

# NEW HAMPSHIRE BASS FEDERATION

AN AFFILIATE OF TBF/FLW - PARTNERS IN FISHING

## March 2013 MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting called to order: 7:01PM

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

### Treasurers Report:

- Dave could not make this meeting

### Vice Presidents Report:

- We need to start thinking about sites for fishing line recycle containers.

### Conservations Report:

- Lead bill has made it to the House **please see attached for message from Dick Smith located at the conclusion of these notes.**
- Guys are still needed to step up and testify on a few topics. If interested please get in touch with Dick Smith. He will provide you will information and speaking points if you would like.
- This bill will hurt recreational fishing and every one of our members financially.
- Legislative bill up in Maine similar to NHs. The loon committee has their targets set on these two states in particular due to the amount of loons living on border lakes.
- SB89 is over the top! Science does not support this bill.

### Presidents Report:

#### *Old Business*

- \$2,500 raised from super bowl squares check has been sent over to Dave for deposit in the State Team account.
- Solar Bat re-upped w/ federation 25% off higher grade sun glasses if you are interested please contact Joe Spinello for the discount code.
- There is a water skiing group/league in New Hampshire that wants to build a water skiing course. The course would be placed on Merrymeeting Lake and submerged 10 feet below the water's surface when not in use.
  - This was brought to our attention by a local trout/salmon angler who wanted us to create a letter opposing the placement of this. The reason for him asking our help is it causes a problem for anglers wanting to troll and use downriggers for trout/salmon.
  - After some discussion at the meeting it was decided that the majority did not want to get involved in this. The general consensus was we have a big enough fight on our hands right now with this lead ban proposal.

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## *New Business*

- Spring open coming up April 28th on Winnepesaukee out of Center Harbor.
- There will be a golf tournament this spring to help raise funds for the State team.
  - Event will take place June 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - 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.
- John Foster Bass Nation requested we mention the high school fishing event on May 9<sup>th</sup>
  - We were considered, but Bass Nation was ultimately chosen to hold the High School fishing event.
  - This is a great thing to get more of our youth into the sport.
- Spoke with Harry at Center Harbor, all set for spring, fall opens and STQT
- Good luck to Jim Hanatow and Ryan Richardson @ nationals on Grand Lake in OK.
- If any TBF board member or state team member could take charge of the trailer who lives up in the lakes region please contact us. It would save a lot of wear and tear on the trailer.
  - If they can just store it on their property we can arrange for pickup before our events.

## **General Discussion:**

-Justin Brigham

- Looking into starting a soft plastic recycle program in New Hampshire.
- This idea was inspired by an article in BASS a few months ago.
  - Justin got in touch and spoke with the gentleman in the article who would be receiving our used plastic baits and getting them reincorporated into other products. This would be a non-profit venture and would promote recycling of these used baits, as well as provide us with a good image to the general public.

Next Meeting: April 23rd, 2013 Webinar

Meeting Adjourned: 7:39PM

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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 Directo  
New Hampshire Bass Federation  
[d-smith@worldpath.net](mailto:d-smith@worldpath.net)  
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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