

September 25th, 2024

CT B.A.S.S. Nation IN person/ Conference Call/Zoom

Call began at 7:02pm

Officers Present & on the Call were:

Vinny Mucci-President

Sylvia Morris-Secretary

Dean Rustic-Conservation Director

John Piscioniere- Youth Director

Marc Levesque- Treasurer

Missing:

Neil Talento-Sponsorship/ Chairperson

Lindsey Favaloro. -Membership/Social Media Director

Clubs Missing: Ct Valley, Bass Attack

Minutes from prior month accepted.

Announcements: None

Correspondence: None

- **REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**
- **Treasurer Report: Vinny Mucci Read**

- **Marc said that the 2023 Tax File has been forwarded to the Account**

- **CBN Conservation Report: Dean Rustic No Report**
CBN Conservation Report June 26, 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. Fisheries Update: Provided by Pete Aarrestad, Fisheries Division Director**

a. Round 3 of the CARES Act Funding has been distributed. In total, \$6 Million has been distributed to CT fishing related businesses adversely impacted by Covid. Commercial fishermen, party/charter, and fish processing businesses were eligible to receive funds provided they met specific criteria set by the federal government.

b. A total of 529,335 trout were stocked this spring.

c. The vast majority of public comments on the Inland Fisheries Regulation Package were supportive. This was strong support for the proposed wild trout conservation measures.

d. Question asked on the justification for the proposed 9” length limit for trout?

1. Response: The proposal is intended to be statewide. Many anglers have difficulty telling the difference between stocked and wild trout. The Agency is attempting to increase survival of wild brook trout because of well documented statewide declines in abundance and distribution.

e. Question asked if trout populations might be suffering winter kills due to road chemicals?

1. Response: This might be a factor but it’s not well understood and needs to be researched. Historically sand was a problem. It degraded habitat and spawning areas. Switch to various salts reduced that problem but may be causing others. We don’t really know. Overall loss of habitat and flow alteration are probably the biggest problems causing the decline in wild trout populations.

f. Question on if DEEP plans to do outreach on releasing small trout?

1. Response: Yes.

g. Question on if there’s anything new to report on hydrilla? Any concerns over towns and lake associations pushing to further restrict access?

h. Response: Yes, we have concerns but no idea where it will come from next. Agency will push “Clean, Drain, Dry” messaging as the best solution. Will include outreach to users of nonmotorized boats including canoes & kayaks. Hydrilla has been found in a small pond in Middletown that doesn’t have a launch and gets hardly any boating use of any kind. (DEEP Note: There is a lot of waterfowl movement between this pond and the nearby CT River).

2. Fisheries Advisory Council – a. Legislative Committee – Bill Hyatt

a. Looking at opportunities to support bills. Friends of Connecticut Sportsmen are putting together their agenda.

b. Ideas from last September

1. Monitor Rainbow dam and opportunities for removal or fish passage

2. Riparian Buffers

3. Squantz Cove Boat Launch funding

4. Funding for replacing the RV Dempsey

5. Farmington River Flows

c. Dempsey funding is still a need and there was discussion of potential funding sources. FCS may be able to advocate for this.

d. There was extensive discussion of potential fishing access at Seaside Park and Hammonasset. Bill asked that everyone bring what was discussed at this meeting back to their organizations and we will finalize the legislative agenda at the December meeting.

b. AIS Funding and Hydrilla - Bill Hyatt

a. The manner by which the AIS stamp is acquired has been changed. It will all be done through the online licensing system. Will take effect for the 2025 boating season. What was once an automatic opt in to the stamp is essentially now a voluntary, separate process. It is expected that there will be a significant drop in revenue for the AIS grant program for a few years. There is, however, an effort at the federal level to allow for state's to be able to collect funds to manage aquatic invasives in the boating registration process.

b. Discussion on stopping the stocking of trout in a private waterbody. Deep states that they will allow ice fishing so they will continue. It was asked “out of the last 5 years, how many times has there been safe ice on Lakeville Lake?”

c. Inland Fisheries Report – Peter Arrestad a. Matt Gates Devine is

now the acting assistant director of the Fisheries Division b. Inland Sportfishing Regs package – close to announcing notice of decision

c. Farmington River flow bill was signed by the governor back in May. Fisheries was given the green light to manage the flows. Department made its first request of Army Corps for releases on June 26 and has done so on weekly basis since that time. Process has been working well.

**d. Farmington Survivor strain broodstock collections and population estimates were completed over a three-day period last week
Surveys have started on the Farmington River.**

e. Guardrails on the Salmon River – parallel spots were created along the guardrails.

f. The new supervisor at Quinebaug hatchery – Brielle Robbins

g. Montville fishing pier on the Thames River will be going out to bid soon.

d. Marine Fisheries Report – Matt Gates

a. New assessment for sea bass. Increasing trend for past data but future trends project a decline.

3. Friends of CT Sportsman (FOCS)

a. No meeting

Need a New Director for 2025.

Respectfully Submitted, Dean Rustic, Conservation Director

Tournament Trail Report: T#4 was held on the Ct River, the winners were, Boaters, Tim Talento, Mickey Soler, & Matt Marinelli, Non Boaters, Elijah Couch, John Zera & Mark DiNardo. Matt Marinelli was the winner fo the Thayers \$1000.00 Top Finishing Boater that is a Thayers Customer!!

T#5 is Oct 13th, Lilly, mailing deadline is September 28th Pairings will be up by Tuesday night Oct 10th.

NEED A NEW TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR!!

Going Forward all applications and monies will be mailed to Vinny Mucci!!! 52 Chapel Hill Rd North Haven CT, 06473

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 Tournaments Left for 2024 are as follows:

October 13th, Lilly, Steelbridge, 7 to 3

PROPOSED 2025 TRAIL

April 6th, Candlewood, Squantz & Latins

May 4th, Candlewood, Squantz & Latins

June 8th, Ct River, Haddam Meadows

September 21st TBD (New)

Sept 7th, CT River, Haddam Meadows

Oct 5th, Lillinonah, Steel Bridge

Scholarship Report: Mike Billings

Nothing new at this time.

Banquet Report: Sylvia Morris

Rebooked for Nov 16th, 2024.

Working on Raffle prizes

Invites went out to all, Price is 55.00 each adult and 27.50 children **10 and under!!**

Membership Committee/Social Media Director:

Lindsey Favaloro

Sponsorship/ Chairperson-Neil Talento

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**

Last Tournament was held last weekend, Thank you to all the Volunteers that stepped up this year!!!

Congratulations to CT Bass Thunder 1 Paul and Connor for taking top spot and finishing out a very strong 3 years of fishing in our program!

2nd and 3rd places go to Southington (Grant/Nick) and HKHS (hunter and Jack) respectively!!

Since CT Bass Thunder 1 is not eligible to attend the HS National championship due to grade restrictions, our 2 HS teams that have qualified for the championship are:

**Southington- Grant and Nick
And HKHS- Hunter and Jack**

In our Junior division- Congrats to Mason Ma'at for taking the top spot, finishing just ahead of Jake Jaracy- 2nd and Jack Jaracy- 3rd!

All awards will be handed out at our annual banquet- November 16th- Wallingford Country Club...I will forward more information on the Banquet.

• MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN

OLD BUSINESS

- Excused Absences: None**
- There were no By Law Proposals or Tournament Rules change proposals turned in so the current By Laws and Tournament Rules will undergo housekeeping and sent to all as soon as the E Board gets them done.**
- Joe Kowalski Thanked all the Boat Captains that volunteered for the Veterans Tournament, said all went well!!!**
- We need many positions filled,
1.Vice President open now (Two Year term)
2.Conservation Director helper for this year, train for next.
3.Tournament Director for next year.**
- Nominations are open for these positions!!! Please contact Vinny Mucci, 203-525-4105 or Sylvia Morris, 203-675-4666**
- Kevin Jaracy has accepted the Youth Director Position.**
- A nomination for Secretary was turned in for Sylvia Morris.**
- Linsey and Neil have purchased one Go Pro with some accessories. Totaling \$602.44**

- REMINDER!!! There are only 9 meetings in the CBN this year, so now your club can only miss ONE!!!**

- NEW BUSINESS**
- Next month is our final meeting of the year, PLEASE all Try to be there!!!**

- **Joe Kowalski has an idea to do a Restoration of a pond in Cheshire. Needs looking into and will have further discussion with the E Board on this subject.**
- **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:
October 23rd, 2024**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55