

President: David Harbison
Vice President: Tom Mailloux
Treasurer: Darryl Huttunen
Secretary: Position not filled

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS MEETING, NOVEMBER 17, 2005

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
DECEMBER 16, 2005 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call:	Meeting Date	
In attendance representatives from:	Nov 17, 2005	Club meeting night:
Andover Sportsmen's Club.....	1	Monthly, Second Thursday
Association of Ipswich Sportsmen.....	3	N/A
Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club	0	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Danvers Fish & Game Club.....	0	Monthly, Second Thursday
Essex County Sportsmen's Association	1	Monthly, First Wednesday
Georgetown Fish & Game Club	1	
Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club.....	2	Monthly, Third Tuesday
Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club.....	1	Monthly, First Monday, 07:30 PM
Haverhill Ridge Runners Fish & Game Club	0	Monthly, Second Sunday, 10:00 AM X Mother's Day
Ipswich Fish & Game Club.....	0	
Lawrence Rod & Gun Club.....	0	Monthly, First Monday
Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association.....	1	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Plum Island Surfcasters Club.....	1	Monthly, Third Tuesday

8 of 13 Present: Quorum Established

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife: www.masswildlife.org
G.O.A.L. www.goal.org
Massachusetts Sportsmen's Council www.masportsmen.org
G.O.A.L. "MESSAGE"
N.E.F. Publishing Corp. "THE FISHERMAN"
US Sportsmen's Alliance www.ussportsmen.org
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance 1-877-770-TRCA www.trca.org
Massachusetts Wildlife Federation www.masswildfed.org
US Sportsmen's Alliance www.ussportsmen.org
National Shooting Sports Foundation www.nssf.org

To contact the League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs Phone or FAX (978)-465-5101, E-Mail pswalsh@comcast.net
League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs web sight at [http:// lecs.surfcaster.com](http://lecs.surfcaster.com)

A COPY OF THIS REPORT IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON LECS.SURFCASTER.COM

Secretary's Report: The minutes for the September meeting were recorded. And approved as noted on the web site.

Treasurers Report: Report was read and accepted by the body by motion made seconded and passed.

Communications: None reported, Mail not picked up.

Mass Wildlife Federation: No action on any bills except for the Muzzleloader bill.

Mass Council: The word is that the Council still has a lobbyist. There was a long discussion regarding the future of the Council, the effectiveness of the Council's lobbying efforts and the observed general decline in interest by membership of clubs in the work of Leagues and the Council. There was an appeal on the part of the President who is also Council representative for more effective alternates from the League to the Council. The appeal was greeted by silence. A suggestion was forwarded that would be a means to raise money for the Council and this suggestion was discussed. It was stated during the meeting that GOAL is forming a wildlife

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

committee. Copies of the suggestion will be e-mailed to each or the representatives in attendance and will be mailed to Gerry and Bill Marr. Some suggestions were made to try to obtain funding from sporting equipment manufacturers. This has been tried but without success in the past. This discussion will be documented on the separate document referred to above. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to invite Mike Moss and John Kellstrand to the League meeting on the 15th.

Trapping Report: The bill revising trapping laws, 1327 is being held in committee and will not come out before next year's election. Mass Trappers will be running a raffle soon. The 10 day permit, it appears, will be with us for yet a while. The latest hearings in Spencer seemed to be a bit of a fix. A buss full of people from Boston and a number of people from out of state and due to the location and lateness of announcement of the new location and that the new location was only sparingly publicized no DPW people attended. These are the people who are most effected. The only reason that trappers were there is because Jim Wallace got wind of the new location and palled the word out through e-mail. Coyote and raccoon populations are exploding; stay tuned. A short discussion about loaded vs. not loaded muzzleloaders can now be updated. See at the end of this report. A motion was made, seconded, discussed and passed to buy a Black Diamond muzzle loader for the Council Raffle.

The Hamilton-Wenham Club is presently facing a problem regarding the renewal of the lease on the property where their club is located. A number of suggestions were made.

The League agreed to price banquet tickets at \$35.00 each with no breaks and that the banquet would take place starting at 06:00 PM on the 25th of March. Guests will also be invited, Jim Wallace + guest, Mike Moss + guest, Pat Huckery +guest, Legislator of the year + guest, Al Craig + guest, Fred Winthrop + guest. Dave will check on a gun for a card raffle.

The pheasant and duck hunts went well.

Salt water fisheries: The board has voted to prohibit obtaining or possessing river herring through the years 2006,7 & 8. Chuck Casella has asked the Division to provide educational materials in order that fishermen and others may be able to determine the difference between river herring and sea herring. Because of the very reduced state of this species, compliance is critical. There is a provision that will allow up to 5% river herring in a bait container so you won't be busted for that type of inadvertent possession. In addition the following cod zone during 2006 & 7 will be closed from Deer Island light in Boston Harbor to Marble Head from December 1 through Jan 15 in Federal Waters for all equipment capable of catching cod. During this time period cod are spawning in the defined area. The division will be running various experiments in this area during this time.

Regarding Senate Bill 529, The Ocean Management Act, Chuck has been working with the Recreational Fishing Alliance, the Ocean Conservancy and the Conservation Law Foundation to ameliorate language difficulties in the bill's ability to allow for good management practices as written. There have been vast improvements, but the bill is not yet satisfactory as it gives the secretary too much power to arbitrarily create conservation zones and there is language that states that, "to the maximum possible protect that fishery ". This phrase could result in complete shut down of the fishery, which generally is not a good management plan.

I found out today, 11.23.05, that northern pike (see report from Pat below) will not be stocked until the spring of 2007 and at the time they are stocked there will be adequate signage at the lakes in question so that fishermen will be able to distinguish between Northern Pike and Chain Pickerel.

Junior Archery at Danvers Club will start limiting participation for the younger children. Sign up dates will be the first two Fridays after the first of January where the first Friday will be for children of members of the Danvers club only. This is a huge program. Youngsters are 6-11.

Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun will start a 22 rim fire training for youngsters. Sign up sheets and information is available at www.hhrg.com .

For general information from Mass Wildlife then contact www.masswildlife.com and get on their mailing list for e-mails. They do send out much useful information.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

COLLATION: For November meeting, Georgetown Fish & Game

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS



The Massachusetts Sportsmen’s Council is proud to report that just before 6:00pm on November 15th, the House enacted Senate Bill 2255 and the Senate followed at 7:00pm. It now goes to Governor Romney for his signature. The bill was enacted with an emergency preamble, meaning it will become law as soon as the governor signs it. *(As of today, 11/23/05 the bill is signed and is not law)*

This bill was filed by Senator Brewer on behalf of the Massachusetts Sportsmen’s Council to correct the conflict between Chapters 131 and 269 of the Massachusetts General Laws. Chapter 131 defined a unloaded muzzle loader as having no powder in the pan or no percussion cap installed; Chapter 269 defined "loaded muzzle loaders" as "containing powder in the flash pan or in the bore or chamber or containing a percussion cap, shot or ball". Council President Mike Moss suggested working to eliminate this conflict in the law and Council Lobbyist John Kellstrand drafted the bill submitted to Senator Brewer.

Senate Bill 2255 (printed below) defines a Loaded muzzle loading or black powder shotgun or rifle as "containing powder in the flash pan, a percussion cap and shot or ball", thus eliminating the possibility of a sportsman hunting with a muzzle loader being deemed legal by an EPO and then being arrested by a local or State Police officer.

Senate Bill 2255

"SECTION 1. Subsection (a) of section 12D of chapter 269 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

(a) Except as exempted or provided by law, no person shall carry on his person on any public way a loaded rifle or shotgun having cartridges or shells in either the magazine or chamber thereof. For purposes of this section, "loaded shotgun or loaded rifle" shall mean any shotgun or rifle having ammunition in either the magazine or chamber thereof, such ammunition including a live cartridge, primer (igniter), bullet or propellant powder designed for use in any firearm, rifle or shotgun and, in the case of a muzzle loading or black powder shotgun or rifle, containing powder in the flash pan, a percussion cap and shot or ball; provided, however, that "loaded shotgun or loaded rifle" shall not include a shotgun or rifle loaded with a blank cartridge, which contains no projectile within such blank or within the bore or chamber of such shotgun or rifle."; and

The following was received from Pat since she couldn’t be present at the meeting in November

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Patricia Huckery, *District Manager*

Deer

The Northeast District has checked more than 200 deer! There are still over 600 Zone 10 Antlerless Doe Permits available. Come and get them!

The District deer check hours are the same as last year: closed Thanksgiving Day and Sundays, and open Saturdays (schedule submitted).

We're collecting samples for CWD monitoring.

The Fish & Wildlife Board meets November 21, 2005 to amend the rules and regulations relative to a special deer hunting season on Nantucket

Turkey

The preliminary tally for the 2005 fall turkey season is 189 (212 in 2004). Biologist Jim Cardoza believes this is a reasonably good harvest, given that the hatch was not the best based on summer brood survey results. The breakdown is: Western District stations, 62; Connecticut Valley stations, 57; Central District stations, 66; and Northeast District Stations, 4.

Fish

Northern pike are coming to Attitash Lake in Amesbury and Cochituate Lake in Natick, possibly as early as next week. DO NOT TAKE THESE FISH. We are releasing them at about 18 inches so that they can grow up to keepers, at 28 inches. Our surveys have documented 26 inch fish at the end of the second growing season. BRUSH UP ON THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PIKE AND CHAIN PICKEREL.

Fisheries & Wildlife Board

Dr. Brandi Van Roo of Douglas was appointed by the Governor to the Fisheries & Wildlife Board to take the wildlife seat vacated by Russell Cookingham, who did not seek reappointment.

Dr. Van Roo is an Assistant Professor in the

Salmon should be here by mid-December, with possibly 500 coming to the Northeast District. Most of these fish are from the White River National Fish Hatchery, with smaller numbers coming from our Palmer Hatchery.

We purchased a new fish tank for the 2006 trout stocking season.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

2005 Piping Plover numbers are down 3% from last year's 490 pairs. Piping Plovers are state-listed as "Threatened" pursuant to the MA Endangered Species Act. Dr. Scott Melvin, staff Senior Zoologist, says that this low reproduction success is due to two spring coastal storms that destroyed many nests. He also said that loss of eggs and unfledged chicks to a variety of avian and mammalian predators continues to be a primary factor limiting productivity. Beach management practices to safeguard beach-nesting birds from disturbance, mortality and habitat degradation still remain effective conservation tools.

Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

The 2006 LIP application period opened October 31st and closes December 23rd. Mass Wildlife will reimburse the landowner 75% of the cost associated with habitat restoration. Applications are posted at http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw_lip.htm.

In FY2006, 32 applications were funded. A total of 2,800 acres of habitat improvement benefiting over 80 at-risk wildlife species has been funded with \$550,000. Habitat projects ranged from enhancing beaches for shorebird breeding to grassland bird breeding habitat maintenance.

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Department of Biology at Framingham State College. She is a professionally trained Wildlife Ecologist with a Ph.D. in Behavioral Ecology from Indiana University, and a BS in Environmental and Forest Biology from SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry at Syracuse.