

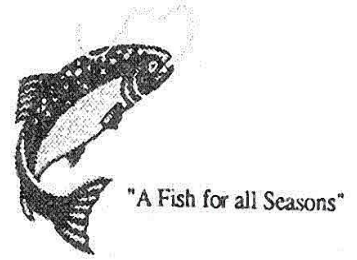


Fishery Advisory Board

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Steven Rutherford
Chair



Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board Meeting Minutes April 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom. The minutes were approved as written. Chris Legard from NYS DEC was present.

NYS DEC Discussion:

S. Rutherford welcomed C. Legard head of the NYSDEC Fisheries Lake Ontario Unit. He then asked Chris about the feasibility of putting a reef in Monroe County for lake trout spawning. C. Legard responded that this is a short question with a very long answer. He said there is still a big question about what lake trout spawning habitat looks like. The Lake group of scientists has recommended study of what that habitat consists of, and though the central part of the lake would be the logical place to build habitat if it is lacking, more data is needed on what the habitat extent is. F. Sanza asked what a reef would look like, agreed that we need better information on what is there, and opined that there is not much off Rochester, with which C. Legard agreed. F. Sanza offered that the money would be raised locally, but would need specs from the state on needs, water depth, area and volume. C. Legard said a reef is being built in Schmoie Bay as part of a project funded for walleye habitat in Black River, so they have some experience with this. Reefs have to be built to protect the eggs without allowing Gobies to get in and prey on the eggs. S. Rutherford said the data he's seen indicated that they like to spawn on shoals with some wind in 6 to 19 feet of water, with a 2 to 4 inch cobble size with intermittent boulders. He said that looking at Maps, town places that stand out are Wautoma Shoals and Devils Nose, which goes out quite a ways. Siltation would be a problem near the Genesee, but both of these sites are west of the Rochester Embayment. S. Rutherford's data was for Canadian Shield Lakes, Chris says in the big lake habitat will need to be shallow enough for spawning to take place but deeper than the reach of large waves that would scour out the eggs. A question was raised about permits, which would include SEQRA, Article 15, NYS DOS permit, Coastal Zone Consistency, local permits, and maybe USACE permit. USF+WS did all the permit applications for the Schmoie project. F. Sanza asked if this was feasible, to which C. Legard replied that it might be, but there was a lot to do, and it would be unreasonable to expect to scope it and move this summer. F. Sanza commented that years ago, the only Lake Trout spawning was in the east end of the lake, so they wonder now if there is a place in Monroe County. W. Persall commented that it must be determined that it has a good chance of success first. C. Legard confirmed that there is interest from the Scientists on what can be done to improve Lake Trout spawning success. F. Sanza asked about costs, and C. Legard replied that Schmoie was 250K, but it is not very big. Alternatives to improve spawning include cleaning habitat that is there, by vacuum dredge, this has been done in the St. Lawrence. S. Rutherford asked what else we can do to assist. C. Legard indicated that this meeting helps, once there is some science they'll look at a lot of this. A letter is unnecessary now, the interest is there. They need to talk to Alex Gush at USF+WS, he did a lot of this work, and is very interested. With GLRI and other Federal grants, there is a lot of funding available now. S. Rutherford thanked C. Legard for his presentation.

Website Update:

The updated Fishing Monroe County website was launched on February 1st, 2022. It was reported that Peter Platt from Accountable Digital has started the advertising and some board members have seen the ads online locally. The objective is to drive more business to the Charter Captains, ads are targeted toward a fishing audience. They hope to build awareness of the resource and report back to the guides and captains.

Budget Update:

The board has a budget of \$1,000 remaining in 2022. Accountable Digital has started running advertisements and the website is up and running. The cost of the digital marketing was \$3,000. Planned budgeted expenses include the website annual hosting fee for \$828 to Blue Eye Design.

Action Items:

New Business: S. Zucco was not on the call as he is [putting the pens in at the River, to receive 111K chinooks. 35K steelhead were direct stocked at the same time. The Boat Creel survey has started being run out of regions 8 and 9 now.

Old Business. W. Persall will do a report on the Canal project next month. Letters went out to landowners along Sandy, Johnson, 18 Mile, and Oak Orchard for conservation easements to include PFR. Some projects may not offer access to good fishing areas but will still have conservation value.

Action Items Update From Last Month:

F. Sanza brought up an idea to create a reef for lake trout spawning habitat off the shores of Rochester in Lake Ontario. Frank said he would be willing to contribute funding and would also be able to raise money on a Go Fund me page for this project which has a lot of support from local charter captains. It was expressed that since most of the Lake Trout stocking occurs east or west of Rochester, this area needs a place for lake trout.

Scott Feltrinelli talked about the Styrofoam ban in NYS and wanted to let the board know he wrote to the Foam Task Force and recommended the ban of Styrofoam bait containers for worm or bait storage. Scott expressed his views that the containers can be found on the shores of streams or in the water. He felt that the containers should be added to the list of banned items.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.