

CAC Meeting 4.13.04

Secretary Report

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm
- Ted Nugent United Sportsmen of America was accepted back into the CAC Conservation Environmental Police
- The 2003 Law Enforcement Annual Report was handed out
- Law Enforcement will be receiving a 35-foot, twin diesel, patrol boat from the Navy.
- Conservation police will be focusing their attention on Inland and Marine fisheries this spring at least until they have to focus on park enforcement.
- Stoddard Hill State Park in Ledyard has been re designated fishing & boating access area only. This is believed to cut down on illicit activities in this area.
- T.I.P. (Turn In Poachers) hotline # is 1-800-842-HELP

Marine Fisheries

Eric Smith with Marine Fisheries was present to discuss Scup season and creel limits. A motion was made and passed at the Feb CAC meeting but a new 10.5" limit was added that would bring our regulations very close to what New York is doing. Everyone was in agreement that the best case would be to have regulations the same for the whole east coast. A unanimous vote was taken to support the scup regulations.

Inland Fisheries

- The DEP had run 2" x 5" photos in all the major newspapers promoting Opening Day of fishing season.
- Various DEP officials will be in the field on Opening Day.
- All brood stock Northern Pike targets were met at all Pike spawning locations this spring
- Both Beach Pond and Coventry Lake are found, through electro fishing, to have good numbers of legal Walleye now. Coventry Lake walleye are exceeding average growth rates.

Legislative Committee Report

Sunday hunting is still in the air. There is some interest by Legislators though.

A Bill asking for more Conservation Officers may pass. We may see three new hires and some equipment money this year.

Motor Boat Fuel tax is due to sunset and goes to 3.2 million to the Conservation Fund.

One gun Bill that could affect everyone: An Act requiring the Reporting of Stolen Firearms. The Bill calls for a \$1000 fine if a stolen firearm is not reported within 72 hours. Bob has a couple of amendments that would protect the gun owner in case you were not aware that your firearm(s) were stolen.

The DEP and the State Police currently have the ability to auction off all confiscated firearms but do not. Currently, they dispose of \$200 to \$300k of firearms each year plus pay for burning them. Bob has an amendment to ensure that firearms are auctioned off if their value is greater than \$100.

There is a Bill now that will change our boat registration to renew every two years. Tom Tyler the DEP liaison at the Legislature claims the DEP will lose no income from this change.

By Law Committee

Proposed By laws were handed out and discussed somewhat. All members were encouraged to take them home to look over and bring them back to the May meeting.

New Business

It was suggested by Bob Crook that sportsmen's groups provide an activity for the newly formed CT Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus. This group of about 37 Legislators, all generally pro sportsmen, has bonded together to assist in legislative issues involving sportsmen.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted

Jon Puhalski