

Citizen's Advisory Council To DEP  
NWCS Report  
November 12, 2003

Vice-Chairman, Chris Marino presiding. Meeting called to order 7:05PM in Holcomb Room of DEP Headquarters, Hartford.

**Minutes** of October meeting reviewed.

No correspondence to review.

Guests attending the meeting included Col. Eric Nelson, Director, Law Enforcement Division. Fisheries Director, Bill Hyatt and fisheries biologist, Bob Jacobs also attended.

**Bureau of Natural Resources:** BNR Chief, Edward Parker reporting.

A proposal to advance the opening of trout season by one week has been tabled for now because of the need to gather more details regarding spring vacation timing for school age children. The idea was to advance the season from the traditional third Saturday by one week in order to time the opening to school vacation period. There may be a conflict with school testing at this time.

Whittemore Salmon Station: Congress has appropriated \$150,000 in funding for the CT River Atlantic Salmon program. It has not been determined how this money will be allocated to the four participating states. If CT receives funding, the Whittemore facility may be kept open. With no additional funding, current plans are to close the facility.

Handout distributed regarding Tutog rules. BNR seeking consensus.

State Nursery lease is close to finalization.

Samples of new Conservation License Plates passed around for review. Two plates are being considered; one has the image of a Bald Eagle, the other a Bobcat. We polled the CAC delegates and found the Bobcat plate to be favored by a margin of three to one. A second poll was taken asking how many delegates would like to see both plates produced. The vote was unanimous in favor of producing both plates. BNR is hoping to raise \$10,000 per year through the sale of Conservation Plates.

No report on agency restructuring.

License & permit sales to be reported by end of December with a comparison with 2001 & 2002 sales.

**Bass Tournament Report:** Bill Hyatt and Bob Jacobs.

Fisheries initiated a Bass Management policy in 1999 affecting 29 lakes in CT. The report presented at this meeting was in regard to bass mortality; and in particular, the effects of tournament bass fishing on mortality. Handouts with results are available. The bottom line was that tournament fishing does not appear to significantly impact large mouth bass mortality. However, smallmouth mortality does increase significantly during the warm weather months. Fisheries has proposals to alleviate high mortality in smallmouth bass during this time. CAC to review proposals and discuss at December meeting.

**Legislative:** Robert Crook.

Report on Ct Sportsman's Caucus formation. Participating legislators that we know of include: Senator Aniscovich, Art O'Neil, Linda Orange, Robert Ward and John Piscopo. Bob estimates that 30 to 35 legislators have shown interest in this caucus.

CCS Banquet/Awards report.

Bob states that now is the time to come up with legislative proposals for the upcoming session. We are sure to see Sunday hunting again. Bills are usually written by January.

**DEP Law Enforcement:** Colonel Nelson reporting.

Col Nelson reported that the working title of Conservation Officers is about to be changed. The new title selected is: "Environmental Conservation Police". The division title will be "Division of Environmental Conservation Police". Colonel Nelson states that this change is being made because many citizens do not recognize the authority of Conservation Officers as law enforcement officials. There will be no change to the division's mission profile. The change is purely for recognition and safety of the public and the officers. No statutory change is required to implement this change. The Commissioner has already Okayed the change.

The Colonel also stated that he is looking for new venues for the two T.I.P. trailers, outside the normal sporting venues.

Bear incident reports have increased from 400 to 1200 over the past 4 years.

**Nominating Committee:**

Appointed to the CAC nominating committee were Vincent Ringrose, John Pulhaski, and Jason Marshall.

By-law committee to meet directly after adjournment.

**Adjourn:** 8:55PM