

New York State B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation

March 19, 2000

Public Operations Center, Latham, New York

The meeting was called to order by President Wayne Tomassi at 11:00 a.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said to start the meeting.

DEC REPORT - Douglas Stang, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Fisheries, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Division and Edward F. Woltman, Fisheries Biologist attended this meeting. Issues of concern:

License Fees - Increase needed to continue programs. This proposal has gone nowhere. An audit was called for and a complete audit report can be obtained on the DEC website www.dec.state.ny.us. No irregularities were found. The only problem area was in the auditing procedures. Money was not kept track of accurately and timely reconciliation (time between money being received vs. issuance of license) is four years behind. DEC ended 1999 \$1.7 million in the black. A number of departments were under staffed. At the present rate in March 2001, DEC will be \$1.27 million in the hole with current expenses and current license fees. To avoid further staff reductions and possible closing of fisheries, the increase is needed and they are asking us to support it. Additional funds might be available from the Federal Government or from different funds but this is not certain and fees need to go up. The increase would go from \$14.00 to \$19.00 for residents and non-resident fees would increase from \$35.00 to \$40.00. There will be one day, seven-day and season passes.

Power Plants - Mike Zasuly asked why black bass were not considered in any of the impact studies done when power plants were researched. DEC studies six other species of fish and the intake and exhaust areas were researched. Mike quoted a report that said exhaust into the Esopus Creek would raise the water temperature to 90 degrees. Doug stated that a dry cooling tower was being proposed to eliminate this problem.

Cormorants - Their impact on Lake Ontario was brought to light due to the illegal acts of a few individuals. The exact number of fish eaten by cormorants is uncertain out of Lake Ontario as well as the Hudson River but it is a considerable amount. DEC cannot manage or control them on Lake Champlain due to the Audubon Society and everything has to go through Fish and Wildlife. The studies being done on Lake Ontario on cormorants will help in other areas. Satellites, to see if Ontario birds are coming into New York waters and feeding on our fish, are tracking cormorant migration. If they are, then strategies have to be changed. DEC is trying to get anglers involved in tracking studies. Nests are being sprayed but nothing has, as yet, been proven totally effective. Mike Zasuly asked what we could do to help DEC determine what to do about cormorants. Some groups are doing scooping. Doug mentioned there will be a meeting in the Spring and they will let Burnie know the date. Government is aware that there is a group of people being impacted by cormorants.

Metal Tags - These are again being used. Mike Zasuly pointed out that DEC had promised to stop using them and this was done for awhile but they are being used. Some anglers cut them off. How can a study be effective if they are being removed? Doug is aware that a long-term tag is needed but this is the best option at the present time. Presentation given by Mike Flarity (biologist for Region 3) on these tags indicated that they did cause sores on the fish's mouth; fish are not handled properly during the tagging process; and, tags are being removed and not returned. Mike Flarity is proposing that DEC reps come talk to clubs about anglers' concerns for black bass. DEC is trying and we should give them a chance and see what develops. Steps that are being taken now should have been done in the beginning. When anglers return tags to DEC, they are sent a report on that fish.

Sonar Use On Saratoga Lake - Doug stated there is nothing scheduled. He does not feel any permits were issued yet. The area being considered is a 200-acre area of weeds out of the 1000 acres of total weeds. Pellet form, which sinks and then comes up, needs 55-degree water and last for 30 days. Best results are obtained with treatment is continued for an additional 60 days, for a total of 90 days which would run into bass spawning season. Studies show minimal effect on catfish and Flathead minnows (these fish were fed sonar and then watched). Other species were not checked. People were encouraged not to drink or use the water during this period. If it is not harmful, why were they advised not to use the water? Saratoga Lake Association does not like weed harvesters. Harvesters do not kill crawfish or minnows and people can still fish. If you kill the weeds it does permanent damage to the ecosystem. There was a lake in Texas, Lake Conroe, in which a weed killer was used. It killed the weeds and now nothing will grow. They are planting plastic weeds. DEC does not spend hardly any time on specific waters with respect to weed control, fisheries or black bass population. Region 4 only has three biologists for the whole region.

Ed Woltman - Ed spoke on the importance of keeping open communications. Ed is a current member of National B.A.S.S. and used to be a member of the Junior Chapter in Long Island in his younger days. Ed still does some fishing and praised our efforts with respect to Youth and our input on better management of bass waters. He and Doug will keep in contact with Burnie. Suggestion made to have a biologist get in a boat and spend time on the

water and see what is happening. Some of our anglers would be willing to take them out and show them the area. A proposal should be prepared and sent to Doug and Jerry Bernhardt and see where it goes.

Open Catch and Release Season - DEC is starting to move in that direction. It will start next spring - March 16th - in Western part of the State (Finger Lakes Region). Open catch and release season seems to have a slight impact on smallmouth bass but not on largemouth. Doing studies for five or six years is not enough to assess the impact.

Biological studies have to be conducted for 20 years in order to be 80% sure of 50% change in population. They are only now asking for anglers' opinions on problems and helping to assess the situations. In some northern waters, the smallmouth bass spawn, only one-third of the adult fish spawn, only one-third of the eggs hatch and only one-third of the young make it through the first winter. Open catch and release decision is a Regional Managers' decision.

These are the people we need to contact. Doug has made a recommendation to have an open season but the regional managers do not want it. When we contact regional managers, and we must on this issue, we can quote Ed and Doug on their support of an open season. Money issue raised regarding funds going out of the State and into other states that have an open season. If we send a letter to the Governor it will be routed to Doug to answer. Correspondence needs to go to the regional level. Wayne and Burnie met with the Chairman of the Tourism Committee about this issue during the March on Albany. **Motion Made** by Mike Zasuly to have a catch and release open season.

Seconded by Dave Hadely. **Motion Passed.** This would not apply on the Hudson and any other areas that have a biological reason not to have an open season. Anglers will respect this. Doug pointed out that this would be a controversial issue with lake shore residents due to "pet fish" or spawning periods. Anglers can obtain diaries from Regional Managers to keep and help DEC with information. We need to keep a direct communication link. Biologist and/or Regional Fish Managers should be asked to come to our meetings twice a year to keep us up to date regarding different issues. Issue raised about the Hudson River, in the fall, in the creeks, there are anglers (some from out of state or out of area) who use live bait and catch their five fish, trailer their boat, remove the fish and then re-launch and catch another five fish and keep all of them. Doug indicated there is no way for DEC to totally stop this. Any angler witnessing this act should report it.

Closing East Lake Ontario Shoreline (Jefferson County) - Joanne Davis stated this would hurt the community economically. Doug informed her that this proposal has been in the works for 1 1/2 years. There were meetings set and there was never any opposition voiced until about a month ago. Now everything is ready to go and it is too late to stop it.

Wayne thanked Ed and Doug for coming. Burnie is to be their contact. Ed will send Burnie a list of Regional Managers. The appropriate managers will be contacted on the various issues of concern.

ROLL CALL of Clubs was taken. The following were represented: Albany Area, Benevolent, Black Rock, Capital District, Crown City, Greylock, Helderberg, Hudson Valley, Indian Lakes, Lake Champlain, Mid-Hudson, Northern New Jersey, Orange County, Predators, Renegade, Salt City, Statewide, Team Bass and Westchester Rod & Reel. The officers present were: President-Wayne Tomassi, Vice-President, Joanne Davis, Membership-Charlie Jedica, and Secretary-Rose Maher.

A **Moment of Silence** was observed for friends of the federation who have died--Susan Johnson's Aunt and Jerry Loucks, a

past federation sponsor and manufacturer of Bassin' Buoys.

MINUTES - Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2000 and Executive Board Minutes of January 15, 2000 were sent to all Club reps one month before this meeting, it was proposed to the Board to either accept the last minutes as mailed or to have them read as in the past years and then have them accepted. **Motion** made by Ken Charbonneau to accept both minutes as mailed and **Seconded** by Mike Kreloff. No Discussion Followed. **Motion Passed.**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Wayne recapped the outcome of elections, subsequent resignations and new appointments were outlined. All members were thanked for voting, no matter whom they voted for. Committee Chairpersons were introduced: Pam Bliss, Tournament Director; Ken Charbonneau, Marketing; Burnie Haney, Conservation, Mickey Fortunato, Youth; Melody Sanson, Fishlines Editor. Members were encouraged to bring to anyone's attention (officers or committee people) any problems or concerns they might have. Officers and Committee Chairpersons represent the Federation members. Wayne proceeded to outline how the meeting business would be conducted. Meeting would proceed committee by committee with all pertinent business--old and new--being brought up and then at the end of the meeting would be Old and New Business to introduce any areas not covered under the respective committees.

TREASURY - Financial report and audit are still unavailable. No information has been received as to balancing the Federation's accounts. Matt Draxler resigned as of 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 18, 2000. Matt's resignation letter was read. Matt will still prepare the 1999 Federation tax returns. All money that has come in through marketing efforts and for membership/tournament fees has been well documented and deposited in the Federation's account. There

will still be an audit once all records are received. This is a very common practice in any organization when leadership changes. This is not an indication of any errors or misgivings. According to our Bylaws state membership dues are distributed: \$2.00 for Conservation, \$2.00 for Youth, \$7.00 for Fishlines and \$9.00 for general fund. These are the figures that the present committee chairpersons have based their 2000 budget. Sal Pennini of Black Rock has written a letter, which was read, volunteering his services as Treasurer. Whitey Grogan spoke on Sal's behalf. Board members were asked if anyone else was interested in the position of Treasurer. No one came forward. Wayne Nominated Sal Pennini as Treasurer and it was **Approved** by the Executive Committee. The President, Treasurer or Tournament Director will sign checks. The President or Vice-President will approve receipts and vouchers prior to payment. With the distance between members of the Executive Committee, this is the best solution to have two approvals for each check.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT - Joanne encouraged all to check out the web page and use it. If there are any concerns regarding any issues, they should be directed to Joanne. This will be her primary responsibility. All Federation members will be surveyed through new membership data sheets with respect to e-mail addressed.

Bus Trip has only nine people signed up to date. A May 1st deadline has been set. A full size bus (57 passenger) for five days will cost \$6,900.00. If more people do not sign up, rental of a van will be checked into and someone has donated the use of their motor home as another option. Hotels are being checked into.

MEMBERSHIP/2nd VICE PRESIDENT - Wayne explained that this position has been known as membership but proposed bylaw change will be made once the duties and responsibilities are defined, to make this 2nd Vice-President. Pam is taking membership information as this directly pertains to Tournament records. Pam stated present membership stands at 453 active, paid members vs. 321 same time last year. There are 22 new members vs. 27 new members and 39 paid clubs vs. 35 last year. According to last year's totals, 43% of the total yearly members had paid at this point. IF this formula holds true this year, the Federation will end up with over 1,000 members in 2000. Charlie reported the return of Sunrise and Team Bass to the Federation. There is another club--New York City Bassmasters--that is very close to joining the Federation and possibly one other club. There are reps at this meeting that have not attended a Federation meeting in quite some time. The best way for the Federation to reach new members is if everyone present brings all they have heard from the officers and DEC back to non-Federation members to spark their interest. Charlie is also exploring left-on-shore activities during tournaments for those waiting for weigh-in time.

CONSERVATION - Burnie Haney distributed his report on the **March on Albany** that he attended along with 150 other interested individuals. Bill 4419 (extending the wake zone) would have passed without Burnie's speech in opposition. Of the forty voting members, 38 voted against. It seems to be the consensus that the Conservation Council advised Assemblymen how to vote and 85% of the time that is the way the vote goes. Sixty-four bills were reviewed in all. Mike Schmidt, our 13 year old Junior Chapter member, was given a standing ovation on his presentation and he was commended by a number of legislators and others attending. The more people that can attend this event, the more Senators and Assemblymen that can be reached to present the Federation's position on issues of concern to anglers. Burnie is awaiting word from two legislators regarding the **Catch and Immediate Release Season Extension** prior to opening of bass season. The best motivator seems to be money. The loss of money to other States has shed a new light on the issue.

Chautauqua Lake Closing - The legislators associated with this area were not aware of the proposed closing in July. All reports they had indicated that this is the most underutilized park in the region. The legislators involved plan to contact the Park Director and then get back to Burnie or Wayne.

Sonar Issue - In order to get our message across about our feelings on this, the regional Managers need to be reached. Burnie will prepare a list of all contacts. It would also be worthwhile to join the Regional Conservation Council. All the different lakes have their own rules and their own regional people managing them. It is important to complete the Club survey sent by DEC. Apparently only 28% of these surveys are ever returned. Four or five people who are very organized can help or hurt any given situation. The Federation needs to pursue the plan to have the different DEC biologists fish a particular area of concern with an experienced angler from that area to show the biologist what impact certain moves can have on an area. Federation anglers should pick up the diaries provided by DEC and use them. It might even be worthwhile to ask DEC to send a six-man team to the Club Team Event.

30 Minute Lunch Break Was Taken At This Point Meeting Reconvened at 1:35 p.m.

ORANGE COUNTY MEETING -Discussions involved:

Bass Tags - Mike Zasuly, Chris Olsen, Cliff Tienken and Wayne Tomassi made quite an impression with DEC when they attended the Orange County Meeting. Mike suggested that if an angler catches a bass with tags, the angler should record the number and relay it to DEC. If an angler has an aversion to the tags and cuts them off upon catching tagged bass, the angler should send the tag or tags in question to DEC. If tags are just thrown away, the

count will be inflated. Cliff addressed the proposed Clearwater wintering site on the Esopus Creek during the Orange County Meeting. Mike gave the background on this. Once the Clearwater people were contacted by Mike and advised that the sandbar they were proposing to dredge on the southwest side of the Creek was a spawning site for 20-30% of the area bass, Clearwater agreed not to do this and find another wintering site. The Riverkeeper was instrumental in helping Mike contact the Clearwater and now there is an open channel with the Riverkeeper and the Clearwater and Mike for exchange of information about issues that concern the Federation's anglers and they have one to us to voice any concerns they may have.

Hudson River Estuary Management Committee - Made up of two DEC people, fisherman (commercial and recreational) and a number of other people who advise the Governor, DEC and others on issues that deal with the River from Long Island Sound all the way up. This Committee has never discussed black bass. Black bass have never been considered on any study concerning building of power plants. This Committee needs to be made aware that the Federation has many concerns about things happening on the Hudson. Jack Lucas used to be a member of this Council and is willing to rejoin now that they are again having their meetings in New Paltz. Wayne has requested a slot on this Committee for a member of the Federation, possible Mike Zasuly.

SALT CITY BASSMASTERS - Mike Cusano gave a presentation on setting up a bass club. Packets were distributed with website information and a sample of their web page. When Mike was elected president three years ago he had three goals for the Club-- one: to learn all they could about bass fishing; two - have fun; and, three - competition. The focus on learning encompassed physical composition - 30 members (4 officers). Officers serve for one-year terms. Club has set of bylaws and tournament rules, which are interpreted by the tournament committee, whose rulings are final. Club mission has been to focus on learning. One of the best ways to learn is to get into a boat with someone that knows more than you do. Ways to make a club grow and succeed: make it learning friendly, cheap entry fees, hold draw tournaments, recap--anglers' finishing 1st through 5th are interviewed and share their "secrets"; lead by example--open up on areas, lures, etc. with new anglers; have a set agenda to keep things moving; and, contacts with local outdoor writers is instrumental for channeling information. Boater/boater issue is dealt with by the anglers involved. Their bylaws state that any angler involved in a boater to boater situation in one tournament, they will not be in one the next tournament; and, if an angler is in a triple up, they will not be in another one until everyone else in the club has been involved in a triple. Mike recommended joining Syracuse Online Community Connection--a free website is available and it is not just for the Syracuse area. Many new members have come through their website. Mike was thanked for his fine presentation.

AWARDS - Rose Maher will chair a committee to define criteria for being awarded a plaque. Pam will serve on this committee. Any other volunteers were recruited. Paul Tomeo and Frank Maher will also serve. On the National level, anglers were encouraged to send away for everything sponsored by National BASS. Because of their involvement in surveys and studies, Long Island received an award for Communications from BASS.

YOUTH - James Morgan displayed worm packets made up by Hudson Valley Junior Bassmasters that will be given to all anglers participating in Federation tournaments to hand out to any youngsters they encounter while fishing. Lunker Don Lures donated merchandise. James was thanked for coming and was asked to convey the Federation's thanks to the other members of Hudson Valley in preparing the packets.

State Casting Kids - Mickey Fortunato reported on the State Casting Kids finals. Cole Paradise won in the 7-10 category with a score of 130 and Chris Barth (son of Ted Barth of Southern Tier) won in the 11-14 category with a perfect score of 150. This was the second win for Chris. We wish both boys luck in Knoxville. Mickey thanked Mike Kreloff, Jack Lucas, Rose Maher, Ken Charbonneau, Ann and John Velie for their help during the event.

Mr/Miss Bass Tournament - June 25th. Boats are needed. Volunteers should contact Mickey.

Leadership Camp - Southern Tier will host the Camp and more information will be forthcoming.

Website - State final Casting Kids pictures will be displayed. Any group holding a Casting Kids event in the future will be listed on the site.

Junior Bass Clubs - Orange County will be starting a junior club. First meeting is set for April at Middletown Mall. Meetings will be held the third Tuesday of the month and they hope to have 50 members.

Fundraising - TV raffle will be held at Lake George Tournament to sponsor the Junior State Team Invitational in July. Reps were asked to return to their clubs and encourage all members to buy tickets. Hope to have some Juniors selling tickets since this seems to encourage anglers to buy tickets. Wayne plans to swim across the Hudson River in the Mariners' Harbor area to help raise money for the Fish and Wildlife Coalition for Youth, an organization which has donated money to our Junior team as well as to the Leadership Camp. Sponsors will be contacted to support his swim. Definite time not yet set--depends on tides, outcome of physical and "Shaping-Up" program.

MARKETING - Ken Charbonneau thanked John Whaley for the new Federation Banner and Stand. The new brochure was distributed. Special thanks to Paul Tomeo for all his work and Pete Stevenson, who printed all the brochures up for nothing. Sponsors bring in revenue, which is what makes the Federation run. Sponsors can

purchase ads in Fishlines (good, clean, black and white proofs), banners can be purchased which will be displayed at tournaments and/or space on the Fishcare trailer. New ad rates were distributed. These rates were set after contacting other States and asking what they were charging. Ken then set ours accordingly. So far the new rates have not turned any sponsors off. Three tournaments to date are sponsored -- Lake George by Capital District Marine; Catskill on the Hudson by Anderson Boats; and, six man team by Brook Cove and Champion Boats. Sponsors are being courted to sponsor the other tournaments. Various other sponsors--Lake Lonely Boat Livery, Dick's Sporting Goods, Cayuga Outdoor World--were mentioned as being close to contribute. Melody Sanson was introduced. Goal is to make the Fishlines self-supporting so that the money from dues allocated to this can go to other things. Mike Zasuly stressed that anglers need to support the sponsors. This does not mean that you have to buy from the sponsors. Just give them a chance to compete. If you are looking for merchandise, have gone to one of the sponsors and have found it cheaper somewhere else, go back to the sponsor and let them know. If they cannot compete, fine but at least you gave them a chance. That is all most sponsors want--a chance. If you do purchase something from a sponsor, make it known that you are with the Federation and that the reason you are there is because of their advertising with us. Sponsors first question before giving money is "What do I get in return?" Ken contacted all the members of the Chamber of Commerce for the points tournaments and sent out mailings to obtain more ads. Members present were asked to help with any sponsors they might know. If they do not want to contact them personally, get the name to Ken and he will contact them. There was some confusion regarding "sponsor" and "advertising". Sponsors will be announced at Tournaments and will have banners displayed, appear in Fishlines and on the web page. Advertising people are found in the Fishlines. Our anglers should support both these groups. Anything that is promised to a sponsor by their contact will be done. This has not been the case in the past. Some old sponsors (Picasso Lures) will be given special consideration as things were promised for their sponsorship and were never delivered. Our commitments will be honored at all costs. Tournament winners' pictures will be taken in front of the banners and/or trailer to be sent to sponsors. Presently looking for small ads (\$25.00 range). All advertising and sponsors that have joined prior to the rate increase will have their old rate honored. Dave Hadley pointed out that the Banner read "New York B.A.S.S. Federation" and our brochure did also but this is not the correct name. Pam Bliss then pointed out that the patches also read this way. This will be looked into. Anyone interested in helping on the Marketing Committee should contact Ken.

TOURNAMENTS - Pam Bliss passed out the Tournament Package. Each page was reviewed. Areas of interest: **Lake Champlain** - Jim Jeffries may have a different registration site since there was a slight problem with the Mall last season. If we were to again have it at the Mall, maybe looking into an empty store location would be appropriate.

Cap Issue - The Federation has a cap of 200, which has been ignored many times in the past. Pam has asked the Clubs to let her know who will be fishing Lake George. If it will be too many anglers, then this issue will have to be addressed. Pam asked Club presidents to talk to the anglers regarding what happens in State Tournaments. Some anglers come to their first tournament and have no idea what to expect or what is expected of them. This might take care of some of the issues that arise.

Off Limits - There are mixed feelings on this issue. Pros seem to want the off limits; others do not. There were votes taken at Lake Sam Rayburn and at the Top 150 Tournament and it was voted to keep the off limit. There are pros and cons. Pros favor anglers that live near the body of water or anglers who have lots of time. Some clubs wanted to have our off limits start on Thursday. Cons include having the bass be stung so much that they are even harder to catch. **Motion** Made by Jack Lucas to leave the off limits as is. **Seconded** by Rick Zieniuk. No further Discussion. **Motion Passed.** Tournament rules for 2000 will stay the same.

Gas Pumps - There might be a New York State Law that prohibits fishing within 25 yards of a gas pump. You can have your boat within this limit but you cannot fish within 25 yards. This will be looked into.

Electronic Communications - The Executive Committee proposed the following ruling: "The use of communication devices is forbidden during official tournament hours except in case of an emergency, to contact a tournament official or to communicate with a lock official". Discussion followed concerning incoming calls. It was decided that incoming calls could be accepted but the angler has to ask if it is an emergency and if not, has to inform the caller that he/she is fishing a tournament and they will return the call after it is over. Issue raised about the ruling applying to practice day. Technically once the official practice starts you can't ask any outside person for information; i.e., if you go into a tackle shop and get information regarding the lake or what the fish are biting, it is against the rules.

Speed Limits - The 10 mile-an-hour speed limit from Rome to the last lock is not enforced. The 5 mile-an-hour speed limit under all bridges on the Mohawk is strictly enforced. No wake zones in front of marinas is strictly enforced. Issue raised if an angler is speeding and your partner turns you in has always been over looked in the past. If you get a ticket for speeding in a no wake zone, you will be disqualified. Laws regarding speeding are not

enforced mostly due to skiers from campsites. DEC does not have radar but Parks and State Police do. Dug Canal where it is narrow with speed limits posted is enforced. Area where we fish does not have speed limits enforced. When entering or exiting a lock idle entire length of cement area or lock keeper might get angry. Remember there are different lock attendants on the weekends than during the week and each has their own interpretation of the rules regarding fishing the locks. If you make them angry, they could call ahead and hold you up at all the other locks.

Canal Permits - These permits will be needed if you desire to use the locks.

Partners Draw - No change.

Tournament Crew - There is one opening left to fill. Anyone interested should contact Pam.

Angler Tournament Advisory Board - This board will consist of five people from different areas of the State. Pam is looking for long term tournament fishermen. Some volunteers have come forward and Pam will decide who will be serving on this Board.

Fishcare - Mike Kreloff has volunteered to haul this around this season. It has not as yet been turned over.

Registration - Late registration penalties will be enforced. This will not apply for new members. Registration needs to be postmarked two weeks before or a \$25.00 late fee will apply. If an angler is late to registration, there will be a 5-ounce penalty. If the angler arrives after partner draw, he/she will be disqualified and they will not get their money refunded. Computers will be used for registration and draw which will speed up the process.

Club Team Event - Proposal was made to increase the entry fees for this event to \$270.00 in order to have a barbecue Friday night. This would help to make the wait more bearable. Clubs could introduce their teams at this time and people would not have to go hungry. Discussion followed. There would not be any alcohol and if club members wanted to bring anyone else to the barbecue (wives, husbands, children), these could be paid for at that time. **Motion** Made by Mike Zasuly to raise the entry fee \$60.00 to cover the cost of the barbecue on Friday night during registration. **Seconded** by Whitey Grogan. No further discussion. **Motion Passed.**

Lake Champlain/Redman Off Limits - Federation has off limit rules that start at 3:00 p.m. on the practice day prior to a tournament. There was discussion about making the area North of a line between Split Rock Point and Thompson's Point just below Whallon's Bay off limits the week prior to the tournament. Issue also raised about people fishing Redman that will be coming to our registration late. Issue raised that there have never been any special recommendations made before why are they being considered now. Pam took a poll of those present regarding this issue. The poll indicated members wanted the off limits kept the way it is. Pam will evaluate and make the final decision as Tournament Director.

Gas Prices - Anglers should be made aware that they should anticipate higher costs as a non-boater. Another draw back might be that if gas prices keep increasing, fewer anglers might opt to go boater. This issue will have to be addressed if it arises.

Scales - Spring scales will still be used.

OLD BUSINESS

ELECTIONS - Burnie stated he hopes to not serve on this committee again and recommended that the election process used by the Federation be changed. Before this Committee is officially disband for this year, some suggestions were made regarding future elections. Mailing process and ballot process should be changed. This will be looked into. Wayne thanked Burnie, Melody Tennity and Tom Saltzer for serving on this committee. Burnie and Tom did an excellent job counting the ballots and keeping their cool. Election Committee Closed.

WCF - Wayne apologized for not sending the letter that was drafted and that the Board wanted sent. He felt that further discussion was needed on this issue and further research done. National B.A.S.S. had meetings on this subject but nothing is known about the outcome. There have been letters from Ray Scott in opposition; Don Corkran in support; and, Helen Sevier in support. Massachusetts has stated WCF would never be allowed to happen there. Vermont stated they did not like it and questioned the safety; but also stated the ones involved had a right to do what they wanted but it should be done safely. Why were there no helmets or life vests on any of the racers? Jimmy Houston, Denny Brauer and Rich Tauber do not support this. One of the boat dealers, Ranger, has also backed out. Information we have is that WCF charges \$36,000 per entry. Pay back is \$250,000.00 so there is a lot of money to be made in this. Rumor has it that one of the competitions might be in the Thousand Island area. American Powers Boat Association will never approve this. They were given a letter to sanction it and they would not do so. It seems the only people supporting it are the ones benefiting from it. We are not boat racers; we are fishermen. Insurance rates would be increased and sooner or later someone will get hurt. After the above discussions, Wayne will send the letter to Corkran as drafted on Monday, January 20th.

CALENDAR - December meeting date was tentatively set for December 17th in the Syracuse area.

AWARDS BANQUET - No tentative date could be set for this at this time. Looking at December but most present wanted to leave it in January. It will be in the Albany area. The local clubs (Albany, Capital District, and

Helderberg) were asked to come up with three proposals for type of banquet to have by June 1st. The club offering the best idea will help Rose arrange the banquet.

NEW BUSINESS

HEALEY CHEVROLET- Mike Zasuly presented flyers regard the 1st Annual Chevy Truck, Ranger Boats, Pro Bass Fishing Seminar to be held on April 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Healey Brothers Chevrolet in Beacon, New York. Speakers will be O. T. Fears, Ed Klepeis and George Locke.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Ken will be looking for sponsors to help Joe Matt. Each club was asked to donate something for Joe. Fund raising ideas were discussed but there is not enough time to put anything into effect to benefit Joe. Joe will be spending nine days practicing and has hooked up with different people who will be showing him the area. New York is known as the "poor Federation", when it comes to the financial support it gives its National representative. We need to change this image. Additional members would increase revenue. We want to get anglers to join the Federation even if they do not fish the tournaments. Wayne stated that since the Federation is saving \$26.00 per month on the website (paying \$36.00 before, now it is \$10.00 per month) that this extra money be given to Joe to pay for his wife's portion of the expense. Also since Burnie would be riding down with Joe and his wife, we will be saving money on mileage. **Motion Made** by Dave Beemer to pay \$400.00 to Joe Matt for expenses incurred at the National. **Seconded** by Paul Tomeo. No Discussion followed. **Motion Passed.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose T. Maher, Secretary