

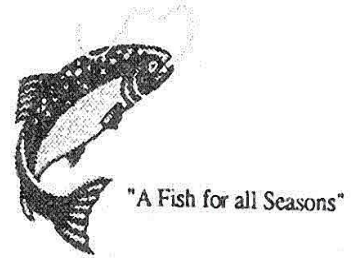


# Fishery Advisory Board

Monroe County, New York

**Adam J. Bello**  
*County Executive*

**Steven Rutherford**  
*Chair*



## Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board Meeting Minutes September 14, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m and was conducted via Zoom due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Bill Sweitzer and Howard Goebel were in attendance from NYS Canals along with Shivam Jumani from BuroHappold Consultants. The minutes were approved as submitted.

### **NYS Canals Update:**

Bill Sweitzer and Howard Goebel from the NYS Canal Corporation reported that the NYSCC will be augmenting the flow to selected Lake Ontario tributaries to help sustain the salmonid runs for longer periods this fall. This was a recommendation from the "Reimagine the Canals Task Force Report". They have been monitoring water quality, discharge, and temperature. Discharges will be augmented in Sandy Creek in Hamlin and Oak Orchard Creek in Orleans County, with the Oak starting soon, and Sandy in later September. They will delay draining the canal and will use the stored water for augmentation, then refill again to provide more water. They hope to regulate flows better improve habitat conditions for the fish, create a higher baseflow to get fish further up in the systems, and, at least at Sandy alleviate concerns about sustainability and ease some of the overcrowding. Smaller weirs will also see increased flows. These include Johnson Creek, 18 Mile Creek, Black Creek, Salmon Creek, and Northrup Creek. They will adjust flows to sustain them between natural events, and will make announcements of discharges. This effort will also include a lot of monitoring. F. Sanza asked questions about Operation and Maintenance costs, who bears them ( the Canal is not operated by the thruway anymore it is back at PASNY), and for the 100 million a year operating costs, NY gets a large recreational resource and economic driver for the municipalities along the canal. Frank also asked about the incremental costs of the increased flows; and they said they would be determining that, but projected it would not impact fixed costs significantly. There will be a press release. S. Olufsen offered to put a link to any information on the canal releases on the MCFAB website. S. Rutherford asked about increased flows in Sandy to try to flush out sedimentation in the lower stream. Bill and Howard are looking for any and all additional feedback.

### **Website Update:**

The latest update on the Google Analytics for the Monroe County fishing website was through July 2020. The website [www.fishingmonroecounty.com](http://www.fishingmonroecounty.com) statistics were calculated from January 1, 2020 to July 12, 2020. There were 4,600 users (up 32.4% from 2019) and 5,800 sessions (up 28.5% from 2019). Top pages were the fishing report and bait and tackle, fishing report and boat launching sites.

### **Budget Update:**

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

### **New Action Items:**

S. Olufsen reported that LOSPC has completed their new website. They will also be including information we have sent (boat launches, access points, charter captains, etc.) on their website. The site is linked to the MCFAB website and fishing report.

W. Pearsall reported that signs for NYS COVID guidelines have been posted at DEC fishing access sites around the region.

### **Action Items Update From Last Month:**

The Rochester Sports Commission delivered 10,000 rack cards to GetAways on Display to fulfill the 2020 distribution plan. The Rochester Sports Commission is also working on the coupon booklets for the fishing brochures.

The letter to the Monroe County Department of Public Health confirming that MCFAB has not heard of any reports of odors or other evidence of continuing coal tar seeps in the vicinity of the Genesee River gorge face at the lower falls was signed by S. Rutherford and sent to Scott Hallock at MCDOH.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.