

ELOSTA Monthly Membership meeting

Thursday April 28, 2005

Minutes

(Also available on www.elosta.org)

- President Charlie Ames called the second 2005 monthly meeting of the Eastern Lake Ontario Salmon and Trout Association (ELOSTA) to order at 7:00 PM. on Thursday April 28. This was the first ELOSTA meeting held at “THE LODGE” meeting room in the Gander Mountain store at the I-81 exit in Cicero. Subsequent monthly meetings will be held in the lodge on the third Wednesday of the month.

- President Ames motioned that the March 16th minutes be accepted as written. That motion was seconded and approved by the 38 members in attendance.

- Treasurer Tom Lott presented his Financial Report for the period March 02, 2005 – April 25, 2005. Checks written to Libby Lougnot for the April Newsletter, Post Master for stamps, bank fees, and PIP Printing totaled \$581.21. Deposits from the raffle and dues and a DEC 2004 camp refund totaled \$517.00. ELOSTA’s total funds currently stand at \$8849.96. The Net-Pen account remains at \$1819.59. Tom’s report was accepted by Gerry L. as presented, seconded by Paul Phillips, and approved from the floor. Copies of Tom’s report were handed out to the officers present.

- At 7:15 Charlie turned the meeting over to Gerry Bresadola who spoke briefly about brown trout activity on the lake. In general the fishing has been great – everyone is catching fish. The main element to a successful day is finding the warmest water around. Generally, these areas are near the mouths of tributaries and the Oswego River. At the present time that temperature ranges from 44 - 50 degrees.

The second piece of the puzzle is properly working the relatively shallow stained near-shore water or “mud-line” that is emerging from the streams. Stay out of the muddy stuff and go with the adjacent greenish colored water. It’s ok to move in and out of the brown drifts but run orange if you do. Don’t troll in a straight line. Zigzag in and out and circle . This also creates a different presentation (speed) at the outside boards. Gerry uses in-line boards on one side of the boat and a big board on the other side to handle lighter line weights. The erratic track of the in-line boards generally produces better results

The best producers have been Smithwick stick baits in black/white and blue/silver with orange bellies. Mix things up – don’t leave the same spoon down there all day – constantly experiment with size and color. He will remove unproductive lures about every 10 -15 minutes. The browns seem to prefer light swivels but, you never know when you will need something heavier? Fish shallow and drop the lures back to around 200 feet.

- At this point Gerry introduced Flora Johnson who worked with him to describe and set-up a computerized audience participation program that he is working on. Essentially, the presentation entitled “The Fish Bowl” utilizes a laptop computer, remote inputs, and a digital projector, and screen. A question pertaining to fish and fishing Lake Ontario is flashed up on the screen . The question is followed by a list of five multiple choice answers that are answered with corresponding numbers on the remote. The response time is only 18 seconds so the

quickest (finger) on the button with the correct answer takes the most points. The computer projects the accumulated points for each remote along with the percentage of correct answers for all to see and jeer.

The members attending were divided up into teams and the fun began. A few “I didn’t know that” and “that’s the wrong answer” mumbles could be heard. However, Gerry made it clear that he selected the questions and his decision was final. Charlie and the membership thanked Gerry and Flora for a very entertaining evening.

- Charlie returned to the business of the meeting and asked for a show of hands from those who were attending their first meeting. There were eight.

- Tom Lott mentioned his experience in one of DEC’s walleye netting boats on Oneida Lake. He said one pass into the main net would produce a dip net full of mature walleye. In his words “that lake has be full of fish”. Perhaps DEC’s cormorant control efforts are working. There was also some discussion of the size limit that has been returned 18 to 15 inches.

- Mac spoke briefly about our web poll concerning the option of emailing the Newsletter to save money. There were a few responses all in favor of email; however, not enough to support the change. One member suggested we pose the question of preference in the Newsletter and do it both ways. The issue was tabled until the Board has an opportunity to review it.

- The Cape Vincent walleye rearing ponds are cleaned, disinfected, fertilized , and ready to receive 500,000 fish from the Constantia Hatchery when the become available. It is hoped that numbers in excess of 300,000 fish will survive to end up in Lake Ontario.

- Dan Bishop reviewed the proposed regulations pertaining to the steelhead size limit, an early catch and release bass season on Ontario, taking one slot lake trout, and delaying the bass season opener on the St Lawrence. According to Dan, a notice for the 45 day review and comment period will be issued sometime this fall. In the meantime DEC will continue to accept comments – preferably new ideas or thoughts. Dan also thanked those who participated in the Oswego Walleye Diary program. A copy of Dan’s summary was given to Mac for inclusion on ELOSTA’s website.

It appears that DEC will be hiring a couple of new technicians at the Salmon River Hatchery.

- The Oswego River net-pens are in the water. Forty thousand Chinooks and 20,000 steelhead will be delivered form Altmar on April 29.

- Charlie thanked all those who attended the meeting and called attention to our curfew at 9:00 when the store closes. Gander Mountain has provided us with a fine facility and it’s a great place to browse and shop. *Mac MacKenzie*