

September 24th 2025

CT B.A.S.S. Nation Conference Call/Webex

The call began at 7:06pm

Officers' Present & on the Call were:

Vinny Mucci-President

Mike Shay-Vice President

Sylvia Morris Secretary

Dean Rustic-Conservation Director

Marc Levesque-Treasurer

Missing:

Neil Talento

Lindsey Favaloro

Kevin Jaracy-Youth Director

Clubs Missing: Naugatuck

Minutes from the prior month accepted.

Announcements:

We suspended the regular meeting for a Special Guest, Spencer Mallett, Warm Water Fisheries Biologist. He has some information to share with us, and we had a Q&A period.

Spencer's Information Talked about:

Spencer Mallett notes for 9/24/2025 Connecticut Bass Nation meeting

Candlewood Lake update:

- **So far Fisheries Division has removed between 675-700 triploid Grass Carp from the lake.**
- **Some vegetation has been spotted in shallow areas where triploid Grass Carp are known to feed, showing positive signs of possible recruitment.**
- **Question came from the group about the status of the seed bank in the lake and whether it will be able to recover naturally.**

- **Another question came about whether there could be vegetation transplants from other locations nearby to jump start (such as Lake Lillinonah since it is in the same watershed).**
- **Question asked about the current status of the black bass fisheries:**
 - **Largemouth Bass right now are holding stable, with many larger fish still present but an apparent lack of smaller, younger fish. This could be from the loss of vegetation where juveniles habitat.**
 - **Smallmouth Bass populations are holding steady and may actually be increasing as anecdotal evidence of “more small Smallmouth Bass being seen than ever before” has been reported on multiple occasions.**
 - **The status of other fisheries (i.e. panfish, alewives, Northern Pike) was also brought up. As of right now, panfish and alewife populations seem to be holding steady. The Fisheries Division does not have a firm grasp of what the Northern Pike population is at this moment.**
- **Question asked about next time Candlewood would have an angler survey and/or other important projects.**
 - **Right now, the Fisheries Division is planning an all-out angler survey on Candlewood Lake for 2027 to gauge angler use, total boating pressure, and other factors. This angler survey will hopefully be paired with bass tournament fishing monitoring, electrofishing surveys, and other work.**

Switched topics to Spencer Mallette and Andrew Bade’s attendance at the annual American Fisheries Society meeting in San Antonio, Texas. This years meeting had a symposium topic focused on Black Bass and it was the primary reason we attended.

- **Detailed to the group that a big push is being made in both the state, federal, and academic groups about the impact of post-tournament mortality on Black Bass. Some states have begun reporting upwards of 50% delayed mortality at tournaments (after weigh-in), much of this is believed to be tied in directly with water temperatures.**
 - **A nationwide group may be put together to look at this issue across different geographical regions, and Connecticut could be primed to be included as we are one of the more active Northeast states in terms of our knowledge of the tournament fishing community and reporting.**
 - **Other factors tied in to delayed mortality are general fish care, live well usage, and prior fish stress.**
- **While in the past Connecticut has strayed away from attempting to create Trophy Bass lakes, much like many Southern states currently practice. While it may not be possible on the same scale in Connecticut, it is something that we are talking about on a possible small scale.**
 - **This would be outside the current “Trophy” and “Big Bass” Bass Management Lakes program we currently have going. The regulations for those lakes were created during times of more intensive harvest of black bass, and the Fisheries Division would look to use either alternative regulations or different methods to create trophy bass.**
 - **While discussing this topic, the mention of black bass in the hatcheries came up. The Fisheries Division is positioned at the moment to begin a project spawning and raising Smallmouth Bass at one of our fish hatcheries to help supplement or reestablish Smallmouth Bass populations in lakes across the state where populations have declined.**
 - **This ties directly into our current Wyassup Lake project where we have been stocking mature, adult-sized**

Smallmouth Bass to see if we can reestablish a population there. So far after two springs (2024 and 2025), the Fisheries Division has been able to document natural reproduction. Further sampling and monitoring of this population will continue into the future.

- **A question was then asked about Largemouth Bass in the hatcheries, and if it would be possible to grow keeper-sized fish in the hatchery to be stocked out. While this is possible, it is not currently on the radar for the Fisheries Division. Raising Largemouth Bass, and most top predatory species in general, past a youth stage is costly as they switch to fish-based diets away from plankton-based diets.**
- **Moved on to talk about potential habitat-based work for black bass that the Fisheries Division has already begun.**
 - **As stated previously, the Wyassup Lake Smallmouth Bass reestablishment project also inserted habitat structures (half logs and nest boxes) that are meant to help encourage successful spawning events.**
 - **Scouting of further locations that may now be habitat limited as they age is underway, as a means of discovering waterbodies where possible Smallmouth Bass reintroductions would benefit if habitat were taken care of properly.**
 - **It is mentioned that this is a good place for local bass groups to get involved, whether it be asking local towns if habitat structure can be placed, applying for grants to purchase habitat structures, or reaching out to the national BASS for information on how to get more involved.**

Final note that was presented is that the CT Fisheries Division is considering creating a “Black Bass Advisory Board/Council” to keep up to date on the status of black bass fishing, populations, and research in terms of both Connecticut and nationally. This group would be

represented by Fisheries professionals, academics, private sector, and by those directly involved in the angling community (such as tournament directors or avid black bass anglers).

- Concerns were raised that the academic community sometimes doesn't think of the fishing community but focuses more on the ecological side of black bass research and how it affects individual fish. It was reasserted that this group would consist of representatives from multiple different stakeholder groups and would be a discussion to lead potential future management/research strategies in the state of CT.**

Another topic that was not on the notes but was brought up was aquatic vegetation treatments and how those work. Questions were asked about who gets final say, how they are judged, and what impacts they can have. While the Fisheries Division does get a say on these permits, especially in those lakes that we have direct management interest, at times there is not enough reason from the Fisheries Division to sway a permit one way or the other to being approved or denied. The Fisheries Division has become more aware of this issue recently, and current Fisheries Division Habitat Conservation and Enhancement staff are being more proactive in learning about the impacts of aquatic vegetation treatments on fish populations across the state.

Spencer passed this along: It was a pleasure to speak to all, the conversation was highly engaging and left me with a lot of questions to move forward with.

If anyone ever has a question and wants to reach out, have them email me at spencer.mallette@ct.gov or give me a call at 203-908-5827.

Correspondence: NONE

- **REPORTS OF OFFICERS:**
- **Treasurer Report: Marc Levesque -Not Read**
- **CBN Conservation Report: Dean Rustic NOT READ**
September 24, 2025 Information from this past Month –
- **CT Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) Meeting a. Discussion on getting Funding (500K) back for Hatcheries**

b. Eastern States – Stripers length limits and creel limits still being discussed

- **Fisheries Advisory Council**
 - a. Meeting at CARE Center**
 - b. Discussion on getting Funding (500K) back for Hatcheries**
 - c. Eastern States – Stripers length limits and creel limits still being discussed**
- **Friends of CT Sportsman (FOCS)**
 - a. Working with Lobbyist to restore \$500K in funding for Fish Hatcheries**
- **Information from DEEP – Boating Division**
 - a. Request for proposals has been removed and postponed on the CT Website for Squantz Launch**

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

- **Tournament Trail Report: Vinny Mucci**
The Bryan V Kerchal Tournament of Champions/ Mr. B.A.S.S. was held on Sept 21st, Ct River.
Our 2025 Mr. B.A.S.S. Winners are:
Kevin Noel – Boater and Matt Desimone- Non- Boater
Second Place: Sam Leary- Boater and Lorin Valenti-Non-Boater

Last Tournament of the year is Oct 5th, Lilly.

VINNY ASKED FOR VOLUNTEERS TO ARRIVE EARLY AND HELP WITH SET UP & RUNNING TRAILERS. IT IS A 7:00 START!

YOU MUST HAVE AN AIS STAMP OR DECAL!!!

- **The AIS Decal (\$25.00) covers all legal operators of the boat whereas the \$7 individual stamp only covers the person who purchased it.**

THAYERS IS BACK OFFERING THEIR SPONSORSHIP OF THE 2025 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!!!

The Thayers monies for 2025 will be given out at the CBN Banquet!!!

2025 TRAIL

Oct 5th, Lillinonah, Steel Bridge

Scholarship Report: None

Banquet Report: Mike Shay & Sylvia

Rebooked for Nov 15th, 2025, NEW LOCATION, NEW PRICE

Manor Inn

1636 Meriden Waterbury Road

Milldale Ct. 06467

Invite, Menu and Reservation Instructions have been sent out to all and on our website!

I am stepping down as Banquet Chairperson and Mike Shay is taking over.

Working on more Raffle prizes. Get your Reservations in!!!

NEED EVERYONE TO HELP SECURE PRIZES!!!

Membership Committee/Social Media Director: Lindsey Favaloro

No Report

Sponsorship/ Chairperson-Neil Talento

No Report

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: Kevin Jaracy-Not Given Just sent

Last Highschool tournament is this Saturday 9/27 at Candlewood. This will determine which team will qualify for the 2026 H.S. National Championship.

Can someone send me the information of what I need to provide for the plaques for the banquet. And who I need to send the information to. And when do they need it by?

I'm going to look at making some changes to the schedule next year. The goal is to give the seniors that are graduating in June 2027 and beyond the opportunity to compete for a spot for that summer's National Championship. Seniors that are graduating in June of 2026 are not eligible to qualify for the 2027 Nationals. I'll put a few plans together and propose to Vinny and the board if needed. I'll try to have this done finalized for the November meeting. That way I'll have everything organized and ready to go for the 2026/2027 season. WE NEED BOAT CAPTAINS FOR ALL THE REMAINDER OF THE TOURNAMENTS!!!! Contact Info below.

If anyone has any questions, please contact me:

Kevin Jaracy

203-361-6182 ctjrbass@gmail.com

- **MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN**

OLD BUSINESS

Nominations were turned into Vinny for the following people and positions, they are:

President Vinny Mucci

Vice President Mike Shay

Secretary Sylvia Morris

Treasurer Marc Levesque

Conservation Director Dean Rustic

Tournament Director???????

Vinny announced he will not be Tournament director next year!!!!

- **EXCUSED ABSENCES: None**
- **We need positions filled,**

**Conservation Director needed.
Tournament Director, ASAP!!!!
Scholarship Chairperson**

Bass Nation Members discounts available, for codes get in touch with Vinny. These are for personal use only do not share with others!

- **AFTCO – B.A.S.S. Members receive an additional 10% discount off already marked down items at AFTCO.com. (Valid only on first purchase after creating account at AFTCO.com.)**
- **Relion Batteries receive a 40% discount NEW**
- **Kistler Rods – B.A.S.S. Members receive a 10% discount on Kistler Rods**
- **Rapala – B.A.S.S. Members get 20% off their shopping cart at www.rapala.com (one-time use only). 20% off with promo code applies to every item in your cart except excluded items listed below. Applicable Taxes, Shipping and Surcharges still apply. If a promo code is required, it must be applied during checkout on the My Cart Page or in the Billing Page during checkout to receive the offer. Offer cannot be combined with any other discounted product offers. Offer not valid on previous purchases. Products from all the respected brands on Rapala.com are eligible for this offer with the following exceptions: RAPALA Logo Lures, Rapala Fishing Pro Series PS4 (item RVG-RFPSPS4), Rapala Fishing Pro Series Xbox One (item RVG-RFPSX1)**
- **Daiwa – B.A.S.S. Member Exclusive – Free Multi-Branded Daiwa/Omnia/B.A.S.S./AFTCO sweatshirt. For a limited time, buy a Daiwa Zillion SV TW Casting Reel and get a Daiwa Omnia Fishing CX Hoody by AFTCO FREE! While supplies last!**
- **T-H Marine – 20% OFF the T-H Marine Site.**
- **Cigaur—20% Discount**
- **Dakota Lithium – B.A.S.S. Members receive 10% off sitewide on Dakota Lithium products. Cannot be stacked with other promotions.**
- **Toyota - B.A.S.S. members are eligible for the Toyota Bonus Bucks Program. This program provides contingency dollars for the highest placing finishers at sanctioned Bassmaster Tournament trail events.**
- **Marathon - B.A.S.S. Members earn 6 cents per gallon when filling up at participating Marathon and ARCO stations (limit 5 fuel transactions per day). Members can apply their rewards to save on future fuel purchases.**

- **B.A.S.S. Merchandise** – Currently leads to dead page, but once we bring online store back in house, this will be updated. **Digital Bassmaster - B.A.S.S. Members** receive a 50% discount off the regular price or a digital Bassmaster subscription.
- **Bassmaster Ambassador Program** - Only B.A.S.S. Members can become an **ELITE Series Ambassador** (formerly known as marshal) and ride along with the best anglers in the world.
- **NEW BUSINESS None**
- **All Meetings will be In Person and Webex (Info will be email blasted) at Ct Comp 100 Corporate Place, Rocky Hill, Training Room.**
2025 Meetings are on the 4th Wed of the month:
- **REMINDER!!!** There are only 9 meetings in the CBN this year, so now your club can only miss **ONE!!!**
Last Meeting of the Year!!! Oct 22
2026 CBN Meeting Dates

January-NO MEETING

February 25th

March 25th

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th

July 22nd

August 26th

September 23rd

October 28th

November and December NO MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 8.09

Sylvia Morris