

## **ELOSTA Monthly Membership meeting**

Wednesday October 19, 2005

### **Minutes**

(Also available on [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org))

- President Charlie Ames called the eighth and final 2005 monthly meeting to order at 7:15 PM at the N.Y. S. fish hatchery in Altmar. Twenty three members/guests braved the winds of October to hear the latest updates on DEC's stream, lake, and hatchery programs. Other officers present included Vice President Doug Fuegel and Treasurer Tom Lott. Mac MacKenzie served in his capacity of Secretary.
- As the first order of business Charlie motioned to accept the minutes for the last meeting as presented by Mac MacKenzie in the September Newsletter. There were no objections or comments. - his motion was seconded and carried.
- Charlie noted that this would be our last meeting of the year and as such, it was election time. He expressed concern over the lack of interest shown by the membership and asked the somewhat reluctant incumbents to remain in office. Charlie pointed out that "the head table was getting a little long in the tooth and new blood would be desirable". There were no responses to his query concerning nominations from the floor. However, the motion to continue with the current slate of officers was quickly seconded and unanimously carried.
- Treasurer Tom Lott read the Financial Report for the period September 21 – October 17, 2005. Checks written to Libby Lougnot (editing), Ecommpass Printing, refreshments, Postmaster (box), and Charlie Ames totaled \$674.86. ELOSTA's net savings account (\$7,329.42) and checking account (\$1,061.18) total \$8,390.60. The Net-Pen account remains at \$1,819.59. The motion to accept Tom's report, as presented above, was seconded and carried. Copies of the report were distributed to the officers and made available for the members.
- Doug Fuegel reported that the St. Lawrence Study Board had sent him a letter thanking Elosta for supporting the "Plan B" option in the ongoing St Lawrence River/Lake Ontario water level management studies. However, upon considering the concerns raised at public hearings, the various entities involved in the studies have elected to go back to the drawing board to consider further modifications. At this time the consensus of opinion is to retain the current water level rule curve.  
  
Doug also contacted DEC 's regarding their overdue response to Elosta's request for a refund . One of our candidates for summer camp in 2004 had to cancel out due to ill health. DEC has promised that the check will be forthcoming.
- Tom Lott briefly spoke about his recent trip to North Carolina. He said we don't know how good we have it in New York State. Anglers will spend hours in the surf down there and feel satisfied if they managed to land a small bluefish. It's not uncommon to have just one or two fish landed in a day of tournament fishing.

- Scott Prindle recently transferred from Cape Vincent to fill Dan Bishop's former biologist position in Region 7. Scott followed up on the initial report concerning the loss of the Allegheny Hatchery as a source of lake trout for the 2006 stocking effort in Lake Ontario. The discovery of Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis (IPN) requires the destruction of all fish and the sterilization of the hatchery. NYS will make up a small part of the loss of its entire 2006 allocation by redirecting some NYS fish stocks designated for Lake Champlain and other inland lakes. Plans are also being made to provide other Federal hatcheries with extra eggs from the finger lakes to help off-set the 2007 deficit.

At the present time any available lake trout for the 2006-07 period will be stocked in the area of Olcott (Western Basin) to maximize survivability and recruitment.

Scott also mentioned DEC's Tributary Angler Survey that will take place from mid-September through mid-May. This is the first major study to be undertaken in a number of years and angler cooperation is encouraged. Areas of interest include numbers of anglers, demographics, and the numbers of fish and species caught.

Scott provided a brief synopsis of the "1985 -2005 September Monthly Summary" obtained from DEC fishing censuses. In general the 05 boat trip number is up over 03 and 04. But, it is still the third lowest showing for the 85 – 05 period. As expected, the salmon take was up over 03-04 due to the availability of fish and a strong early and late season turn out. Coho and brown trout takes remain about the same while Steelhead and Atlantic success rates continue to decline. Smallmouth and perch were down while the walleye catch is at an all time high.

- Fran Verdoliva (DEC hatchery) reported that aquatic and terrestrial habitat assessment studies pertinent to the management of development and accessibility along the Salmon River are progressing nicely. The inclusion of the whole watershed is being considered.

The new boat launch on Redfield Reservoir is nearing completion. Work has been temporarily stopped by high water levels.

DEC is working with NIMO to develop access and trails on their property along the Salmon River.

DEC is removing flood flow deposits and realigning a short segment of the Salmon River in an effort to encourage greater numbers of fish to use Beaver Dam Brook.

Hunting and Fishing day at the hatchery was a success with a good turnout and many encouraging comments. Hopefully, it will continue to improve each year.

The Senate bill concerning the transport of invasive species in bilge water of incoming ships is currently stalled. The shipping interests are pushing for a watered down version (literally).

The Federal promise of allocating 20 billion dollars to Great Lakes cleanup and improvement programs has been tabled due to reallocations to cover the high cost of hurricane Katrina.

- Andy Gruelich (DEC hatchery) reported that the water in the Salmon River is unusually warm for this time of year. However, the ladder is full and they decided to start taking eggs the

day after Columbus Day. They took 3.2 million in a 2 day period. On the 18<sup>th</sup> they started on the 400 Coho that were ripening in a adult holding tank. He noted that fish seem to ripen later each year. They are also selecting fish from the ladder to reach the 1.5 million target. So far they have handled 6,000 fish. The usual 10,000 fish shouldn't be a problem.

In response to a question from the floor concerning the potential for disease. Andy explained the use of iodine and erythromycin in preventative treatment baths for Cohos.

They had a good spring take of steelhead . However, the skamania are being kept in adult holding tanks until the arrival of winter and cold water. At that time the eggs will be handled separately. Apparently there are no identifiers on the skamania to determine the influence of the Little Salmon River netpen.

DEC will be rehabilitating 3 deep wells this fall to further augment the hatchery's cold water supply.

- The general consensus of those present at the meeting is: "Everything that can reasonable be done to mange the resource is being done." Noting that we are at the mercy of Mother Natures variables – we cant' expect any more than that.
- At 8:45 PM Charlie thanked those who attended and reminded everyone that this was our last meeting for the year. Hopefully, we will see most of you at our booth at the Northeastern Sports Show which runs from January 27 – 28. [www.northeasternsportsshow.com](http://www.northeasternsportsshow.com) ..... *Mac MacKenzie*

## **NYS Sporting Licenses On-line**

Sportsmen can now obtain resident and non-resident hunting and fishing licenses on line. No last minute hassles the evening you leave on your big trip or plan to enter a derby. It's painless – did it myself . All it takes is the answers to a few simple questions concerning an applicant's ID and eligibility. If you enter last years ID from your current license the blanks are already filled in. The opportunity to print out a temporary license that is effective immediately is a real handy feature. Log on to DEC's home site or hit the green button on ELOSTA's "On The Lake Page". [www.elosta.org](http://www.elosta.org) . *Mac*