

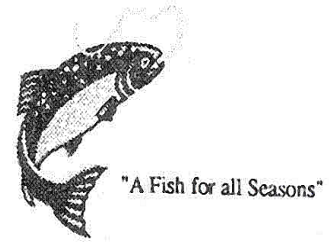


Fishery Advisory Board

Monroe County, New York

Adam J. Bello
County Executive

Steven Rutherford
Chairperson



Monroe County Fishery Advisory Board Meeting Minutes August 10, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Website Update:

Google ads stopped running at the end of July; however, data will still be pulled through September. S. Olufsen shared that the digital marketing campaign showed 1,336 new visits to the website in April and May.

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:

B. Hammers with NYSDEC reported that on Monday, August 3, 19 anglers attended the walleye meeting at the Irondequoit Fish and Game Club and on Tuesday, August 4, 17 attended in Sodus. All were enthusiastic about the study. Next year a tag study is planned along with work to include Lake Ontario.

Trout surveying in Irondequoit Creek is planned for the first few days in September.

Plans are currently in the works to fix the Sandy Creek Boat Launch.

S. Olufsen reported that residents with docks in Irondequoit Bay, especially around Stony Point, are concerned about the abuse of the speed limit on the bay due to the high water. Boaters need to be following the reduced speed rules.

Chairman Rutherford reported about a roughly 3-hour trip on the lake which yielded a full box (6 silvers) that were full of 4"- 6" alewife.

Action Items Update from Last Month:

C. Knauf attended the Lake Ontario Fishery Advisory meeting in late June. He noted that Chris Legard 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.

Other Items:

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.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM