



*Rich Davenport, 2007 ECFSC Recording Secretary*

*Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs*

**January 2007 General Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting opened at 7:45 PM – 1/25/2007**

**Location: Elma Conservation Club**

**Meeting opened at 7:45**

**Pledge to Flag:** Done

**Special Guests**

ECO Lohr – Department of Environmental Conservation  
John Butcher and Mike Bartoshevich NFFNRA

They are the Arm to raise money for hunting, conservation, range improvements, etc.

Large youth program emphasis when considering grants

Bill Mudge - VP Niagara County Federation, Niagara County SCOPE. Grant guy.

Paul Stoos motions to buy a table at their upcoming Banquet on March 24  
2nd Tom Fischer

Motion passed unanimously

**Roll call – Officers and Directors:**

Attendance: 6 Officers, 9 Directors, 23 Delegates, 4 Guests

Excused - Chuck Godfrey, Spencer Schofield, Dave Barus, Dave Smzycynski

Absent -

**Quorum of member clubs – Present:** Yes

**Approval of previous month's minutes**

Motion to approve Joe McAdams

2nd Paul Stoos

Motion Carries

**Secretary's report – Rich Davenport**

Attendance was all good for directors in 2006, 99% of absentees were excused

Took notes at the VHS Meeting on Jan 8 at Woodlawn. Also have the ppt presentation given at meeting.

**Membership report – Mike Smith**

Membership - renewals 10 thus far  
Application of New Club Membership - NFFNRA

Ray Gworek - motion to accept as read  
2nd Frank Miskey  
Motion carries - they are in

Welcome aboard

**Treasurer’s report – Tony Scime**

Monthly report provided, and the annual report was provided as well.

Motion to approve - Tom Fischer 2nd Bob Fuller

Accepted

**Correspondence report –**

Letter on asian carp issue. To send  
The bill may have already passed both houses  
Paul Stoos - Motion if bill didn't pass, write letters  
2nd Joe McAdams

Motion carries unanimously

**President’s Report – Chuck Godfrey**

None

**Next meetings and locations:**

2/22/2007	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	George Washington Club - 2805 Niagara St.
June	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Alden Rod & Gun
November	-	6:30	-	7:30	Gen Meet	Boston Valley

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Law enforcement** – Dwight Mateer

Lt Tom Scott indicated not too much happening right now  
Academy is taking place at Fulton in, 20 ECO, 10 Ranger, and approval for a 6th man in Erie County, to be fully staffed on ECOs in Erie County

Q – VHS Meeting was any discussion as to cost of containment involved?

Unknown

Q - on Hunt for Bucky, any reimbursement from the State?

Unknown

Dwight looking into this

**Archery & Bowhunting – Dave Reed**

Nothing

**Crossbow – Tony Gonnello**

None

**Fish – Dave Barus**

**January 2007 Fish Committee Report – Dave Barus**

**Hottest issue in NYS and Great Lake: VHS**

The comment period for comments to the emergency regulations put in place by the NYSEDEC regarding Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) virus ended January 22 and all submitted comments are under review by DEC at this time. The emergency regulations period was started on 11/21/06. Permanent new regulations will result pending the outcome of comments review. In summary, VHS is a serious pathogen of fresh and saltwater fish that is causing an emerging disease in the Great Lakes. VHS virus is a rhabdovirus (rod shaped virus) that affects fish of all size and age ranges, but does not pose any threat to humans, even with consumption of infected fish. VHS kills fish by causing hemorrhaging of the fish tissue, including internal organs. Once a fish is infected with VHS, there is no known cure. Not all infected fish develop the disease and die, but they can carry and spread the disease to other fish.

>>> "Mary Dettloff" <dettloffml@michigan.gov> 01/25/07 2:44 PM >>>  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 25, 2007

Contacts: Kelley Smith 517-373-3375, Gary Whelan 517-373-6948 or Mary Dettloff 517-335-3014

Department of Natural Resources Confirms Spread of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) in Great Lakes

Recent analyses of fish sampled from northern Lake Huron have confirmed the existence of viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS) in lake whitefish, walleyes and Chinook salmon, Department of Natural Resources fisheries officials announced today. VHS is a virus that causes disease in fish but does not pose any threat to public health.

The analyses that were completed earlier this week establish that VHS has now been confirmed in lake whitefish samples from the Cheboygan

area, in lake whitefish and walleye samples from the Thunder Bay area, and in Chinook salmon samples from the Swan River egg-take station near Rogers City.

\*The continuing march of VHS through the waters of the Great Lakes is a major challenge to our agency and our management options,\* said DNR Director Rebecca A. Humphries. \*These new discoveries are extremely unfortunate and further highlight the problems created by the constant introductions of new diseases from outside of the Great Lakes region, the speed with which they can spread, and the threat that such pathogens pose to our natural resources.\*

VHS was detected in lake whitefish from the Cheboygan area after re-analyzing samples collected in 2005 during a survey for bacterial kidney disease (BKD).

\*It is not unusual for us to collect fish that have unknown viruses, which typically require a significant effort to properly identify,\* said Gary Whelan, fish production manager for the DNR. \*Once we had indications of VHS in other samples of fish from Lake Huron, this sample was retrieved from storage and fully analyzed by Dr. Mohamed Faisal at Michigan State University.\*

Samples from the Thunder Bay area were collected last fall during a mortality event that included lake whitefish and walleyes.

\*At the time, we suspected that the cause of the mortality might be related to VHS,\* said Kelley Smith, chief of the DNR Fisheries Division. \*Because the fish were so badly decomposed, however, it is still not certain that VHS caused these fish to die since botulism was also a possible cause. But given the detection of VHS and the fact that the mortality occurred during the spawning season both implicate VHS as the probable cause of death of these fish.\*

A number of Chinook salmon observed at the Swan River egg-take station last fall also showed signs of VHS infection, Whelan said. A standard fish health inspection that is annually conducted by the DNR Fisheries Division on this key broodstock did document VHS in both female and male fish, including one fish exhibiting clinical signs of VHS. Standard methods for disinfecting the eggs were applied last fall at the egg-take station prior to transfer of the eggs to the state's hatchery facilities. To date, all lots of Chinook salmon hatched from these eggs and being reared in DNR hatchery facilities have been tested and all are negative for VHS, which is attributable to the disinfection methods that have been employed at all the DNR's egg-take stations for many years.

\*This shows that our standard disinfection procedures, similar to those used on the West Coast where VHS has been found for a long time, were effective in protecting our hatcheries and the fish reared in those hatcheries,\* Whelan said.

DNR officials have been in contact with personnel in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services, alerting them to the new confirmations of VHS in Lake Huron fish, and outlining the steps being taken by the DNR in response to this new information.

\*In the continued battle to slow the spread of VHS throughout the Great Lakes, we must remain vigilant, take every precaution, and implement all options available to us,\* Smith said.

Those actions include:

\* Reclassification of Michigan\*s waters of Lake Huron, including Saginaw Bay, as a VHS Positive Management Area. In addition to Lake Huron, the management area encompasses the state\*s waters of the St. Clair River, Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Lake Erie.

\* Reclassification of Michigan\*s waters of the St. Marys River from the Soo Locks to Lake Huron and all of Lake Michigan as a VHS Surveillance Management Area.

\* Sampling efforts for several fish species, including walleyes, emerald shiners and lake whitefish will be significantly increased in the new VHS Surveillance Management Area.

\* Additional testing of all lots of Chinook salmon in the state\*s hatchery facilities that originated from eggs collected at the Swan River weir will be conducted prior to stocking those fish in the state\*s waters.

\* A prohibition on the trap and transfer of live fish that are collected from the state\*s waters of the Great Lakes for management purposes unless the fish have tested negative for VHS.

\* Increased efforts to inform anglers and others about the dangers of VHS, especially to inland waters of the state. Anglers are asked not to move live fish between the Great Lakes and inland waters, particularly minnow species, and to use standard disinfection techniques for boats, live wells and other equipment. See [www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing](http://www.michigan.gov/dnrfishing) for more information on helping prevent the spread of disease and invasive species on the Great Lakes.

Citizens are encouraged to report sick fish or fish kills to their local DNR office or use the DNR Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr). Anglers should contact the DNR if they observe fish that exhibit any of the following signs: hemorrhaging in the skin, including large red patches particularly on the sides and anterior portion of the head; multiple hemorrhages on the liver, spleen, or intestines; or hemorrhages on the swim bladder that give the otherwise transparent organ a mottled appearance. This information will help DNR fisheries staff to track VHS and take appropriate management actions to help slow the spread of this virus.

Anglers and boaters can also help prevent the spread of VHS and other viruses or bacteria that cause disease in fish by not transferring fish between water bodies, and by thoroughly cleaning boats, trailers, nets, and other equipment when traveling between different lakes and streams. The use of a light disinfectant such as a solution of one part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water (i.e., one gallon of bleach to 10 gallons of water) to clean vessels and live wells is very effective against VHS and other viruses and bacteria that cause disease in fish. Soaking exposed items such as live wells, nets, anchors, and bait buckets in a

light disinfectant for 30 minutes is also an effective method to prevent the spread of a wide range of aquatic nuisance species.

In 2005, VHS was detected for the first time in Great Lakes fish species in the US and Canada, including muskellunge in Michigan's waters of Lake St. Clair and freshwater drum in Lake Ontario. It is not known how VHS was transferred to the Great Lakes region or how long it has been in the waterways of the Great Lakes.

The DNR is committed to conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations.

**Ontario Increases Walleye Daily Bag from 4 to 6 fish!! On top of that, the Ontario Walleye BOMBHELL includes No Closed Walleye Season!!!** In a surprise pre-Christmas announcement, the Minister of Natural Resources, David Ramsey, said that for the 2007 fishing year - which started January 1 - the Lake Erie walleye season will be open 12 months a year and the daily creel will be increased from 4 fish per day to 6 fish per day. According to Ramsey, "based on extensive consultation and our knowledge of these fisheries, we feel it's important to change these regulations as soon possible. *These changes will help tourism* operators who have booked clients based on the expectations that certain regulation changes would be in place in the new year." The New York daily walleye creel is changing from 4 fish to 5 fish per day for 2006-8.



**DEC Lake Erie Unit - Jim Markham on Lake Erie Lake Trout Restoration project:** Analysis of the 2006 coldwater gill net survey conducted during August of each year was completed during December. The survey assesses the status of the current lake trout population in Lake Erie, as well as other important coldwater fishes, such as burbot and whitefish. This year's survey netted 353 lake trout, the majority of which were between the ages of 2 and 5. The new Klondike strain lake trout exhibited excellent survival and recruitment to ages 2 and 3, despite the low number of fish stocked. Lake trout older than age 10 were sparse, but a few individuals were collected aged 21 and 22 years old. While overall lake trout abundance continued to increase, concerns remain over the adult stocks of age 5 and older that continue to show rapid declines in abundance between ages 5 and 7. Burbot abundance increased in 2006, following a sharp decline in 2005. However, overall burbot abundance levels remain 25% lower than they were in 2004. Sea lamprey wounding rates remain high on adult lake trout at 16 fresh wounds/100 fish over 21

inches, and A4 wounding rates (previous year) are the highest recorded in the 21-year time series (70.4 wounds/100 fish). High numbers of lampreys may be responsible for the declines in adult lake trout and burbot in Lake Erie.

**DEC Lake Erie Unit - Donald Einhouse on Lake Erie 2006 Angler Survey:** The 2006 angler survey results have now been assembled for boat fishing activity on New York's Lake Erie waters. Walleye angling is the largest component of Lake Erie's open lake sport fishery. Recent walleye harvest totals have now sharply rebounded from the low ebb of 8,000 fish measured in 2004, increasing to 27,000 fish in 2005, and now 37,000 walleye in 2006. Walleye angler catch rates (0.28 fish/hour) remained very similar each of the last two years, both years achieving the highest catch rates measured over this 19-year survey. Walleye angler efforts have also remained similar each of the last two years, at about 40% greater than the low ebb of walleye angler effort measured during 2004. This improved walleye fishing quality has largely been due to an especially abundant 2003 year class that greatly increased walleye abundance in Lake Erie. Yellow perch harvest in 2006 remained at relatively high levels for a third consecutive year, but perch fishing effort declined about 21% from the previous year. Lake Erie's acclaimed smallmouth bass fishery also produced catch rates and sizes indicative of continued good fishing quality in 2006. Nevertheless, bass fishing effort declined approximately 29% between 2005 and 2006. All angling segments taken together, overall Lake Erie boat angling effort, comprising walleye, bass, perch and other minor components declined 18% between 2005 and 2006. This 2006 fishing effort total was the lowest measured in this 19-year survey. A complete summary of Lake Erie's 2006 open water sport fishery will be available in the Lake Erie Unit's 2006 annual report available in March 2007.

**DEC Region 9 - Michael Wilkinson:**

**Lower Niagara River Angler Survey:** A seasonal Fish and Wildlife technician started to work on the Lower Niagara River steelhead creel survey during November. The technician is collecting data to help assess results of a steelhead pen-rearing experiment on the Lower Niagara River.



**Lake Ontario Pen Projects:** Information collection regarding Lake Ontario pen projects. The information will be used to prepare a summary report of pen project results for inclusion in the Lake Ontario Unit Annual Report to the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

**Lake Ontario Tributary Angler Survey:** Have a seasonal technician working on the Lake Ontario tributary creel survey.

**Upper Niagara River Fisheries Data Entry:** One seasonal technician began working on filling out Biosurvey forms for fall electrofishing efforts on the Upper Niagara River and Buffalo Harbor.

**From DEC Central Office Greg Kozlowski (518-402-8896) – there are possible changes to Sportfishing Regulations for 2008:** The possible changes to sportfish regulations for 2008 has been posted on the website:

<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/fishregs/newregs081st.html>. These are the regulations under consideration for proposing during the next round of freshwater fishing regulation changes. There is a link for public input on the regulations under consideration on the web page. Please note that these are regulations under consideration for proposal and are not actual proposed regulations. Public input will be taken through April 1, 2007. There are many changes, but it appears Region 9 consideration of issues as follows:

### **Ellicott Creek**

**Proposal:** Ellicott Creek inland trout regulation (Erie County).

**Proposal Description:** Modify the current regulations [under the “UPPER NIAGARA RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES’ section pertaining to brown trout, rainbow trout, etc.]. While Ellicott Creek will still be covered under this Great Lakes regulation (ie open season-all year, min length - 12 inches for trout), an exception will be added to allow for the harvest of trout in Ellicott creek within Amherst State Park, any size with a daily creel limit of 3.

**Rationale for Proposal:** This will allow continued angling opportunity and allow legal harvest of smaller stocked trout in the Amherst State Park section of Ellicott Creek consistent with put-and-take trout management, while not interfering with existing angling opportunities for Lake Erie/Niagara River run rainbow and brown trout.

Submit [e-mail input on regulation ID # R9-1](#)

### **Sale of Trout Eggs**

**Proposal:** Sale of trout eggs

**Proposal Description:** Prohibit the sale of trout eggs in all freshwaters of NYS

**Rationale for Proposal:** For decades it has been assumed that the sale of trout eggs in New York State was prohibited. However recent inquiries by Law Enforcement Staff indicate that there is apparently no specific regulation that prohibits this sale with the exception of NYCRR Part 37.1 (a) that clearly states that trout eggs taken from the waters of Lake Ontario may not be sold. Similar regulations that prohibit the sale of trout eggs throughout the state are needed to prevent commercialization.

Submit [e-mail input on regulation ID # SW-3](#)

### **DEC Meet With Public on Plan to Restore Niagara River & Lake Ontario Fisheries**

DEC announced that five public meetings will be held and public comments solicited on the draft "Sportfishing Restoration and Spending Plan" for the Lake Ontario system. The Draft Plan proposes ways to restore and enhance recreational fishing and fisheries in the

New York waters of the lower Niagara River, Lake Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and their tributaries upstream to the first barrier impassable to fish (hereafter referred to as the Lake Ontario system). Funds for this restoration are available from a settlement of the state's Natural Resource Damages (NRD) claim with Occidental Chemical Corporation (OCC). The settlement arose under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (federal Superfund), and state common law, and compensates the people of the state for injuries to natural resources caused by the discharge of dangerous chemicals to the environment. OCC agreed to pay the state \$12 million in five equal payments over four years. The settlement was based on an assessment of the damages to the state's natural resources, in particular a loss of recreational fishing benefits, resulting from the imposition of fish consumption advisories because of the presence of contaminants in fish in the Lake Ontario system. The proceeds of the settlement will be used to restore/enhance sportfishing and the injured natural resources. **The Region 9 meeting will be held Feb 15 at 7PM in the Lewiston porter High School, 4061 Creek Rd., Youngstown, NY. Contact Paul McKeown ay 716-372-0645 for additional information. Open to the public.**

**Asian Carp: WRITE A LETTER that looks something like this and please consider doing it today:**

Date: today's date

Subject: Great Lakes Asian Carp Barrier Act

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The "Great Lakes Asian Carp Barrier Act" was recently introduced in the U.S. Senate by Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) and Rep. Judy Biggert (R-Ill. 13th) in the US House. It directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete, at federal expense, an electronic barrier (Barrier II) in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal designed to prevent Asian carp from migrating upstream into Lake Michigan and the rest of the Great Lakes. The proposed legislation (S. 336 and H.R. 553) also directs that Barrier I be upgraded to provide an additional measure of protection and provides for the entire system's ongoing operation and maintenance. Please encourage support for passage of these bills, as stopping these invasive species is absolutely essential to maintain the ecological balance and health of the Great Lakes.

Sincerely,

SIGN YOUR NAME

Send to any of these, but at least to Spitzer, Clinton & Schumer :

Honorable Governor Eliot Spitzer  
State Capitol  
Albany, NY 12224

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton  
726 Exchange Street -Suite 511  
Buffalo, NY 14210

Honorable Charles E. Schumer, U. S. Senate

130 South Elmwood Avenue #660  
Buffalo, NY 14202

Honorable Brian Higgins –NY Congress, 27th District  
726 Exchange Street, Suite 601  
Buffalo, NY 14210

Honorable Jack Quinn, Jr. – NY Assembly, 146th District  
3812 South Park Avenue  
Blasdell, NY 14219

Honorable Francine DelMonte – NY Assembly, 138th District  
1700 Pine Ave.  
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Honorable Mark Schroeder – NY Assembly, 145th District  
2019 Seneca Street  
Buffalo, NY 14210

Honorable Dale Volker - NY Senator, 59th District  
4729 Transit Road, Forestream Plaza  
Depew, NY 14043

The Buffalo News  
Attn.: Will Elliott, Outdoor Writer  
One News Plaza, P.O. Box 100  
Buffalo, NY 14240

Evans Rod & Gun Fishing - Walleye Tournament -

Bison City Rod & Gun "Teach me to Fish" for Kids and parents 4/22 - FREE

Insert into the minutes from Dave B.

Paul has extra copies of the info on both Evans and Bison City

Q - Great abundance of baitfish in Lake and River. Why this year do we have so much bait?

A - Normal cycles

Q - Will VHS affect the pen-raising?

A - Walleye no go, coldwater fish should be ok.

**Small Game – Dan Tone**

None

## **Big Game – Paul Stoos**

Nothing new

## **Trapping – Patti Wattengel**

Nothing new - Fur Auction was held last week. Did very well this year due to lack of ice, and prices were up.

Everyone who deals with the auction owes a big debt of gratitude to those who worked till 12:30 AM (January 22, 2007) to get all the fur sold. That's a 15 hour marathon. I'll bet Bob wasn't singing any songs on the way home!  
Thank you to those working the full time.

The results were:

	#	Low *	Ave	High *
Beaver	480	2.00	19.8 1	40.0 0
Coyote	63	1.00	24.9 0	35.5 0
Deer	20	1.50	1.70	
Fox – Gray	37	30.5 0	30.4 6	35.5 0
Fox – Red	614	3.00	17.9 8	26.5 0
Mink	171	2.00	17.0 4	25.5 0
Muskrat	290 0	0.25	7.32	9.10
Opossum	86	0.50	1.56	3.00
Raccoon	128 4	0.50	9.64	20.0 0
Skunk	30	1.00	3.50	9.00
Weasel	-----	-----	-----	-----
Other – Coyote Tanned	4	34.5 0	34.5 0	34.5 0
Other–Beaver Castor (/lb)	18.5 +	4.25		12.0 0
# of Lots	140 0	* Up To Lot 650		* Up To Lot 650

## **Waterfowl – Paul Pietraszewski**

None

## **Conservation Council - Joe Fischer**

The Federation has decided to promote the voluntary “Buck A Member Program” proposed by the Council. This, if successful, will insure a reliable source of income to meet the future needs for our only “conservation rights” lobbying organization in our state.

For those clubs who feel this is a worthwhile cause, please make checks payable to - “New York State Conservation Council” and send to – NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357.

To those clubs that donated last year, we hope that your commitment will carry on. Please don’t wait until the Council solicits for your help. They need the resources now to fund the year’s budget needs.

Also, to those clubs who chose not to participate, please consider what the Council is asking for: “a dollar a member.” A buck doesn’t buy much these days, not a beer at a bar, not a pack of cigarettes or a good cigar, not a decent fishing lure, or even a couple dozen worms. Perhaps it’s time we sportsmen and women consider putting this all in perspective!

The Conservation Council has requested an updated list of Federation clubs with names and addresses of contact people. It has been the Federation’s policy not to give this list out to any other organization for privacy considerations.

Clubs wishing to receive the Council’s “Grass Roots News” monthly publication, which gives updated information on state legislation and conservation issues, should contact the Council at 315-894-3302 and ask for Linda Coffin. You can also e-mail them at - [nyscc@nyscc.com](mailto:nyscc@nyscc.com) with the information.

Clubs can send their “club’s news” for publication to - NYSCC, 8 East Main St., Ilion, NY 13357 - or e-mail the by the 2nd Monday of the month. The Council also has a policy of not arbitrarily giving or selling private club information.

Finally, there is an ongoing new member/renewal drive for individual Council memberships, with prizes available. Contact the Council or visit their website for details.

Closed their offices for a while due to money problems.

The y have 2 girls, each now woirking 2 days a week each, open 4 days a week. Not good!!! Legislative lobbyist in Albany is now working out of his home. Office in Albany is now closed.

Not good timing. Wally John is working out of his house.

Special meeting Jan 13. Updates came out of this.

Q - Ray G. Region 9 has helped out NYSCC many times. And we promote the BAM program. What are the other regions doing?

Region 7 has also helped out. The list of the clubs which support BAM program is in the NYSCC Grassroots newsletter

Send to Will Elliott anything that should be published

The News did keep the Fishing Line, send letter to News thanking them!

Motion by Paul Stoos, 2nd Tom Fischer

Q? None

Motion carries unanimously

### **Environment & Pollution – Tom Marks**

Not present

### **Legislation – John Susz**

To keep in touch with what's going on with firearm legislation in New York, check out SCOPE's website at - [www.scopeny.org](http://www.scopeny.org)

We have a new DEC commissioner, Grannis. Waiting to see what will happen after the November elections. Get ready to gird up.

Bloomberg is looking to spend a ton of his own money to run for Presidency. At least 10 candidates already for Pres. Most are anti's (Gun).

GOVERNOR ELIOT SPITZER AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR DAVID PATERSON ANNOUNCE  
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS

Governor Eliot Spitzer and Lieutenant Governor David Paterson today announced nominations for two key senior administration positions.

Alexander B. "Pete" Grannis is being nominated to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. Mr. Grannis was first elected to the Assembly in 1974 and represents the Upper East Side of Manhattan and Roosevelt Island. He currently serves as legislator, serving as Chair of the Assembly Insurance Committee and as a member of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Grannis has championed environmental issues throughout his tenure in the legislature. He was a leader in fighting for the passage of SEQRA, the original bottle bill, and the clean-up and revitalization of the state's brownfields. Mr. Grannis has also played a key role in the enactment of a wide range of environmental legislation, including measures related to acid rain, clean air and water, fluorocarbons and recycling. He chaired the Assembly's first Subcommittee on Toxic Wastes, sponsored legislation ensuring a worker's right to know about hazardous materials in the work place and has worked to regulate the transport, storage and disposal of toxic wastes. Mr. Grannis authored the state's rapid transit noise code and has been at the forefront of the fight to have the MTA convert its polluting diesel bus fleet to clean fuels.

A nationally recognized leader in the fight to curb the health hazards posed by smoking, Mr. Grannis authored New York's 1989 Clean Indoor Air Act

(CIAA) and amendments adopted in 2003 to protect all working men and women from deadly secondhand smoke. His legislative efforts to curb smoking, including the historic CIAA and the Adolescent Tobacco Use Prevention Act have received global recognition. Mr. Grannis's work has been hailed by numerous public health organizations including the American Cancer Society and the New York State Association of County Health Officials.

Mr. Grannis is a three-time winner of the Legislator of the Year award from the Environmental Planning Lobby and was accorded similar honors by the Audubon Society, the Environmental Action Coalition and Environmental Advocates. He also received the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Public Service Award in recognition of his efforts in promoting the humane treatment of animals.

Mr. Grannis lives with his family in New York City. He is a graduate of Rutgers University and the University of Virginia Law School. Prior to entering the Assembly, Mr. Grannis practiced law in New York City and served as Compliance Counsel for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Judith Enck will be appointed as Deputy Secretary for the Environment. For the past eight years, Ms. Enck has served as a policy advisor to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Prior to joining the Attorney General's office, she was a Senior Environmental Associate with the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG). She has also served as the Executive Director of the Environmental Advocates of New York, a non-profit government watchdog organization dedicated to enforcing laws that protect natural resources and safeguards public health. Ms. Enck received her B.A. from the College of St. Rose.

Steve Aldsadt - Most legislators are in vast support of us. The balance of the Assembly is the issue, and they have the majority.

Every year the Assembly has an anti-gun day. This year we will be better prepared to debate this one.

Tony G - Good idea to talk about, one of the things we face in NY is the FWD is part of the monster. Would this be a good idea to split this into an independent, biology and science driven separate body. We need to start pushing for something different.

Must investigate a better way of doing things. Need to move FWMR out of political arena.

Cleanup costs on pollutions is typically paid for by the Feds.

Policies of new admin and VHS could be compounded.

### **Resolutions – Bob Fuller**

Three, maybe four resolutions, 3 resolutions from Elma. Haven't been studied yet.  
2 from ECFSC, one from Elma

#### **RESOLUTION #1 – “Castile Doctrine”**

Whereas gun owning citizens of NYS must retreat before using deadly force to defend oneself in one’s own home, vehicle or place of business.

Whereas if one injures or kills an assailant in one’s own home, vehicle or place of business protecting oneself, one can be charged with a crime and can be sued civilly.

Whereas 17 states have implemented laws that include if you are attacked in your own home, vehicle or place of business, you can use deadly force against one’s attacker. This law is generally called the “Castile Doctrine.”

Therefore be it resolved that the NYSCC draw up bills in both houses of the state to provide that if one is attacked in his own home, vehicle or place of business, one may stand his ground against an assailant without fear of prosecution or any fear of legal action by the attacker.

#### **RESOLUTION #2 – “Families Afield”**

Whereas NYS is one of the most restrictive states in the union not allowing young people to get into the field with mentors to hunt under 12 years old and with further age restrictions for big game.

Whereas NYS does not allow citizens under 12 years old to handle firearms in the field.

Whereas many states have lowered age restrictions under the “Families Afield” program along with mentored guidelines.

Therefore be it resolved that the NYSCC draw up legislation in both houses of the state to lower the age to handle firearms in the field with guidelines and pass legislation to allow for the “Families Afield” youth mentoring program in NYS at any age with the proper guidelines.

**RESOLUTION #3 – “Early Muzzleloader Season in Southern Tier”**

Whereas no opportunity for increased hunter participation in the southern zone for an early muzzleloader season for deer exists in NYS.

Whereas 7 out of 10 eastern states do offer that opportunity.

Whereas NYS does have an early muzzleloader season in the northern zone.

Therefore be it resolved that the NYSCC draw up bills in both houses of the state to enact an early muzzleloader season in the southern tier of NYS to co-inside with the northern zone dates. Further that any single barrel muzzleloader long gun with flintlock, percussion or in-line ignition, 44calibre or larger be allowed. Scope sights permitted.

Q - Tony S - has experience in this area. NY you have the right to defend yourself in your own home. Tony G indicates different. No immunity from getting sued. Anyone can sue anyone. The laws are there. Tony S, I believe the premise is incorrect. Doesn't know of anyone in 25 years of working on this.

On your property, you must retreat, in your home, you do not have to.

Paul Stoos - But on your own property, you cannot defend your own garage or property.

That is correct.

17 states have passed the Castle Doctrine.

Families Afield  
Support this one.

NSSF - Good program, we should support! Rich D commented about the details of the program.

Early ML in S. Tier, to correspond with NZ.  
Bob Fuller this is an action by right (DEC ruling) not by law

Q Rich D. Is this S. Tier or S. Zone? S. Zone

Rich D. Motions to vote on submitting two of the three resolutions to the NYSCC,  
Bob Fuller 2nd

Paul Stoos would like to table the motion until Chuck gets here?  
No as Chuck may not show up

All ayes except 2  
Ayes have it

Families afield and S Zone Early ML.

One against, one abstained

Motion carries to submit two(2) of the three resolutions as stated above, holding off on the Castle Doctrine until Chuck arrives

### **Membership Outreach –**

The membership secretary would like all club presidents to consider attending at least one regular Federation meeting a year. This might not only prove to be a learning experience, but may also provide a better insight as to the importance of having representation on behalf of their clubs. If any club would like a visit from a Federation spokesman, please contact president Chuck Godfrey at 675-0057 or [chuck.godfrey@erictyfsc.org](mailto:chuck.godfrey@erictyfsc.org) . The president will also try to visit one club or so per month.

**IF ANYONE KNOWS OF AN ERIE COUNTY CLUB WHICH IS NOT A MEMBER, PLEASE LET THE PRESIDENT KNOW SO HE CAN CONTACT THEM ABOUT MEMBERSHIP**

### **Sportsman/woman Education – Frank Miskey Sr.**

Posters are going to print now  
45 gun, 35 bow, 6 waterfowl, 5 trapper courses  
2 new master instructors – Jerry Gorksi (bow), Al Gretch (Gun)

Instructor refresher to be held on:

March 31, Sat 9-12 at Elma Conservation Club  
April 3 (Tues), 7-10 – Bison City Rod & Gun

Regional Master Meeting Mar 10 (Sat) Chaffee Nickolas.

Also, a school nurse shared some info concerning the best way to remove ticks. Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball and the cover the tick with the soap-soaked cotton ball, swabbing for a few seconds (15-20). The tick comes out by itself and is stuck to the cotton ball! Works every time.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Nominations – Mike Smith**

Obviously Nothing

#### **Awards – Frank Miskey Sr.**

Ready for Banquet

**Banquet – Dan Tone**

Steve Aldsadt did a great job on Presidents Raffle. All except Fran Campbell

Joe McAdams will match a \$50.00 1/2 page club ad with \$50.00 for a FP AD, tonight only! New ads only

**Educational Opportunities – Chuck Godfrey**

None

**CFAB – Fred Langdon**

None

**Fund Raising – Steve Aldsadt**

See Banquet

**FWMB – Bob Church, Paul Stoos**

Nothing new to report

**Shows – WE NEED A SHOWS CHAIRMAN!!!!**

Ad for the Spring show cost may have gone way up.

**National Hunting and Fishing day – Tom McCormick**

None

**WNY Environmental Federation –**

Meeting on Sunday, includes a seminar on QDM

Rich D mentions rumor on 2008 AR of 3 tines on one side, statewide

We don't have the information, this is hunter satisfaction over biology, discussed the DECALS changes, including reporting changes to phone system and addition of Web site reporting. Should help. Gotta get reporting compliance up, then collect more information

**Budget and Finance – Tony Scime – (motion to pay bills)**

Nothing to pay

**Website – Paul Stoos - [erictyfc.org](http://erictyfc.org)**

Minutes are all uploaded. Computer is back up and running  
Rest of updates coming in 2 weeks

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business –**

any new delegates present?

TSA will be holding a new class starting 3/6/07. Rifle, handgun shotgun

\$40/ shotgun, rifle/ HG - \$20.00

8 weeks 2 hours per session. Looking for students - Reg deadline is 2/19

**Good and Welfare of the Organization:**

**50/50 Raffle**

Winner is Elma!

**Motion for Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn - Tom F 2nd –Frank Miskey

Meeting adjourned

**Thanks to Host Club**

Elma Conservation Society

*The Conference Center Niagara Falls  
&*

*The North American Bear Foundation*

*Present*

**Tuesday, February 27, 2007**

**at 6:00PM**

**2nd Annual**

**Wild Game Dinner Extravaganza**

*A Sumptuous Meal prepared with:*

*Venison                      Bear*

*Turkey*

*Duck                      Goose*

*Buffalo*

*And*

*Assorted Desserts*

*Chinese Auction*

*50/50 Split*

*Raffle items*

**Grand Prize Drawing**

**An Exciting Black Bear Hunt at the famous Arrowhead  
Wilderness Lodge in Northern Minnesota**

**Donation: \$30.00**

**Proceeds to benefit the North American Bear Foundation**

**101 Old Falls Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303 (716)278-2100 Ext.**

**GAME**

**Booth Space is available for \$50 by contacting Tom Acara at 278-2104**



Jack Quinn  
Assemblyman 146<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Judiciary Committee

COMMITTEES  
Banking  
Health  
Labor

CO-CHAIRMAN  
Assembly Minority Task Force  
on Medicaid Waste, Fraud and Abuse

January 22, 2007

Mr. David Barus  
Corresponding Secretary  
Erie Co. Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.  
PO Box 560  
East Aurora, NY 14052

Dear Mr. Barus:

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the DEC's policies on VHS.

I have written a letter of inquiry to Shaun Keeler of the DEC on your behalf, and have taken the liberty of enclosing a copy for your review. I will keep you informed of all information I receive relative to this matter.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me in my District Office.

Very truly yours,

Jack Quinn  
Member of Assembly

JQ:ajw

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**  
**Regional Director, Region 9**  
270 Michigan Avenue, Buffalo, New York, 14203-2999  
Phone: (716) 851-7200 • FAX: (716) 851-7211  
Website: www.dec.state.ny.us



January 29, 2007

Mr. David L. Barus  
Corresponding Secretary  
Erie County Federation of Sportsmen, Inc.  
P.O. Box 560  
East Aurora, New York 14052

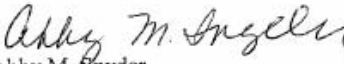
Dear Mr. Barus:

This is in response to your recent correspondence regarding the VHS Emergency Regulations and the Commercial Harvest of Baitfish has been forwarded back to me for response.

Commissioner Sheehan resigned from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) on January 17, 2007 and in the interim, your correspondence was forwarded here. I have taken note of your concerns and have forwarded the letter to Mr. Shaun Keeler, Bureau of Fisheries in Albany. Mr. Keeler is responsible for receiving all the written comments during the public comment period set for the proposed permanent rulemaking and emergency regulations for VHS. The Department will be assessing all the comments received and will prepare an Assessment of Public Comment document.

Thank you for taking the time to express your concerns in writing on behalf of the Erie County Federation of Sportsmen. If I can be of any assistance in the future, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Abby M. Snyder  
Regional Director





Paul McKeown, Michael Wilkinson and Lake Erie Biologist Jim Markham attended the Erie County Fish Advisory Board meeting to present information on fish passage at Cattaraugus Creek-Springville Dam. The ACOE, in cooperation with the DEC, will prepare a feasibility study evaluating economic, social and biological impacts of fish passage. A document summarizing fisheries issues related to fish passage can be found at:



<http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/fishpasscattck.pdf>

Region 9 Paul McKeown (716) 372-0645

*Niagara River Angler Association Fish Management Update*

Biologist Wilkinson attended the December meeting of Niagara River Anglers Association and presented a Powerpoint program providing an update on fisheries management activities in Niagara County.

Region 9 Michael Wilkinson (716) 851-7010

*Tift Farm Free Fishing Day*

Biologist Wilkinson began making arrangements for the Free Fishing Day event to be held at Tift Nature Preserve in early June.

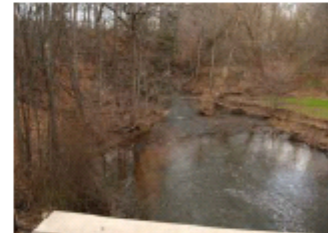
Region 9 Michael Wilkinson (716) 851-7010

**RESOURCE USE AND ALLOCATION**

**RECREATIONAL USE**

*Public Fishing Rights on Region 9 Steelhead Streams*

Offer letters were sent to landowners on Chautauqua Creek (6 parcels), Canadaway Creek (18 parcels) and Keg Creek (6 parcels) where we are attempting to purchase public fishing easements. Already, landowners on all three creeks have shown interest and the fishing rights agreement process is underway with them.



Keg Creek, Niagara Co.

Region 9 Scott Cornett 716-372-0645

*Lake Ontario Tributary Angler Survey*

Biologist Wilkinson continued to provide supervision for the Lake Ontario tributary creel agent. Activities included scheduling vehicle repairs/maintenance, submitting monthly mileage reports, overseeing data entry and other administrative duties.

Region 9 Michael Wilkinson (716) 851-7010



*Data Analysis: Concepts and Techniques*

Michael Clancy and Robin Holevinski attended a week-long data analysis course for DEC fish, wildlife, and marine resources staff. The course was developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the National Conservation Training Center and was instructed by Dr. Timothy Robinson of the University of Wyoming. The purpose of this course was to provide biologists with the fundamental background necessary for the modeling of biological and environmental data. In an age of limited resources, it is increasingly important to monitor and model fish and wildlife populations utilizing efficient sampling design and modeling strategies.

Region 9

Robin Holevinski

(716) 372-0645

Region 9 Fisheries Staff

Paul McKeown

Fisheries Manager

Joseph Evans

Fisheries Biologist

Joseph Galati

Fisheries Biologist

Mike Wilkinson

Fisheries Biologist

Scott Cornett

Fisheries Biologist

Mike Clancy

Fisheries Biologist

Robin Holevinski

Watershed Ecologist

James Zanett

Senior Fish and Wildlife Technician

John Sztukowski

Seasonal Fish and Wildlife Technician

## **An overview of the Department of Environmental Conservation\*s Automated Licensing System (DECALS)**

### **A report to the Conservation Fund Advisory Board**

**January 8, 2007**

#### **Our Team**

**DECALS is a complex program managed by a very capable team, including\***

**Tom Kasky\*Tom is DEC\*s DECALS project manager and is employed by the New York State Technology Enterprise Corporation, a private, not-for-profit engineering company with many clients in the New York State governmental sector. Tom works closely with our vendor, Verizon Business, and is our key liaison between Verizon and program personnel.**

**Eric Schneider\*Eric is Verizon Business\* account executive managing the DECALS contract with DEC.**

**Mary Bailey\*Mary Bailey works in the Division of Fish, Wildlife & Marine Resources Wildlife Services Section and supervises the issuance of deer management permits, and is involved with many, day-to-day DECALS management issues, including helping with the negotiations of the new contract. Mary also oversees the production of the annual Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide.**

**Donna Dyer\*Donna also works in the Wildlife Services Section and supervises the License Sales program, including lifetime license sales, and is the Department\*s primary liaison with our 1,600 license issuing agents. Donna also supervises license sales at the Albany headquarters and at the State Fair. She conducts and coordinates the annual agent training program, and staffs an office that responds to hundreds of emails and phone calls from agents across the State.**

**Scott Houde\*Scott is a computer consultant and data processing specialist who works closely with DEC in summarizing and analyzing license sales data.**

**Gordon Batcheller\*Gordon is the Section Head for Wildlife Services. Wildlife Services is responsible for implementing DECALS.**

## **Our Doctrine**

**For many hunters, anglers, and trappers, the purchase of a license may be the only time of the year when they interact with the Department. For successful hunters or trappers, their reporting of game harvest is an additional time when they interact directly with the Department.**

**For this reason, we consider all elements of DECALS to be crucial, and we want their experience to be efficient, friendly, and enjoyable. This requires a strong focus on customer service so that outdoor enthusiasts may be efficiently licensed so that they may go afield to enjoy the benefits of New York\*s fish and wildlife resources, while fully complying with all of the associated legal requirements.**

**Therefore, our doctrine is\*\*Outstanding Customer Service.\***

## **The Contract**

**The Department is actively negotiating with Verizon Business for a new five year contract. Elements under active consideration include the following\***

- \* Reducing the number of agents based on their records of sales.**
- \* Moving all agents to the Internet by January 2008. Agents would be required to have their own Internet Service Provider. This will save the agency about \$300,000 per year.**
- \* Significant software/programming changes to improve the efficiency of a number of elements of the system (see below).**

## **License Materials**

**We continue to look for ways to improve the license material. Planned changes include all of the following\***

**\* We will use a total of three colors (green, yellow, light gray) in alternating years, beginning with 2007-2008 sales (yellow). This will make it easier for both licensees and law enforcement to know what license year they are using/examining.**

**\* We are changing to a material with a different coating that will make it easier to write on.**

**\* The license material will be printed using a more efficient printing system.**

**\* We are working to improve the design and readability of the text on the licenses, to make it easier to read essential information (name, date of birth, document numbers.) In the future, the license panels may have an entirely different \*look\* to make it more customer friendly, and easier for law enforcement.**

### **Federal e-Duck Stamp**

**New York has been designated as one of 15 pilot states to test a new Federal e-Duck stamp. Migratory game bird hunters will be able to buy an electronic duck stamp at DEC\*s license issuing outlets and immediately go duck/goose hunting with their proof of purchase. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will later mail a regular stamp.**

### **The 2007 Habitat/Access Stamp**

**This year\*s Habitat/Access Stamp will feature the white-tailed deer. The artwork for the license panel is currently in preparation but the pin has been selected, featuring an adult white-tailed deer buck.**

### **Harvest Reporting**

**We are planning significant changes beginning with the 2007 hunting seasons\***

**\* Allow Internet reporting of harvest. (The phone system will continue as well.)**

- \* Reduce the complexity of the phone reporting system.**
- \* Use \*voice recognition\* software for the phone reporting system, so that numbers will no longer need to be \*punched.\***

### **Access to License Sales Data**

**We receive many, many requests for information on license sales. People request summaries of sales by county, and for all license types. They request information on license sales trends. This requires a great deal of staff time to meet these data requests. We are working to upload most, if not all, license sales data to the Department\*s web-site so that interested persons may have easy access to all data of interest. This will be only raw numbers and sales trends. No personal information on individual licensees will be released.**

### **Business Rules and Agent Training**

**We are examining all of our business rules for license sales and simplifying these to enhance customer service. Unnecessary obstacles to license sales will be eliminated. We will revise the Agent \*License Issuing Handbook\* to reflect these changes, and we will convert the handbook to an easier-to-read format.**

### **Hunting and Trapping Regulations Guide**

**We have started an \*A to Z\* overhaul of the annual Guide with the intention of eliminating confusing or complex material. Whenever possible, we will use diagrams or photographs to illustrate the laws and regulations. We are hoping to convert to a magazine format, but at the very least, we will add pages to the Guide to allow the use of more visual material and to include program updates.**

**Teen Shooting Academy  
PO Box 294  
Springville, NY 14141  
716-592-7211**

**NOTICE**

**The Teen Shooting Academy is a school that teaches the art of precision shooting of a rifle, shotgun or handgun. This is not a shooting gallery.**

**Rifle Class: Ages 12 to 18 years old, boys or girls, can earn a Boy Scout and/or an NRA merit badge. Registration fee is \$20.00**

**per student and includes cartridges, targets and books. Maximum number of students is 12.**

**Shotgun Class: Ages 14 to 18 years old, boys or girls, can earn a Boy scout and/or an NRA merit badge. Registration fee is \$40.00 per student and includes shells, targets and books. Maximum number of students is 10.**

**Handgun Class: Ages 14 to 19 years old, boys or girls, can earn an NRA Qualification Certificate. Registration fee is \$20.00 per student and includes cartridges, targets and books. Maximum number of students is 12.**

**Equipment: Eye and ear protection, handguns, rifles, shotguns, ammunition and gun cleaning equipment are provided.**

**Classes will be held at Hamburg Rod & Gun Club, 3434 Hickox Rd, off Route 62, Hamburg, NY. Rifle and shotguns students: Time: 6:30 to 9 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month, starting on March 6<sup>th</sup> for a total of eight classes. Handgun students: Time: 6:30 to 9 PM, 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, starting on March 6<sup>th</sup> for a total of eight classes.**

**Deadline to register is February 19, 2007. First come, first served.**

**For more information or to register, please call Bob Church at 716-592-7211.**

**From Dan Tone concerning Alexander Grannis**

**Are you concerned about the appointment of Alexander B. Grannis to Commissioner of the NYSDEC. I called some area legislators to find out how many people called to oppose Mr. Grannis for commissioner. All the calls were opposed to Grannis as commissioner. The number of calls or letters they received varied from one to a high of fifty for a Niagara County Senator.**

**Senator Marcellino, Chairman of the Environmental Committee office said they received many calls voicing concern over the appointment of Mr. Grannis.**

**They also heard concerns from some Western New Legislator too. Have you called and expressed your feeling about Mr. Grannis?**

**While you are at it send New York State Conservation Council President, Harold Palmer and Legislative Vice President, Wally John your feeling about a new Commissioner. There is no date set for the confirmation of commissioner yet. Although, there seems to be a concern to get it started because of budget concerns, etc.**

**NYSCCpresident@yahoo.com**

**johnwhny@hotmail.com**

**Dan Tone, Region Nine Director NYSCC**