

March 25, 2026

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

The call began at 7:01 pm

Officers' Present & on the Call were:

Vinny Mucci-President

Sylvia Morris Secretary

Dean Rustic-Conservation Director

Marc Levesque-Treasurer

Mike Shay-Vice President

Missing:

Kevin Jaracy-Youth Director

Clubs Missing:

Minutes from the prior month accepted.

Announcements:

Correspondence: None

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

- **Treasurer Report: Marc Levesque**
- **CBN Conservation Report: Dean Rustic**
- **March 25, 2026 Information from this past Month –**
- **1. CT Conservation Advisory Council (CCAC) Meeting**
- **a. Did Not Attend – Preparing for Classic**
- **2. Fisheries Advisory Council – FAC Legislative Report CT
Legislative Session: Lots of bills with implications for fish, fish
habitat, and fishing. • The following are a bills for which the
Fisheries Advisory Council (FAC) has submitted written testimony
and has appeared in-person before the Environment Committee. -**

S.B. No 145 – AN ACT STUDYING THE REMEDIATION OF HYDRILLA IN STATE LAKES AND THE EXPEDITING OF PERMITS RELATED TO SUCH REMEDIATION: Directs the DEEP to conduct a study to determine the most cost effective treatment options. Also directs DEEP to expedite issuing permits for hydrilla treatment. FAC Supports –

- **H.B. No. 5333 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF FISHERIES IN THE STATE:** Proposes to increase the fines for striped bass violations, establishes a December – April C&R only season for striped bass, and prohibits bait fishing in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam during December – April. Would be fine with a shorter (December-March) bait fishing prohibition. And with limiting C&R to the HR River. HB 5333 also prohibits the use of horseshoe crabs as bait (whelk fishery). FAC Supports the striped bass provisions. –
- **H.B. 5330 – AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN WILDLIFE ACTION PLANS:** Seeks to establish a legislative work group to provide recommendations for funding DEEP non-harvested wildlife programs, including fish. FAC Supports and recommends adding a person with aquatic/fisheries expertise to the Work Group. –
- **S.B. No. 313 - AN ACT CONCERNING WAKESURFING ON CERTAIN LAKES IN THE STATE:** Would require that wake boats operating in wakesurf mode stay at least 200 feet from shore. FAC Opposes – It is our position that the provisions in SB 313 are insufficient to avoid adverse environmental impacts and property damage. Most studies recommend a minimum of 500' and at least 20' depth. –
- **H.B. No. 5334 – AN ACT CONCERNING RIPARIAN AREAS:** Seeks to codify a number of recommendations made by a Work Group on riparian areas. The Work Group was established by a bill that passed last legislative session. The recommendations in HB 5334 would enact protections for riparian areas. Among these are: a requirement that municipal wetlands commissions take into consideration the impacts of a proposed activity on cold water

habitat; clarifying that an applicant before a wetlands agency is required to demonstrate that a proposed activity will not have an adverse impact; and establishing a general prohibition on the removal of vegetation w/in 10 feet of any watercourse as a regulated activity. FAC Supports. –

- **H.B. No. 5525 – AN ACT CONCERNING A RAPID RESPONSE PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES:** Establishes an AIS rapid response program by assigning specific tasks and timelines to DEEP and to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station Office of Aquatic Invasive Species. Creates a Task Force to specifically address rapid response to new hydrilla infestations and to develop a Comprehensive Statewide AIS plan. Requires DEEP to develop plans for constructing boat wash decontamination stations at all boat launches. FAC Supports but has concerns and recommends having the Task Force consider options for boat wash stations and impacts to recreational use, rather than tasking DEEP to develop plans –
- **H.B. No. 5520 – AN ACT CONCERNING FISH PASSAGES:** Would require all hydro projects, whether FERC-licensed or not, to be subject to environmentally protective measures by DEEP. Defines safe, timely, and effective fish passage as meeting or exceeding the Connecticut River Migratory Fish Restoration Cooperative’s fish passage standards developed by the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission. FAC Supports. • **The FAC has submitted written testimony on the following bills. - S.B. No. 315 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF STERILE GRASS CARP IN PACHAUG POND:** Overturns an Agency decision and approves the release of grass carp in Pachaug Pond. FAC Opposes. Bad precedent to overturn an established Agency permit process designed to protect the public good. –
- **H.B. No. 5523 – AN ACT CONCERNING TRIBAL COMANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES:** Establishes a Connecticut Tribal Wildlife and Fisheries Commission and empowers it to develop ecomanagement agreements for state lands and waters which

DEEP would be obligated to implement. Provides free hunting and fishing licenses to tribal members. FAC worked with the bill sponsors to arrive at compromise positions whereby the decisions of the Commission would be advisory to DEEP and licenses for tribal members would be purchased at full price by the Mohegan-Pequot fund. • It is our understanding that the \$500,000/year cut to the hatchery line item is still in the DEEP budget. However, the funds have been restored in the BNR budget. At this point we are sitting tight and watching what happens. Don't want to draw attention to this issue if the Agency has truly solved it internally. Previously the FAC has spoken with Sen Cathy Osten (Chair of the Appropriations Committee and Chair of the Sportsmen's Caucus) and we've brought our concerns to the Chairs of the Environment Committee. Federal 119th Congress: • Reauthorization of Federal Sport Fish Restoration Act (Wallop-Breaux): Reauthorizes the Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. CT DEEP Fisheries gets \$4M+ annually in Federal sport fish restoration funds. Lots of progress with the House version (HR 3858 – Rep Debbie Dingle, MI). In the Senate the Democratic co-sponsor has officially signed off on their version of the bill. Expect to see bipartisan introduction of the bill in the Senate in late March. On the House side, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is planning a markup of the Highway Bill for March or early April. Expect this Highway Bill will be the vehicle for the Sportfish Restoration Bill, as it normally is. •

- **The FAC drafted a letter for CT Environment Committee Leadership, requesting that Connecticut's House Delegation sign on as co-sponsors of HR 3858. DEEP has prepared a draft of the Wake Boat & Wakesurfing Study and will be taking public comments on it until April 30, 2026. We would like CBN Members to voice your opinion on Wake Boats. CBN Conservation Director strongly recommends that a regulation of 500 feet from shore and at least 20 feet depth for the Wake Boats to operate in Wake Surf Mode.**

- **Please see the following links:**
 - **Must See - Informative Video – University of Minn. Research on Wakeboats. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp6gHrqJwo0>**

- **PUBLIC NOTICE:** contains details of the draft study and how to participate. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/boating/wake-boat-and-wakesurf/public-notice-of-draft-wake-study.pdf>
- **DRAFT WAKE BOAT & WAKESURF STUDY:** a draft of the study for your review and comment. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/boating/wake-boat-and-wakesurf/draft-wake-boat-wakesurf-study-final.pdf?rev=1220fab8bb9a47d5b1d8aa60631b42d0&hash=949076AEF46FDF9472408061529C1EEC>
- **3. DEEP Information –**
- **DEEP Fisheries is looking to have regulation changes for 2028**
- **a. Removing the 12” length limit on Largemouth Bass.**
- **b. Removing the designation of Bass Management and regulations.**
- **c. Changing regulations for Summer (July & August) tournaments to either of the following:**
 - 1. Change bag limits to 3 fish for the tournament.**
 - 2. Change the time down to a 5 hour tournament.**
- **d. Andrew Bade will be presenting at next Month’s meeting.**
- **4. Friends of CT Sportsman (FoCS) - No meeting**
- **Respectfully Submitted, Dean Rustic, Conservation Director**
- **Tournament Trail Report: Jim Young**
- **Received 14 applications so far, mailing deadline is March 28th, 2026**

The 2026 CBN Trail Application and Tournament Rules are Posted and sent.

E have noticed that the application has no place for a phone number for a co angler, we are fixing that and will get that corrected on the website also.

2026 Tournament Trail:

April 12th-Candlewood 8 to 4 Squantz

May 17th-Candlewood 8 to 4 Squantz

June 7th- Ct River 7 to 4 Haddam

September 13th- Ct River 7 to 4 Haddam

September 27th- Lilly 7 to 4 Steel Bridge

**Oct 11th- Bryan V Kerchal (Mr. B.A.S.S.)/CBN Championship Tournament
TBD**

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.**

Scholarship Report: None NEED A CHAIRPERSON

Banquet Report: Mike Shay will rebook:

Manor Inn

1636 Meriden Waterbury Road

Milldale Ct. 06467

Date coming soon

Membership Committee/Social Media Director:

Need Someone!

Sponsorship/ Chairperson Need Someone

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

I have 10 high school teams, 20 anglers, registered with BASS for 2026. I used Venmo this year for the payments. Much easier. I paid 600.00 to BASS with my credit card and used 600.00 from the venmo payments to pay the credit card bill. 30.00/angler.

I just mailed Marc a check for 700.00(35 a person) to be deposited into the HS account. I also sent him my receipt from BASS that includes the names and BASS #'s for the 2026 roster.

5/30 is still the tentative date for the first tournament, though not approved yet.

6 or 7 of the teams have boat captains.

If anyone new is interested in being a boat captain please have them reach out to me.

There are 2 volunteers lined up for 4/12, Sylvia Has their names. And it looks like Mason Symes and myself will help with the May event on Candlewood after we weigh in. We are both fishing in it.

Tournament Dates: all Saturdays

May 30th Housatonic 7 to 2 Indian Wells (still waiting for approval)

Aug 22nd Lilly 6:30 to 1:30 Pond Brook

September 19th Candlewood 7 to 2 Latins

Oct 3 Highland 7 to 2 State Launch

Kevin Jaracy

203-361-6182 ctjrbass@gmail.com

• MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Excused Absences: CBBA, Housatonic, & Candlewood**
- **CT Bassmen will be holding their 41 st annual Mixed Open Tournament on Candlewood Lake, May 31st. Applications will be out soon!**
- **Heart of CT announced, April 25th, the HOC Open and on April 26th the Bryan V Kerchal Tournament both on Candlewood, applications are posted on the website.**
- **The CBN executive Board voted to give Noah Winslow a check for \$1500.00 to help with his expenses for the Classic.**

STILL NEED:

Sponsorship Person

Social Media Director

Scholarship Chariperson

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 Diawa/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.**
- **Seguar—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 –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**
- **Heart of Ct is asking for the use of the CBN Tournament Trailer and its equipment for their HOC Open and the Bryan V Kerchal tournament, April 25th and 26th 2026. Motion was made to allow this, seconded and passed unanimously.**

- **The Major Steven Roy Andrews Veterans Tournament will be held May 12th, Candlewood Lake, Danbury town Park. Anyone interested in Volunteering for this please contact Al Guite, 869-436-8646 or Joe Kowalski, 860-966-6778.**
- **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!!!**

2026 CBN Meeting Dates

January-NO MEETING

April 22nd

May 27th

June 24th

July 22nd

August 26th

September 23rd

October 28th

November and December & January 2027 NO MEETING

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59

Respectfully submitted:

Sylvia Morris

