

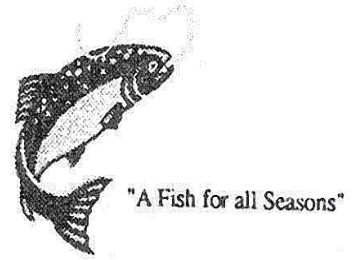


Fishery Advisory Board

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Steven Rutherford
Chair



Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 11, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m and was conducted via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Website Update:

The board received an update on the Google Analytics for the Monroe County fishing website located at www.fishingmonroecounty.com. The website sessions were 8,997 with a total of 14,129 page views with 6,967 new visitors and 80 returning visitors for 2019. The board will request an update for 2020.

Budget Update:

There is \$1,992 currently remaining in the 2020 budget. The GetAways on Display distribution plan for the rack cards was paid for at the cost of \$2,008. Other 2020 budgeted expenditures include the LOC derby advertisement (\$500) and the annual fee for the website maintenance (\$828) leaving an estimated balance of \$664 in the 2020 budget.

New Action Items:

A request for increased funding for the board has been developed, but is unlikely this year due to the massive revenue shortfalls associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic response.

Rob Wescott from the Lake Ontario Charter Boat Association (LOCBA) discussed the efforts being made on behalf of the Charter Industry to get “re-opened”. There was some discussion about the difficulties of social distancing, and of other states efforts to set up guidelines based on boat sizes and square footages of deck. There was also some discussion of efforts to get relief funding and the loans, and the difficulties there. A motion was made to send a letter supporting reopening of the charter industry to Bob Duffy, seconded, and passed. C. Knauf will draft a letter, transmit to S. Olufsen, who will circulate and then get it to S. Rutherford for signature.

Web Persall reported that DEC is nearly 100% “stocked out” due to an massive effort to empty hatcheries so as to not risk losing the whole operation if staff became ill. Both Bath and Caledonia have stocked 100% of 2020 fish. This week they are barge stocking 200K Brown Trout (eastern basin sites) and 300K Lake trout (Sodus, Oak Orchard and Olcott).

The Inland Trout Management Plan has been completed and will be released on the DEC website at the end of May for Public Comment.

DEC is renegotiating the Naval Militia site (St Paul Blvd) lease with the City of Rochester to extend the lease for 25 to 30 years and also work with the County Sheriff. The Site is currently closed due to possible flooding issues.

S. Olufsen reported that LOSPC is looking to document the economic impact on the charter and guide industry caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. They are also including information we have sent (boat launches, access points, charter captains, etc.) on their website.

S. Zucco reported that 20K steelhead were direct stocked to the river.

J. Lepak will see what Sea Grant might have that could be of use to the captains groups for assisting in recovery.

Action Items Update From Last Month:

The Monroe County Offshore Classic has not yet been cancelled, but likely will be. It was scheduled to be held on Friday 6/26 with a five species “winner take all” event and Saturday 6/27, the actual Offshore Classic Day. More information can be found on the Monroe County Offshore Classic Facebook Page or contacting Matt French at 585-737-9364.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.