

President: David Harbison
Vice President: Tom Mailloux
Treasurer: Bob Young
Secretary: Position not filled

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING, FEBRUARY 16, 2006**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
MARCH 16, 2006 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call:Meeting Date
In attendance representatives from:Feb 16Club meeting night:
Andover Sportsmen's Club.....1Monthly, Second Thursday
Association of Ipswich Sportsmen.....2N/A
Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club1Monthly, Second Wednesday
Danvers Fish & Game Club.....0Monthly, Second Thursday
Essex County Sportsmen's Association1Monthly, First Wednesday
Georgetown Fish & Game Club0
Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club.....0Monthly, Third Tuesday
Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club.....1Monthly, First Monday, 07:30 PM
Haverhill Ridge Runners Fish & Game Club0Monthly, Second Sunday, 10:00 AM X Mother's Day
Ipswich Fish & Game Club.....0
Lawrence Rod & Gun Club.....1Monthly, First Monday
Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association.....1Monthly, Second Wednesday
Plum Island Surfcasters Club.....1Monthly, 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)

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Secretary's Report: Minutes for the February meeting was approved by motion made, seconded and approved.

Correspondence Received:

Two schools requested forms for scholarships (Note) Letters and forms have been sent to all Essex County high schools and the form has been updated on the lecs.surfcasters.com web site

There is some confusion regarding the appeals process regarding FID and Right to carry denials. 1. If your Police Chief denies your license because it is his option your only recourse is to go to court and GOAL can help you with this. 1. If you have been denied as a result of LAW such as a prior misdemeanor or conviction of a misdemeanor which has subsequently become a felony, you may go to the appeals board, check with GOAL for further details. If you were originally convicted of a felony you are out of luck.

Treasurers Report: Report is not yet complete due to the change in treasurer.

Communications: None reported, Mail not picked up.

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

Mass Council: Chuck Casella gave the following report. Mark Tisa gave a report at council and specifically congratulated Essex County for their participation in the youth pheasant hunt. This year the division will be passing out pamphlets at the shows promoting the hunt. 30 youngsters participated last year. Ant recommendations from Essex league for a politician to receive an award must soon be turned in to Mike Moss. Anyone who wishes to hunt at Otis must register with Mass Wildlife prior to November 1. There was a discussion that each club member donate voluntarily \$5.00 per year for Mass Council. More work will be dedicated to this program and best guess is that it will be further worked on at the March meeting of the Council. Mass Sportsmen's scholarship is still accepting applications. There are bills being submitted to extend the grace period for persons in the military for LTCs. There are two other bills requiring sportsmen's attention: a bill banning buckshot and another requiring that every deer tag issued be paid for with an additional charge of \$5.00. The council opposes both on the basis that legislation is a poor way to control wildlife activities and rather that these concerns be addresses by the board and be governed by regulation rather than by legislation.

Fisheries: River herring will not be able to be used or possessed for the next five years. Mike Armstrong will prepare an information sheet that will be passed out to tackle and bait shops describing the law and the specific fish, river herring. These information sheets will also be passed out at shows. There are no proposed changes in recreational striped bass regulations. The Marine Fisheries Board is working on removal of all language pertaining to recreational fishing from the Marine Protected Areas bills. Work continues of ameliorating this bill. The continuing work is to put more control in the hands of the Secretary and hopefully make more Marine Fisheries regulation based on scientific rather than political information.

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: At the last two meetings a mission statement is being prepared. The Federation will again be issuing a newsletter soon.

Banquet Committee: The committee decided to change the date to April 1 in order to avoid a conflict with the Danvers Club. *As of the writing of this report prizes have been announced and tickets sent to a member of each club.* Representatives are reminded that sportsman of the year will be selected next meeting. Be sure to bring in your nominations. If each club can cover a head table place and a gift that would cover things well. There will be 10 guests; Al Craig & Wife, Jim Wallace & Wife, Fred Winthrop & Wife, Pat Huckery & Husband and the President of the Danvers Club and spouse. **ALL REPRESENTATIVES ARE ASKED TO GATHER DONATIONS FROM THEIR CLUB FOR AT LEAST ONE SEAT AT THE HEAD TABLE.**

Pheasant Hunt: There will have been a meeting held on Saturday, 21 January. For interest by any club member in the Youth Pheasant Hunt should call Pat Huckery (978-263-4347) or Mike Robinson (781-598-1196). Both Essex County Sportsmen's Club and the Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club will open their clubs for youth shooting. HHRG is open for trap and skeet on Sundays from 10:00 AM and on Wednesday evenings starting at 05:00 PM.

2005 was a very successful year for the hunt. In addition, if anyone is interested in the waterfowl hunt, contact Mike also. Any clubs who want to stock pheasants, contact the Division. The closest propagator is located in Northfield, MA, the division would have more current information about more close-by propagators.

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Topsfield Fair: A motion was made, seconded, discussed and **approved that the League send \$100.00 to Essex Aggi. 4H Award Banquet on Feb 16 for a 4 H member and for Joe Wyka and two guests.** *(It turns out that Joe couldn't make it either and the invitation was given to Larry Mcbeth and guests.)*

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New Business: A short review of the non-quorum meeting last month along with a suggestion that representatives ask their clubs about additional funding, on a volunteer or other basis, to help Mass Council develop more effective communication of its activities to the Leagues and Clubs. *(In the interim I have received a short brochure from Mass Council outlining some of their achievements. The brochure is somewhat dated but lists the following:*

- *Worked for passage of legislation allowing the use of cross bows by paraplegic hunters{Now including any hunter for whom a doctor has certified that the hunter is permanently unable to pull a legal hunting bow.}*
- *Initiated, drafted, sponsored and saw enacted the “Wildlands Conservation Stamp” bill, providing up to \$2 million annually for land acquisition; land which will forever remain open to hunting, fishing and trapping.*
- *Worked to defeat several attempts by State Government to “raid” dedicated Fish & Wildlife funds for use in the General Fund.*
- *Initiated, sponsored and saw our “hunter harassment” and “shooting range protection” bills signed into law.)*

A suggestion was made that the League decide a specific action to be taken by clubs on behalf of the League. At the present time the League requires each member club to pay \$100.00 for support of the league and \$85.00 for support of the council. A suggestion was made that the clubs ask members to become associate members of the council. *(Since the meeting I have received associate membership applications from the council of which I will make copies for each representative to be passed out at the next meeting.)* After a great deal of discussion the following motion was made, seconded, further discussed and passed. **The League dues are to be raised from \$100 and 85 or \$185 total to \$275 total after due consideration by the clubs.** The additional funds would be given to the Council under the agreement that the Council show significant improvement in communication. **An additional motion was made that the additional funds collected by the above motion would be made to the Council if and only if the Council agrees to institute an e-mail system as to be described by Darryl Huttunan in a subsequent communication.**

For purposes of review and information, each member League can send up to 5 delegates to Council Meetings and each of the five may speak and vote at the meeting. If an associate member wishes to speak and or vote at a Council meeting the only need to have their name put in as a delegate for that meeting to be heard. There are always at least 3 empty chairs from the Essex County League delegation. Each club has five chairs at the League meetings.

There being no additional business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed.

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adjourn.

COLLATION: For February meeting, Lawrence Rod & Gun Club



DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

Patricia Huckery, *District Manager*

January 2006

Deer

2006 Abstracts correction – under “New This Year” page 3, it should read “any cervid carcass” from a CWD-positive state or province.

The USFWS is planning a year end evaluation of hunting at the Oxbow, Assabet River and Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuges, to be followed by a public hearing (date not set). Please prepare to make comments directly or inform Pat Huckery, Northeast District Manager.

According to the USFWS 890 applications were received for deer season, and 195 permits were issued to licensed hunters: Oxbow 35 permits out of 320 applications (11%), Assabet 70 permits out of 288 applications (24%), Great Meadows 90 permits out of 282 applications (32%). The number of permits issued was based on amount of area suitable for hunting and hunter satisfaction, among other criteria. Permits were issued for the entire deer season, not by archery, shotgun and primitive seasons. A separate drawing for turkey permits is coming up at www.fws.gov/northeast/oxbow or www.fws.gov/northeast/assabet or www.fws.gov/northeast/greatmeadows.

Fish

The 2005 broodstock salmon stocking finished the end of December with 376 fish stocked (spring 36, winter 340). Winter salmon went to Lake Cochituate in Framingham (65), Sluice Pond in Lynn (15), Pleasant Pond in Wenham (15), Hopkinton Reservoir (55), Saltonstall in Haverhill (42), Horn Pond in Woburn (41), Whites in Concord (41), Forest Lake in Methuen (41), and Baddacook in Groton (25).

Thirty-five of these fish were in the 15 pound range, with the rest in the 8-10 pound range. These fish are gifts from the USFWS's White River National Fish Hatchery and our Roger Reed Salmon Hatchery in Palmer

KEEP AN EYE ON THE ICE! For an ice strength table visit the MassWildlife website at www.MassWildlife.org.

We purchased a new fish tank which will arrive for the 2007 trout stocking season.

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program

The mid-winter bald eagle count was January 6th. Northeast District staff worked the Merrimack River, with the ground crew seeing 2 bald eagles. The MA Aeronautics Commission flew 3 Division biologists by helicopter from Plum Island National Wildlife Sanctuary to Nashua, NH. By air, 4 bald eagles were recorded.

The *Merrimack River Eagle Festival* is Saturday, February 18, 2006. Area residents want to celebrate the successful fledging of Merri and Mackie, the first 2 eagles born in the Merrimack River valley in about 100 years. For information call 978-462-9998 or contact massaudubon.org/eaglefestival.

Bear

In the 2006 Abstracts you'll find new black bear season which was extended and now runs from September 5 -23 and from November 6 – 25.

There were 113 bears taken in 2005. This included 98 in the 17-day September segment of the season and 15 (a record) in the 6-day November segment. There were 146 taken in 2004 (142 and 4). There were 52 taken in Berkshire County, 34 taken in Franklin County, 14 in Hampshire County, and 13 in Hampshire County. None were taken in Middlesex or Worcester Counties.

There were 69 (61%) bears taken in the 1st week (5 days) of September, 15 during the 2nd week and 14 during the 3rd week. There were 29 taken on the 1st day (9/6).

There were 88 taken with rifles, 20 by archery and 5 with handguns. There were 62 females and 51 males taken. The teeth are being sent to Matson's Lab in Montana for analysis and the results are expected in May.

There were 3593 bear permits sold during calendar year (Jim Cardoza believes this is a record). There were 3469 permits in 2004.

There were 83 bears taken on a stand, 22 by persons "Stalking" or moving through likely habitat and 8 taken by tracking the bears.

A preliminary breakdown of where the bears were "started" includes 29 in human-associated food areas (corn, orchards), 54 in wild foods (nut crops, wild berries), and 30 in low food or non-food areas or not specified. This dispersion of bears in natural food areas, such as oak and beech stands, and not concentrated in cornfields, probably contributed to the lower harvest in 2005 than 2004.

Turkey

There were 163 birds taken in the 6-day season (212 in 2004, 111 in 2003). This includes 27 taken in Berkshire County, 55 in Franklin, 11 in Hampden, 29 in Hampshire, 6 in Middlesex, 1 in Norfolk, and 34 in Worcester. Turkeys were taken on every day of the season. Opening day (Oct.31) was the busiest (42, 26%) as usual, followed by Friday (Nov.4, with 31 (19%). Most were taken by shotgun, but 12 (7%) by archery.

There were 85 females and 78 males taken. There were 14,374 persons who received turkey hunting permits in calendar 2005. Excluding those 367 persons who took 2 spring birds, there were 14,007 persons eligible to hunt in the fall season. However, experience has shown that the fall season is underutilized since there is no fall turkey hunting tradition in MA (as in the south) and most people seem to choose to hunt other species open at that time.

CWCS

MassWildlife completed the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy and it is available for viewing at our website. Each state that wishes to receive federal funding to support conservation efforts aimed at preventing wildlife from becoming endangered must submit a CWCS.

Beaver Surveys

Beaver surveys have been under way in the Northeast, where we hike every stream and wetland within 12 standard plots. We look for any active sign of beaver, such as fresh sticks on the lodge and/or dam, fresh chewed trees and shrubs, and presence of a food cache. The Northeast District biologists and technicians have been conducting these surveys for over 10 years. Data are used to help estimate the beaver population and density

It is very labor intensive and risky work, especially when the ice is punky and open water abounds, like this year.

WOOD DUCKS

Wildlife Technician, Bob Desrosiers, is leading the construction of 30 new wood duck boxes. If conditions permit, we'll distribute them at sites across the District as determined by H. Heusmann, DFW Waterfowl Biologist.

Nissitissit River WMA

The Squanna-tissit Chapter of Trout Unlimited installed a gate for us at the Brookline Street entrance to the Nissitissit River WMA in Pepperell. *We are very grateful for their assistance!* Local chapter members have been monitoring the ATV damage at the Nissitissit River WMA and posting "No ATV" signs at some of the bad spots.

A Division memo regarding ATV damage at the Nissitissit River WMA was sent to the MA Environmental Police, local PD, and local Conservation Commissions. The memo was to inform them of the rampant use of the area, damage to state-listed species and fisheries habitats, and provide maps of the most problematic spots.

Environmental Police Officer Callan has been checking the site, and speaking to ATV riders. Illegal ATV use at the WMA is a perennial problem with which we need all the help we can get. If you encounter ATV riders when at the WMA immediately report the activity to the **Environmental Police at 1-800-632-8075 or Pepperell Police Department at 978-433-2424**. DO NOT try to stop them yourself. Your presence may be enough to send them on their way...at least for that day.

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Other

The 2004 MassWildlife Annual Report is available from the Westborough field office, 508-792-7270.

In December, the furnace was replaced at Martin Burns WMA.

The Northeast District will be adding backhoe and post hole digger attachments to the new tractor housed at Martin Burns WMA.

On 21 January, Mark Tisa, DFW Assistant Director, held an appreciation ceremony for all the youth hunt organizers.