

Conservation Advisory Council  
Minutes  
December 12, 2006

Meeting called to order by chairman Chris Marino at 7:05 PM.  
Attendance list retained by BNR.

It was noted that we have not received the November Minutes to date; therefore no action was taken regarding the November Minutes.

The CAC Secretary was not in attendance. No Secretary's Report.

Our thanks to Ray Hanley who agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

Correspondence: None.

**Tip Report/Law Enforcement:**

Sgt. Wolfe reintroduced himself. A Wildlife Hotline Report was passed out for the period 11/14/06 through 12/12/06. Reported were 41 incidents resulting in two arrests. Sgt. Wolfe encourages CAC delegates to promote use of the TIP hotline by sportsmen.

DEP is in the process of hiring 5 new Conservation Officers. This will bring the total of ECPs to 57. DEP has also purchased 21 new Ford F250 Pickups for law enforcement. These trucks are being fitted with emergency lights and tow packages.

The Tip Trailers are available for functions. Conservation Officers are available to attend club meetings. Requests for these services should be directed to Sgt. Wolfe, at the Hartford office. The sergeant is also available by phone to answer any questions regarding law and law enforcement during normal business hours.

**BNR Report: Wildlife Director Dale May:**

**Marine:**

At the time of this meeting, agency representative Eric Smith was attending an ASMF meeting to discuss future Fluke reductions. Fred Frillici gave a short overview of the recovery plan for Fluke. Fred stated that the original plan was based on a ten-year recovery projection. There is disagreement between the ASMF and the NMF organizations due to the original 10-year recovery plan. Fred observed that the Total Allowable Catch, (TAC) for fluke in 2005 was 22 million pounds. This figure includes commercial and recreational catch. The NMF recommends reducing the TAC to 5.3 million lbs in keeping with the 10-year plan. ASMF is recommending a reduction to 19 million lbs, and lengthening the recovery plan by five years, to 15. ASMF believes the fluke stock is rebuilding at this time, just not as quickly as called for in the original plan. Since the stock is rebuilding, albeit at a rate slower than initially projected, ASMF feels that a modification to the plan would cause less hardship to the industry and still fulfill the overall goals.

It was reported that blues and sea bass populations are stable.

**Inland:**

Brood Stock Salmon have been stocked in the Shatucket, (752) and Naugatuck (379 & 356) rivers. One fish per day may be kept as of September 1<sup>st</sup>.

VHS, a viral infection affecting all species of fresh water fish in the Great Lakes Region will reportedly have an impact on available trout for private stocking this spring. Many of the commercial hatcheries obtain their stock from mid-western sources. Testing to certify healthy fish will be required of these sources. The Federal F&W Service is the responsible agency for this action.

Director May mentioned the Housatonic Settlement and stated that approximately eight million dollars will be available for all types of restoration and research projects in the Housatonic watershed.

Fisheries completed stocking of 56,000, (5") Walleyes in CT waters in November.

**Wildlife:**

Director May reported a hunting fatality in Maine. A non-participant woman was killed in an accident involving a muzzle-loader. Hunting too close to an occupied dwelling may have been involved. We have had no reports of any significant hunting related accidents in CT this season to date.

The Wildlife Division is initiating a radio-telemetry research program involving moose. This research is in conjunction with a similar program being undertaken in Massachusetts. The collars being used in this study will utilize satellite monitoring to track the animals. The Wildlife Division wants to track moose movement throughout the state in an effort to determine areas where a moose population can be tolerated.

Deer Season: The DEP is estimating a possible 15% decrease in this year's deer harvest. CWD testing continues. 600 deer tested last year, 700 this year. Test results for this year are not complete. CE-FS graduates harvested 37 deer on the youth hunting day.

The warm weather created problems with the Hunters for the Hungry program. Some of the drop-off sites lacked adequate cooling facilities to handle all the deer left for processing. The problem was most acute in the southern part of the state where deer harvests and donations are relatively high.

### **Wildlife Discussions:**

The issue of the recent federal listing of the New England Cottontail as a candidate species for ESA protection was discussed. Director May thinks that endangered species status may be granted within the next 4 to 5 years. He also reported that research by DEP and the University of NH demonstrate that CT has a viable population of NECs, which are distributed throughout most of the state. Quality habitat loss, habitat fragmentation and predation seem to be the major factors contributing to decline. Grouse populations remain low. It is felt that something other than habitat loss may be the reason.

Del Delmastro brought up sunset hunting hour for discussion. Bow hunters would like to go to ½ hour after sunset. Del to submit a written proposal to the Wildlife Division.

Mike brought up an issue of keeping bow season open on private lands during the firearms season. Mike reasons that many property owners do not allow firearms use for various reasons, but many would allow bow hunting. Mike to write up a proposal for submission to the Wildlife Division.

Sunset restriction on firearms deer hunting was also brought up. A suggestion that the agency conduct testing on adequate shooting light after sunset was offered. Many Council members feel that even in close cover and overcast conditions, adequate shooting light is available to warrant a change in the regulations allowing an extra 10 plus minutes of deer hunting after legal sunset.

George Marsh questioned the status of the Birmingham Water Co. property in Ansonia for hunting.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Legislative:** None

### **Nominating Committee:**

Ray Hanley reported for the Nominating Committee. The Committee is nominating the current slate of CAC Officers for re-election with the exception of the Secretary's position. Elections will be held in January. Nominations are: Chairman, Chris Marino; Vice-chairman, Tip Garritt, Secretary, Jason Marshall.

### **Old Business:**

None.

### **New Business:**

The schedule for 2007 CAC meetings was distributed and discussed. The schedule lists meetings for the second Tuesday of the month, with the exceptions of July and August in which months no regular CAC meetings are scheduled. Brought up during discussion was the fact that our November meeting falls on the evening before opening day of CT deer season and usually results in a low member turnout. The members requested that the November meeting be changed to the first Tuesday of November. A motion was offered by Tip Garritt to, "approve the 2007 CAC meeting schedule amended to recognize the date change for November." George Marsh seconds. No further discussion. Motion approved.

Fred Frillici brought up an issue regarding private preserve hunting in CT. Fred pointed out that preserve hunting requires no state hunting license for participants, and therefore no CE-FS certification. Fred suggests the agency look into a CE-FS requirement for preserve hunting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Fred Frillici and seconded by Ray Hanley. Motion approved.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:20 PM**

Respectfully Submitted

Ray Hanley  
Chris M. Marino, Chairman