

NEW HAMPSHIRE BASS FEDERATION

AN AFFILIATE OF TBF/FLW - PARTNERS IN FISHING

APRIL 2013 MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order: 7:01PM

Back Bay- Present	Monadnock Bass- Present
Contoocook- Present	NH Bass Casters- Present
Manchester Bass- Absent	Bass Hookers- Present
Bass Hunters- Present	Grass Roots- Absent
Bass Assassins- Present	Breakaway Bass- Absent
First Cast- Present	

Treasurers Report:

- General Account - \$13,231.81
- 81 new members with dues collections of \$6,480
 - Paid out \$4,050 to TBF giving us a net of \$2,400 for this account.
- State Team Account \$4,974.58
 - State team last transactions.
 - Deposit raised \$2,500 from super bowl squares
 - Also paid out money for our national's anglers.

Vice Presidents Report:

- Marc Hamel was not on the call.

Conservations Report:

- Justin Brigham reported for Dick Smith.
- House hearing Thursday on the lead jig ban 12:30PM
 - If attending please arrive at least an hour early, Dick Smith and Justin Brigham are going to try and be there by 11AM.
 - The Loon committee members will all be there early to try and take up space so we cannot get into the meeting room.
- There is a rumor making its rounds that the Trout Unlimited Org. is supporting the bill.
- If any club presidents can try and get as many guys in there clubs to attend that would be a huge help.
- Also Dick Smith needs a few more people to speak. If interested contact him ASAP, he will provide all speaking points and info.
- I included a message and information from Dick Smith at the end of these notes.

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Presidents Report:

Old Business

- There will be a golf tournament this spring to help raise funds for the State team.
 - Event will take place June 8th.
 - We would like as many people to participate as we can get so if you golf or you know any golfers send them our way. A team isn't required we will fit them in somewhere.
 - The more teams that play the more money the State team members who participate make.
 - If you're on the state team and don't golf we can still use you to judge holes or run side raffles. If you do not help out with these events in some way you do not benefit from them. Please contact Joe Spinello for more information.

New Business

- Reminder that the Spring Open is this coming Sunday out of Center Harbor.
 - Please try and attend not only to show support for our State Team, but it should be awesome spring weather for fishing.
 - There was a 4 fish 20lb bag caught in a team event on Winnepesaukee this past weekend, so they are biting!
 - If you would like to go up Saturday night Harry at Center Harbor Inn is only charging \$54 a room. So reserve now!
- For future events we may be investing in giveaways for our events to try and attract more anglers and possible members. So stay tuned for this possible rods, batteries, tires etc.
- Golf Tournament June 8th please see the "Old Business" section of these notes for more information.

General Discussion:

- Bass Nation needs boaters for a high school fishing event on Winnepesaukee May 9th
- They currently need 8 boats.
- There are a ton of High School anglers who are getting involved in this. So please if you can support this event it would be great.
- Any event put in place to get more youth into our sport is worth our support and help from our members.
- If interested contact John Foster with Bass Nation.

Next Meeting: May 28th 2013 Webinar
Meeting Adjourned: 7:34 PM

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CONSERVATION DIRECTOR DICK SMITH.

All -

The NH House of Representatives Fish & Game & Marine Resources committee will have the public hearing on SB 89 on April 25. The time has not been set as yet. In all likelihood 2 hearing rooms (305-307) will be used in the Legislative Office Building (LOB). 33 N State St, Concord, NH 03301

Google Directions:

<https://maps.google.com/maps?q=33+N.+State+St+Concord+NH,+03301&hl=en&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=58.988897,135.263672&hnear=33+N+State+St,+Concord,+Merrimack,+New+Hampshire+03301&t=m&z=17&iwloc=A>

The LOB is located just west and across the street from the gold dome State House: go West on Loudon Road and turn right onto N. State Street and look for parking (free) on the right side. There is also some parking on Union Street. If you drive 2 blocks south from the State House on N. State Street there is a parking ramp with meters. Get there early to insure you get a parking spot closer to LOB.

Please let everyone you know (like all of your club members) how important it is to make arrangements to attend the hearing. You do not have to testify orally, but do find the sign-in sheet inside the hearing room and sign in as "opposed" to SB 89. If you do want to speak to make a point, fill out a pink card and give to the clerk to pass forward to the committee chairman. Keep an eye on some of the loonies who will not only sign in with their own name, but will also try to enter the name of a neighbor or friend who isn't even present. . . challenge them if you observe this as it is a form of "stuffing the ballot box" . . . also known as cheating.

You do not need to wear a suit and tie . . . business casual, clean and neat is just fine.

We had a joint meeting several weeks ago with both bass federations and we have speakers lined up to cover all the major points. If you are called to speak, but someone before you has already done a good job of covering that point, you can simply state that you agree with that point and that you will just hand-in your written testimony.

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About written testimony . . . use brief bullet points . . . try to keep to 1 page. Make 21 copies and 3-hole punch them so it is easy for these 19 legislators to insert into their notebooks. Give the clerk 20 copies and keep 1 copy for yourself when you are called on to speak.

Please keep in mind that these legislators are just like you and I. They are our neighbors and you are likely to see them at the grocery store.

So far about 8 of the members of this committee are on our side.

It is CRITICAL that everybody who wants to keep using their traditional jigs contact as many of the 19 members of this committee as you can. MAKE THE EFFORT !!!! e-mail blasts with a form message do not work very well . . . most are deleted immediately without reading. However, if you use your own words (brief and to the point is good) and use their name in the subject line, it will likely be opened and read. Even more effective is to mail a handwritten note to the legislator's home address. Go to this link and then click on each committee members name to get their contact info:
<http://gencourt.state.nh.us/house/committees/committeedetails.aspx?code=H42>

The loonies will be making an ALL OUT effort to take away your traditional fishing jigs.

We need to show up in force at the hearing and also let these committee members know what you think/feel about SB 89 by e-mail, written note delivered in the mail, or a phone call to them (they expect and want phone calls).

I'll let you all know what time the hearing is set for the 25th as soon as I know.

Here to help,

Richard "Dick" Smith
Conservation Director
New Hampshire Bass Federation
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Cell: 603-315-7451

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SB 89 in a nutshell

- The NH loon population has been steadily increasing since the counts were started in 1975. The count was up again in 2012. We do not have a loon population problem that needs a legislative “fix”.
- Out of 638 adult loons in NH, 5.3 birds on average die each year from lead toxicosis.
- These lead objects could be ammunition, small lead sinkers, or small leadhead jigs – some of which have been on the lake bottom for centuries.
- Some of these 5.3 loons pick these smaller lead objects off the bottom of the lake because they are the same size as the bird’s preferred grit.
- Some of these 5.3 loons eat a small fish that has a small sinker or small jig in it.
- We **already** have RSA 211:13-b (2000) that prohibits the sale and use of small jigs and sinkers that are being found in these birds.
- It is highly unlikely that the larger traditional bass fishing jigs are a significant factor because they are too big to be mistaken for grit and small fish can’t even get these big jigs in their mouths.
- SB 89 goes over the regulatory top by wanting to ban **all** of the larger traditional bass fishing jigs and tube lures. This bill is just another prime example of wanting to over regulate the 238,000+ people who fish in New Hampshire every year.
- There is no scientific proof that these large bass and mackerel jigs are a significant (or any) problem.
- On Feb. 5, 2013 the NH Fish & Game Commission voted unanimously to oppose SB 89. The Commission voted to oppose a similar bill last year also. Last year the House voted to send the bill to Interim Study and wanted a comprehensive and positive educational campaign rather than a new more restrictive law.
- We need to do a better job of educating out-of-state adults and kids on how to catch fish without using small leadhead jigs, sinkers, or old fishing line that easily breaks.

Dick Smith

Hancock, NH