

ELOSTA Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday September 17, 2008

Minutes

(Also available at www.elosta.org)

Vice President Doug Fuegel called the seventh monthly meeting of the 2008 summer season to order at 7:05 PM in the Lodge Room at Gander Mountain's Cicero store. Twenty nine members/guests attended the meeting. Mac MacKenzie acted in his capacity as Secretary.

Doug called attention to an error in the Aug, 20 meeting minutes. He noted that ELOSTA contributed \$300 to the new net pen project at Fair Haven ... not Newfane as written. Mac MacKenzie made note of the change and Doug motioned to accept the minutes of the July 16th meeting as corrected. His motion was seconded and unanimously carried by the members present.

Treasurer Tom Lott's Report for the period August 20 – September 17, 2008 listed a beginning balance of \$15,334.91 for the period. Deposits from dues and fees totaled \$347.25. Debits included \$300 for the Fair Haven net pens, \$50 for a get well gift to Charlie Ames, \$48 to NL editor Libby loughnot, and \$350 to Encompass Printing. There was no activity in the Pro Am net pen account which remains at \$918.17. ELOSTA's current combined savings account, checking account, and net pen account totals \$14,015.15. Tom also called attention to the Fair Haven/Newfane error in the minutes; and, to the serious ongoing medical problems confronting Charlie Ames. The motion to accept the report as presented was seconded and carried.

Doug then introduced New York Sea Grant Fisheries Specialist Dave McNeill who addressed a few of the more obvious concerns regarding the introduction and presence of invasive species into our waters. Dave emphasized a continued need to identify and address effective measures to control the establishment competitive threats from exotic species.

However, he also noted that eco systems are resilient and often quick to adapt to a new influence. The Northern Snakehead, for example, had continually expanded its range in the Potomac River with little or no impact on existing fisheries to date. In another instance commercial fishermen and the gelatin industry are utilizing the skin and bones of large numbers of Asian Carp taken from the Illinois River. Dan Bishop advised the members that no cases of VHS were identified in NYS during 2008.

Dave has also been involved in research concerning the potential for global warming impacts on coastal fisheries and water supply etc. In this endeavor Dave has found that a lot of the published information regarding this subject is simply not true. The earth has warmed one degree in 100 years but, that recorded data commenced at the time of the mini ice age ... another extreme. Dave suggested that members interested in this

phenomenon take it upon themselves to dig into their computers for more credible facts. The resignation of Roy Spencer from NASA would be a good starting point.

Closer to home Dave pointed out that Sea Grant is also studying the contributions of bottom trawls to our data base and how to make them more effective.

Dan Bishop again noted that there were no fish kills attributed to VHS in 2008.

He reported that DEC had used Rotenone to remove snakeheads from a pond in southeastern NY. Treating the pond was no big deal. It is common practice to reclaim significant habitats for indigenous species that have been crowded out by introduced pickerel, blue gills, baitfish, etc. Pesticide applicators usually involved in lamprey control had to be assembled from other regions to perform the work.

Two large Coho weighing in at 34lbs.-10oz. and 34lbs.-6oz. were submitted to DEC as possible record breaking fish. All the external appearances indicated that the fish were indeed Coho. The number of fin rays fell into an acceptable bracket for both fish and they even passed the tail gripping test. However, an analysis of the pyloric caeca (wormlike appendages at the back of the stomach) said otherwise. The count fell into a higher than normal range for coho. Final determination ... the fish were hybrids. Dan submitted a written draft of his findings to the Secretary.

A poll of the members present confirmed that fishing on the big lake has slowed considerable ... as it did last season at this time. Finding the fish has been a problem. There is some speculation that they are coming inshore at night in small numbers and are going directly into the river. The story is the same west of Oswego. Oneida Lake reports are replete with complaints concerning the masses of floating weeds. It seems the surface of the entire lake is covered with them. Trolling in this mess is next to impossible but, on the other hand, vertical presentations with slip bobbers are producing a lot of walleye and perch. Roy Hunsberger reported that the salmon fishing is tough but he has had a modicum of luck with steelhead.

Bill Lefancheck outlined the various activities and events currently being sponsored or supported by the Oswego County Federation. As with all volunteer programs money from grants and donations is in short supply. Doug noted that ELOSTA usually contributes \$1 dollar per member on an annual basis to the NYS Conservation Council. Bill suggested that we invite one of their Reps. to speak at a monthly meeting.

DEC will hold its annual open house at the Altmar Hatchery on September 27th. ELOSTA will have tees, sweatshirts, and applications available for sale at the main entrance.

Doug Fuegel reminded everyone that ELOSTA's eighth and final meeting of the season will convene at 7PM on October 15, at the Altmar Fish Hatchery. He then entered a motion to close the meeting at 8:10 PM. That motion was seconded and carried. **Mac MacKenzie**