

President: David Harbison
Vice President: Tom Mailloux
Treasurer: Darryl Huttunen
Secretary: Tom Walsh

**LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S CLUBS
MEETING 15 MAY, 2003**

***NEXT LEAGUE MEETING IS THURSDAY
JUNE 19, 2003 DANVERS FISH & GAME 07:30 PM***

MEETING MINUTES

Roll Call:.....	Meeting Date	
In attendance representatives from:	May 15, 2003	Club meeting night:
Andover Sportsmen's Club	0.....	Monthly, Second Thursday
Association of Ipswich Sportsmen.....	3.....	N/A
Cape Ann Sportsmen's Club	1.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Danvers fish & Game Club	3.....	Monthly, Second Thursday
Essex County Sportsmen's Association	0.....	Monthly, First Wednesday
Georgetown Fish & Game Club.....	0	
Hamilton/Wenham Rod & Gun Club.....	2.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday
Haverhill Hound, Rod & Gun Club	2.....	Monthly, First Monday
Haverhill Ridge Runners Fish & Game Club	0.....	
Ipswich Fish & Game Club.....	0.....	
Lawrence Rod & Gun Club	0.....	Monthly, First Monday
Lynn Fish & Game Protective Association.....	3.....	Monthly, Second Wednesday
Plum Island Surfcaster's Club.....	1.....	Monthly, Third Tuesday

7 of 13 Present: Quorum Established, tally for each club not noted

To contact the League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs Phone or FAX (978)-465-5101, E-Mail pswalsh@attbi.com

League of Essex County Sportsmen's Clubs web sight at [http:// lecs.surfcaster.com](http://lecs.surfcaster.com)

A list of publications and web sights of interest to sportsmen:

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

Meeting called to Order: 07:30 p.m.

Welcomed guests from The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Chuck Bell and Mike Moss and John Kelstrand from Massachusetts Sportwmen's Council

Motion made, seconded and passed to accept the minutes of April, 2003 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Report passed out to representatives and discussed. Motion to accept is made seconded and passed by acclimation. \$3,000 was forwarded to the Mass Council for the Alliance.

Communications & Bills: No correspondence received except publications. Application for "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" is on www.masswildlife.org

LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS

Meeting was opened for questions or comments for Mike and John at Mass Council: Mike thanked the League for the invitation to the meeting and for the participation of the League at Council meetings. There was a short discussion regarding the Canada Goose problem. Mass wildlife has been asked by a few towns to help control goose and turkey problems in specific areas. The concern as expressed by Mass Wildlife is that the Canada Goose will, in time, be perceived as a nuisance instead of as a resource. There are two distinct goose populations; resident breeding and migratory breeding. There is no solution in sight. The consensus is that the geese need to be harvested, but there was no solution proposed. Regarding 180, there are a number of bills before the legislature dealing with assault weapons ban and muzzleloader "loaded" definition. EP's as well as local and state police are presently enforcing the totally unloaded interpretation of the laws.

Meeting was opened for an information presentation from Chuck: Extensive trout stocking has been done in smaller tributaries and ponds in Essex County. There was a long discussion regarding stocking procedures when the season starts late as this year and in rivers such as the Ipswich where late season water shortage is a problem. At the time of this meeting there was little evidence of large stripers in the Merrimack. Access to the river in Lawrence below the dam will in all likelihood be closed for this year due to renovation work in the area. There is no word yet as to the successful nesting activities of the eagles on the Merrimack at Haverhill. The May 21 Board meeting will discuss at public hearing cross bow hunter definition and for catch and release areas on the Housatonic river. Shallow pond fish kills are expected to be high because of oxygen and pH levels measured under the ice. Perhaps there have not been many dead fish sightings because of much lower than normal water temperatures at this time of year.

Mass Wildlife Federation: The banquet was not as well attended as in prior years.

Mass Council: There is a docket, Number 4107 which proposes a Freedom to Fish in salt water. The docket, when and if it becomes a bill, will provide for open rod and reel fishing in salt water areas. The proposal is being pushed in each of the ocean states and also in the federal House. Call your rep regarding our support of the Freedom to Fish Act. Contact your Senator Kennedy and Kerry regarding US 659. The bill to prevent reckless lawsuits against firearms manufacturers. We support this bill..

Mass Sportsmen's Alliance: The key activities on the part of Bob Durand will be focused on three issues; seven person board, inland fish and game fund and the land stamp fund. As with any activity priorities may need to change as events do, a motion was made to give Darryl Huttunen authority to vote on behalf of the League at Alliance meetings and to report back to the League what has occurred. The League understands that votes can be made by Darryl on behalf of the League without first consulting with the League regarding the specific vote. The motion was seconded, discussed and passed by unanimous vote.

Youth Pheasant and Waterfowl Hunt: The program will have a table at the Plover Festival at Plum Island.

Marine Fisheries:

Topsfield fair: Topsfield Fair this year will be from Oct 4 through the 13th. Raffle tickets will be passed out at the next meeting.

Officer & Board Elected for 2003 through May 2004

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Banquet Committee: It was discussed and the conclusion was that we do the same thing at about the same time. The Hilltop and in March on about the 20th with 13th and 1st as options. Tom Mailloux will confirm date with the Hilltop. Remember that we have awards to think about: Lifetime achievement, Sportsman of the year.

Good of the Order: Petitions.

Motion to adjourn was made, seconded and passed

COLLATION: June, Plum Island Surfcasters; September, Andover Sportsmen; October Association of Ipswich Sportsmen.