instatement. A simple majority vote of the Executive Board shall be required to reconsider the action. Upon reconsideration, a final two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Executive Board may re-instate the member.

#### ARTICLE VII -DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** It shall be the duty of the President to preside at the meetings of the Corporation, to look after its interests, to see that all transactions are carried out in conformity with the by-laws.

**VICE PRESIDENT** The Vice President shall assist the President in the discharge of his or her duties, act as President in his or her absence or disability, and act as Chairman, *ex-officio* of all committees.

**RECORDING SECRETARY** The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings, and read the minutes of the previous Executive Board and general membership meetings of the Corporation. The Recording Secretary shall distribute, or cause to be distributed, all Notices of general meetings and committee meetings when requested to do so by the President or a committee chairman. He or she will prepare, each year, a report of the Corporation and Executive Board to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** The Corresponding Secretary shall be the Clerk of the Corporation and shall have charge of the Muniments of the Title and Corporate Seal. He or she shall conduct the correspondence of the Corporation, keeping proper records of the same.

**TREASURER** The Treasurer shall have charge of all monies and securities belonging to the Corporation. He or she shall collect Monies due to the Corporation and deposit same in a Bank or Trust Company approved by the Executive Board. He or she shall submit, at each general membership meeting, a statement of the financial condition of the Corporation, showing all receipts and disbursements during the proceeding period. All authorized disbursements or unpaid bills shall be presented at the Executive Board meeting for approval, said approval requiring two-thirds of the votes cast. All payments or withdrawals of money for any purpose shall be made by check or electronic disbursement. The Executive Board may authorize expenditures to a specific limit for postage, stationary, and similar day to-day expenditures consistent with the normal conduct of office. His or her accounts shall be audited annually, or upon vacating the office.

**EXECUTTVE BOARD** The Executive Board shall have the management and control of property, effects and assets of the Corporation, and shall exercise a general superintendence of its interests, affairs, and activities. It may authorize expenditures not exceed one thousand (\$1000.00) Dollars per month, unless authorized by a vote of a quorum of the Corporation at a called meeting. The Executive Board, when requested by the President, shall consider and advise him or her on all matters referred to, and its decisions shall be returned by the President to the membership for a vote. The Executive Board shall act as the disciplinary board and all of its decisions are final.

**COMMITTEES** The President shall have the power to appoint chairmen to manage the many activities of the Corporation and that these chairmen have the right to choose their assistants. The President shall appoint a nominating committee, consisting of up five (5) members, no later than the September general meeting, each year. Special committees, as required, may be appointed by the President or the Executive Board. All above appointments shall be submitted to the Executive Board for its approval.

**REPORTS** All officers, chairpersons of committees, or members of the Corporation, when presenting a full report, or a report in progress, or in correspondence pertaining to any of the various activities of the Corporation, shall submit a copy of these reports or correspondence to the Corresponding Secretary for permanent record. All records will be stored in some secure electronic database.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – MEMBERSHIP**

**GENERAL** Shall consist of 1 paid voting member and his or her spouse and minors (under twenty-one). The spouse may choose to become a

voting member by paying a \$15.00 fee in order to receive voting rights and a numbered badge. Any person between the ages of sixteen (15) and twenty-one (21) years of age, living with a paid Senior Member, may become a voting member of the Corporation by submitting an application and paying a \$15.00 fee in order to receive voting rights and a numbered badge.

**JUNIOR** Any person under eighteen (18) years of age sponsored by an active Senior member whose parent/legal guardian is not an active member.

**LIFE** Member shall be nominated by the board based on the following criteria:

1. Member shall be a paid member for a minimum of 20 continuous years.
2. Member has made a significant contribution to the club while being a member. E.g.
  - a. Has served on the executive board or a committee.
  - b. Has volunteered repeatedly at club events or activities.
  - c. Has donated significant goods and services.

Nomination will be voted on by the membership and must carry at least a 2/3 vote.

Life membership is permanent but can be revoked if said member conduct is not in agreement with code of conduct. Electees shall not be subject to dues and are entitled to all rights and privileges of dues paying members.

**HONORARY** Member shall be nominated by the board based on the following criteria:

1. Nominee must be in good standing with the club.
2. Nominee must have made a significant impact or contribution to the club. E.g.
  - a. Has repeatedly volunteered to help with club activities or events.
  - b. Has donated significant goods and services.

Nomination will be voted on by the executive board and must carry at least a 2/3 vote.

Nomination can be revisited again after 2 years has transpired and can be revoked if member has ceased to continue with said criteria or is not in good standing with the club. Electees shall not be subject to dues and shall be a non-voting , non-office holding member entitled to all other privileges of membership.

## ARTICLE IX - MEETINGS

There shall be an annual meeting of the Corporation in January of each year. There shall be a general membership meeting of the Corporation once each month. Special meetings may be called by the President and five (5) days' notice of these Corporation meetings shall be given. Said meeting may be cancelled due to inclement weather or at the discretion of the Executive board. Notification of cancellation will be given to the membership via e-mail as soon as possible.

## ARTICLE X -ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Reading of the minutes of the last general membership and Executive Board meetings.
2. Report of external communications
3. Report of the Treasurer
4. Reports of committees
5. Old business
6. New business
7. For the good of the order
8. Adjournment

## ARTICLE XI – QUORUM

Fifteen (15) members in good standing, at least five (5) of whom are members of the Executive Board, present at any general membership meeting or special meeting shall constitute a quorum. No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present.

## ARTICLE XII –BUSINESS

Business to be voted on requires the majority vote of the members present and voting.

- a. Fundraising: The board shall review requests for the organization to make monetary donations to non-profit charities. These charities will include those whose purpose is to protect the environment affecting fishing and the waterways as well as the rights of recreational fishermen. The amount of money will not exceed \$100 and any amount greater than \$100 is at the discretion of the board. The proposal will be put to a vote of the general membership and must pass by a 2/3 vote.
- b. Members are welcome to solicit donations from the general membership for donations to charities of a personal nature with prior permission from the board. Soliciting of donations from members will be on a voluntary basis.

## ARTICLE XIII - EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

Executive Board meetings shall be held prior to the monthly meetings, unless changed by the President. At least seven (7) members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum and the majority shall rule.

## ARTICLE XIV -ANNUAL DUES

The annual dues of the membership shall be regulated by the Executive Board and approved by a majority vote of the members present at any general membership meeting. Any person joining and paying dues on or after November 1st of any year shall be afforded all privileges for the forthcoming year. Any membership not renewed by the March meeting shall be considered null and void.

## ARTICLE XV -DELINQUENTS

Any member shall be deemed delinquent for non-payment of dues after the date set forth in Article XIV of the by-laws and dropped from the membership of the Corporation. In cases of hardship, notify an Executive Board member.

## ARTICLE XVI –CONDUCT

Any member may be dropped from membership for conduct detrimental to the objectives of the Corporation, or written complaint of a member, after a hearing before the Executive Board.

The following are guidelines for code of conduct of all members:

1. Members shall not act, nor knowingly cause or encourage others to act in any manner that would bring discredit to the organization. Failure to do so can result in revocation of membership.
2. Members may not speak for, or otherwise imply authorization to speak for the organization without expressed direction or permission from the Executive Board.
3. Members may not solicit any products or services in the name of the organization, without expressed permission of the Executive Board except for discounts previously arranged by the organization and made publicly available to all members.
4. Members shall learn and obey all fishing and boating regulations.
5. Members shall treat other anglers, boaters and property owners with courtesy and respect.
6. Members are encouraged to report, but not confront, fishing violators.
7. Members shall value and respect the marine environment and all living things in it and shall:
  - a. Avoid spilling and dumping pollutants on land or in the water.
  - b. Dispose of trash, including worn out line, leaders and hooks and help to keep fishing sites clean and litter free.
  - c. Keep no more fish than can be used for consumption and shall never wastefully discard fish that are retained.
  - d. Carefully handle and release all fish that are unwanted or prohibited by law.

## ARTICLE XVII - AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

These by laws may be amended by the members at any general membership meeting, or special meeting called for the purpose, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those present and entitled to vote, provided that the intention to amend has been announced at the previous general membership meeting, and that a copy of the proposed amendments, together with a written notice of the meeting have been communicated to the entire membership at least seven (7) days prior to said meeting.

## ARTICLE XVIII -DISBANDING THE CORPORATION

The Corporation shall not be disbanded, merged with any other organization, change its

name, forfeit its Charter, or otherwise cease its existence as such organization unless a motion to do so has been:

- 1.) Presented in writing at a general membership meeting.
- 2.) Each member in good standing must be notified of the motion by mail.
- 3.) Voted upon in the affirmative by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at two (2) consecutive general membership meetings.

#### ARTICLE XIX – DISSOLUTION

In the event the Plum Island Surfcasters, Inc. should ever be dissolved, then all assets owned by it shall be contributed, or donated to an organization deemed appropriate by the Executive Board. If that organization is no longer functional, or no longer engages in similar non-profit volunteer activities, then such assets shall be donated to another like organization chosen by the Executive Board of the Plum Island Surfcasters, Inc. Any organization chosen must have, as its purpose, the preservation of Plum Island and the objects set forth in the Article II.

#### ARTICLE XX -EVENT LIABILITY WAIVER

Members participating in tournaments or events held by the Plums Island Surfcasters do so at their own risk, agree to accompany and assume responsibility for the minors in their charge and waive liability against the club.