

**MARCH 27th, 2024**  
**CT B.A.S.S. Nation IN person/ Conference Call**  
**Call began at 7:08pm**

**Officers Present & on the Call were:**

**Vinny Mucci-President**  
**Sylvia Morris-Secretary**  
**Dean Rustic-Conservation Director**  
**John Piscioniere- Youth Director**  
**Abe Kalechman-Tournament Director**

**Missing:**

**Marc Levesque- Treasurer**

**Clubs Missing: Candlewood**

**Minutes from prior month accepted.**

- **Announcements: None**
- **Correspondence: None**
  
- **REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**
  
- **Treasurer Report (Read By Vinny Mucci)**
- **CBN Conservation Report: Dean Rustic**

**Mar. 27, 2024**

**CBN Conservation objectives for the 2024**

- 1. Conservation Projects for Candlewood Lake (Boat Launch & Weigh in Pavilion Grant)**
- 2. Create a BASS Divisional Conservation Coalition**

**Information from this past Month –**

- 1. CT Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) Meeting**

- a. Special Guest was Mason Trumbel, Duputy Commissioner of the CT DEEP.**
- b. Discussed the delay in the Squantz Cove Boat Launch. Mason stated that the funds for the project and others is available but will need to be appropriated via the State Budget.**
- c. Discussed the SCORP Report and pointed out how that report is used. He agreed that departments need to address better the writeups in the SCORP reports as many have just done a cut and paste.**
- d. Explained that DEEP is looking into additional ways to deter Striped Bass poaching in the Housatonic River.**

## **2. Fisheries Advisory Council –**

### **a. RIVER HERRING BY-CATCH & NEFMC**

- a. River Herring runs have been in terrible shape in the past decade and especially in the last few years. Maine and New Hampshire are seeing recovery that we are not seeing in Southern New England. Concern about by-catch by mid water fleets fishing for Atlantic Herring. There are by-catch limits that are allowable under certain management plans. Amendment 10 provides an opportunity to address by-catch issues. Monday, April 17th – in person scoping session. April 22nd - online scoping session. Drafts for op-eds have been prepared on the topic and letters are being sought to send to the NEFMC. In the next few weeks info will be going out to member groups to help with efforts.**

### **b. FRIENDS OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN**

- a. FOCS lobbies on issues that impact hunters, trappers, and shooters. Keith gave a brief history of FOCS and a synopsis of issues on which they are advocating. FOCS hosts a game tasting every year at the**

**legislative office building. This year it will be on May 1st from 5-7.**

- b. Bill asked Keith if he would give the FAC folks an idea of how they can assist with the FOCS goals.**

**c. Legislative Committee**

- a. Submitted testimony on 5 bills**

- 1. Buffers, Bad Hyrdo, Farmington River, spiny dogfish,**

- 2. Four items of focus**

- a. Support CCAC on obtaining funding for ADA for Squantz Pond**

- b. HB 5218 – buffers and IWWA training**

- c. Engaging to resolve the Farmington River Flow Issues**

- d. Working with partners for river herring by-catch issues.**

- 3. Federal legislation**

- a. Recovering America's Wildlife Act**

- b. Smaller bill**

- c. Hydropower Improvement Act**

**d. Inland Fisheries Report – Peter Aarrestad**

- a. Pete gave a brief update of what lake communities plan to do to try to prevent hydrilla from spreading to their lakes.**

- b. Status of the FAC and DEEP website. Agency is taking a look at the various boards and commissions that the agency has to appoint and are looking at statutory connections. FAC does not have a statutory connection. The agency has asked that information on the FAC be removed from the DEEP website.**

- c. AG Tong will be the key note speaker at the FVTU banquet on Saturday night and will speak on flows on the Farmington River.**

- d. **The agency has modified how the guardrail issue will be settled along River Road by the Salmon River. The guardrails will be moved so that cars can park parallel.**
- e. **Trout stocking began on February 21st.**
- f. **CT Fishing and Outdoor show will be held at Mohegan Sun. (March 22-24)**
- g. **Alicea asked if a Bureau Chief has been hired yet. Interviews are happening but no one has been hired yet.**
- e. **Marine Fisheries Report – Justin Davis**
  - a. **Old Lyme HQ office is reopening to the public.**
  - b. **There are 4 new staff members in the Marine Division.**
  - c. **LIS Trawl survey is going into it's 40th year.**
  - d. **Sturgeon project is ramping up but changes are being explored due to staff limitations.**
  - e. **Marine recreational regulation setting has almost concluded. Blackfish and Bluefish are not changing. There will be a minor adjustment to Black Sea Bass Season. No changes to Striped Bass. A stop-gap measure has been implemented for Striped bass for 2024. The current slot limit will be maintained.**
  - f. **Scup harvest reduction and increase in minimum length.**
  - g. **Summer Flounder and Fluke populations are struggling. 28% coast-wide reduction for catch limits. Minimum lengths are still being considered.**
  - h. **Rob asked when the all regulations will be released. Justin said they are working to get them out next week.**
  - i. **There is a very large cohort of fish that overwinter there and enforcement has been trying to stay on top**

**of illegal activity but fines are not deterring the culprits.**

### **3. Friends of CT Sportsman (FoCS)**

- a. **FoCS is having another Game Tasting event on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5:00pm tp 7:00pm in the State Legislative Office Building.**
- b. **Discussed that the focus for this legislative session is the ADA accessible Squantz Cove Boat launch.**
- c. **The FoCS Lobbyist, Julie Cammarata, has gotten State Senator Harding and State Representative Pat Callahan to sponsor the bill for the Squantz Launch. Julie and the FoCS team have worked with State Senator Cathy Osten who is the Deputy President Pro Tempore of the Democrats to assist with the passing the appropriations for the project**
- d. **The FoCS website is up. www.  
<https://www.friendsofctsportsmen.com>**
- e. **The FoCS is asking the CBN if we can provide pictures of Anglers and of the High School Anglers for use in their Publications and Social Media.**
- f. **There is a FoCS Brochure that is available – take a look at it online -  
[https://www.friendsofctsportsmen.com/uploads/3/0/0/8/30082657/printable\\_friends\\_of\\_ct\\_sportsmen\\_trifold\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.friendsofctsportsmen.com/uploads/3/0/0/8/30082657/printable_friends_of_ct_sportsmen_trifold_brochure.pdf)**

### **4. DEEP Items**

- a. **Spencer Mallet attended the 2024 Bassmaster Classic Conservation Summit.**
  - a. **Best Conservation Summit in years**
  - b. **Topics covered like FFS, Livewell study, Tournament Impacts, Bed Fishing, F1 Bass Stocking, Registration verse Tournaments Permits**

## **5. Grant Fund**

- a. What if we look to have the funds ear marked for something to help the Squantz Cove boat launch.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Dean Rustic, Conservation Director**

### **Tournament Trail Report: Abe Kalechman**

**Mailing deadline for T#1 is March 30th!!! NO EXCEPTIONS  
Only have 19 boats so far!!!**

**THAYERS SPONSORSHIP OF THE TRAIL, \$1000.00 to the Top finishing Boater (Must be fishing out of a boat purchased at Thayer's Marine, new or used) in each of the five CBN Trail Tournaments. Thank you, Thayer's!!!**

**Trail for 2024 is as follows:**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Candlewood Squantz & Latins, 8 to 4**

**May 5<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood Squantz & Latins, 8 to 4**

**June 9<sup>th</sup>, Ct River Haddam 7 to 3**

**July 14<sup>th</sup> MR BASS, TBD??? 7 to 3**

**September 8<sup>th</sup>, Ct River, Haddam 7 to 3**

**October 13<sup>th</sup>, Lilly, Steelbridge, 7 to 3**

### **PROPOSED 2025 TRAIL**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz & Latins**

**May 4<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood, Squantz & Latins**

**June 8<sup>th</sup>, Ct River, Haddam Meadows**

**July 13<sup>th</sup> MR BASS TBD**

**Sept 7<sup>th</sup>, CT River, Haddam Meadows**

**Oct 5<sup>th</sup>, Lillinonah, Steel Bridge**

### **Scholarship Report: Mike Billings**

**The 2024 Scholarship app is on the website, Home page and had been email blasted to all members back in second week of January.**

**PLEASE make sure your club members see this!!!**

**All entries have a mailing deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup>!!**

**Only one entry so far!!!!**

**Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris**

**Rebooked for Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Bought all womens prizes.**

**Working on Raffle prizes**

**Anyone have any ideas for prizes call me please!**

**Membership Committee/Social Media Director:**

**We need one!**

**Sylvia has brought in 6 new members and signed up all High School kids that are 16 or older into the CT at large club.**

**Website:**

**Please send me, Sylvia Morris, wefish2@att.net, any new members Emails or any changed emails for me to update the Email Blast list that our Webmaster uses to Blast all important info, News, Tournament Pairings, Results, Etc.**

- **CBN Youth Report: John Piscioniere**

**Held an online meeting for all the kids and their parents on March 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**Had a little issue with some of the new Junior Parents, they want to accompany their child on the Boat when they fish the Tournament. This presents an issue as there are usually two Juniors on one boat and a boat Captain.....John and Vinny are checking into possibly holding a few extra tournaments just for the Juniors, one Junior, one parent and a boat captain. Will keep us posted on what they decide.**

**In the meantime, John desperately needs Boat Captains for April 20<sup>th</sup>!!!! Please poll your clubs and see if anyone can help!!! He actually needs them for all Tournaments but especially the first one, coming up fast!**

**The First High School Tournament is April 20<sup>th</sup> on Lilly.**

- **National Report, Sylvia Morris**

**Signed up all six of the National Contenders for one of the High School Tournaments. Sent list to John.**

## **MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Excused Absences:** Sweetwater
- **REMINDER!!! There are only 9 meetings in the CBN this year, so now your club can only miss ONE!!!**
- **We need a **Vice President** and a **helper** for John Piscioniere and Dean Rustic.**
- **May 7<sup>th</sup>, Candlewood Lake, Danbury Town Park is the Veterans Tournament. Joe Kowalski is asking for Boat Captains! Contact Alan Guite if interested: 860-436-8646**
- **Dean Rustic brought up the possibility of the CBN Donating again to the FOCS, suggesting a smaller amount than we have done in the past, at the last meeting. We asked for information as to what it is that they do for us? He invited Keith Cagel and Julie Cammarata to attend this meeting. Julie Cammarata, Lobbyist and Keith Cagel, President of Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen (FOCS) were not able to attend this month's CBN Meeting. Bill Hyatt, former Bureau Chief for Fisheries, and a Member of FOCS did attend and spoke to why it is important for Anglers to support FOCS.**

**There are 3 sections of the Legislative Session.**

- 1. The first part is when there is an open comment session for the committees to hear from the public about the bills. All can provide testimony, though how many folks take a day off to spend it waiting to talk for 3 min in front of the committee.**
- 2. The third part (yes, we are going out of order) is when the bill makes it out of committee and is being discussed by the**



**legislature. Again, the public is invited to provide comments, though at this late stage it is usually not going to sway much.**

- 3. The Second part is when the Committee is in a closed session. The public is not invited, and the members of the Committee do not hold meetings with the public. They do take meetings with Lobbyists, and this is where the ability to get your point across one to one takes place. Much of the real action happens here and if we are fighting against a bad bill, the hope is that it does not make it out of the Committee. If we are pushing for a bill, we want to get the Committee members to adopt it and pass it out to the full legislature.**

**This second piece is what is so important to have a lobbyist working for you and why all anglers should support FOCS.**

**Here is the website for the FOCS for anyone who would like to make a personal/Club donation. <https://www.friendsofctsportsmen.com>**

- Vinny Mucci announced the applications for the Bryan V Kerchal Tournament and the Heart of Ct Opens were on the website (ctbass.com) and that Thayer's Marine has become a Premier Sponsor of the Opens, offering a cumulative total of \$5000.00 between the Two Opens if you are a Thayer's Customer in a new or used Boat purchased at Thayer's!!!**
- Vinny reminded all to go to BASSMASTER.COM and got to the Bass Nation and put your Bass number and last name in and see all the great sponsors that offer discounts to you!**
- We also need a Membership Chairperson!!!**
- NEW BUSINESS**
- FOCS hosts a game tasting every year at the legislative office building. This year it will be on May 1st from 5-7.**

**Dean Rustic asked the CBN for permission to ask Dan Bielert, one of our CBN Members, to come and make his famous fish cakes for this event, and for the CBN to cover**

**the cost of buying supplies to make Fish Cakes and attend the game tasting.**

**Motion was made to cover up to \$400.00 to cover the cost of making the Fish Cakes for this event. Seconded and voted, passed.**

- **NO JANUARY, NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETINGS, all meetings will be on the fourth Wed of each month unless a holiday then will be the third wed.**
- **In Person and WebEx (Info will be email blasted) at Ct Comp 100 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, Training Room.**
- **2024 Meetings are:**
  - April 24th, 2024**
  - May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**
  - June 26, 2024**
  - July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024**
  - August 28th, 2024**
  - September 25<sup>th</sup>,2024**
  - October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:48**