

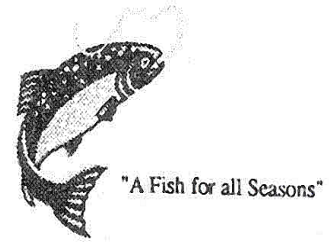


Fishery Advisory Board

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Steven Rutherford
Chairperson



Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board Meeting Minutes July 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Website Update:

Google ads are currently running through the end of July. Peter Platt from Accountable Digital provided some statistics to S. Olufsen who shared them with the Board. The data will be pulled from April until September.

Budget Update:

The Board's budget for 2026 was approved for \$4,000. The Google ad campaign cost was \$3,150 and has been paid. The web hosting fees are \$828 which will leave a balance of \$22.

Action Items:

C. Knauf attended the Lake Ontario Fishery Advisory meeting in late June. He noted that Steve Hurst from the NYSDEC Bureau of Fisheries shared the following boat reports:

- Some genetics data is being collected.
- "Best fishing" conditions in the world.
- King catch rate 2.2x the long-term average in some areas, 4.4x in others.
- Browns: west average, west central higher, east central high, east very high.
- Coho below average.
- Atlantics above average.
- Steelhead average.
- Lake trout below average.
- Cormorant hazing:
 - Consider stocking earlier for some species (browns).
 - A considerable population of birds.
- Steelhead hatchery production:
 - Trying to improve quality.
 - Cut the numbers to raise bigger fish from the hatchery for better survival/ hopefully better returns. 200k reduction (650k down to 450k).
 - Apparently, no alewife die-offs have been reported.

B. White reported on the Monroe County Offshore Classic and overall fishing this season.

- The largest fish are smaller than those of previous years.
- Folks are targeting at least one lake trout due to the smaller average size of kings. Historically, they didn't bother, but for the scoring it made sense.

- Average fish sizes are going down; although some very good conditions/results at times, likely due to weather/temperature.
- Brandon suggested gathering more information in the future if the DEC is interested (during the Derby).
- Brown trout fishing on the lake has been very good recently, as of this reporting. Brown trout have been on par with, if not larger than, some of the largest kings caught recently.

S. Furgal shared:

- DEC walleye head collection; need Irondequoit and Sodus samples.
 - Looking to determine the stocked vs. wild reproduction.
 - This is also intended to gauge interest in the walleye fishery, so anglers are encouraged to share information.
 - The anglers do not tend to talk about what/where/when they catch walleye.

Action Items Update from Last Month:

C. Knauf shared that he was on a visit to Trout Lake in Seneca Park for another function and he did not observe any success relative to R. Venvertloh's inventory review. He noted that historically MC Parks has been involved in collecting and redistributing fish to improve catch opportunities. He also noted some plants seemed to be taking over and should be looked at. S. Furgal requested photos.

R. Venvertloh suggested catch-and-release for Mendon Ponds Park and possibly others as well.

R. Venvertloh explained that he is still reviewing master plans from C. Kirchmaier. During the review process, he is compiling a list of resources, needs and opportunities. R. Venvertloh asked how the board can help at Oatka. L. Lascari will distribute some of the references on previous studies.

Other Items:

B. Hammers said Atlantic salmon stocking and hazing are winding down within the next week. There were 91,000 excess chinooks stocked in Oak Orchard. He also noted that DEC will be sampling Irondequoit Creek the week of June 8, 2026

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM