



Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers

PO Box 2051, Fall River, Nova Scotia, Canada B2T 1K6

**NEWSLETTER - December 2005**



## Presidents message

Well, it's that time of the year. The boats and fishing gear are put away and we're freezing cold with snow up to our butts. With Christmas drawing near, maybe some new tackle under the tree will cheer us up!

This year has passed so fast I can't believe it's over. At this time I would like to thank all the members that helped me along the way. Thank You!

On behalf of all (CASA) members and myself, we wish Michael Robinson a speedy recovery from the hospital and condolences to Ken Enta and Family on the passing of his father (King). He will be missed by all. Our thoughts are with you.

In closing I hope to see everyone in the near future, after all, fishing season is only 4 months away!

Seasons Greetings to all,

Martin Dodge

## Review of the October Meeting

Attendance for our October meeting was low, but expectedly-so as the preceding Ironman tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather. Meeting minutes are as follows:

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### **CASA AGM – Sunday, October 16th 2005**

#### **Location: Grand Lake Fire Hall**

Preceding the meeting Ken Entas famous chili and seafood chowder was served.

The President opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. with 13 members present.

Brief discussion about the run off from the Dartmouth Crossing Project into Lake Mic Mac.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer

Mid-year Financial Report as presented by Tony R (following).

Operating account balance \$3,407.09.  
 Capital account balance \$2,718.84.  
 CASA FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF October 16th / 05  
 Balance as of March 31st /05 \$3991.63  
 Income for period \$4044.70  
 Expenses for period \$4730.15  
 Interest for period .91  
 Balance as of October 16th /05 \$3307.09  
 Float \$ 100.00  
 Total On-hand \$3407.09

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Capital Account \$2718.84

Reduction in the general account balance this summer was mostly the result of poor attendance at a few tournaments.

Tournament

Report from Eddie Halfyard - Director.

Tournament payout for this years tournaments resulted in a reduction in the operating account, as attendance at Black River and Porters Lake didn't cover the set prize structure payout.

The format used this year, prizes awarded to boat and not individual as in the past worked well. The format will be used again for next years' tournament payout.

We may need to re-arrange CASA tournament schedule for next year. Maybe have the early tournament on Morris Lake. Possibly eliminate Porters Lake due to poor catches. Tony R commented that we fish the lakes that we do mainly due to parking and access. Ed commented that maybe the long drive on the road to the launch to fish Little River Lake seems to be an issue with many of the anglers.

Marty D suggested that maybe all of next years Tournaments be held on lakes within HRM.

Ed suggested schedule may be, Early May – Morris Lake, July –grand Lake, Panuke Lake in September and the Iron Man in October on grand Lake.

Few other suggestions, Ken Roberts suggested maybe go to Shortt's Lake. Brian Naugle suggested maybe substituting Shortt's for the Morris lake Tournament.

Tony made comment that maybe CASA has to do a better job promoting its tournaments and also reminded members about the NS Fishing League as put forward by Michael Robinson which would be a great way to get kids involved in fishing.

Brain Naugle made motion to use Shortt's Lake for tournament, Ed will check with Fisheries on permit.

Marty Dodge said the tournament schedule and lake choices should be brought forward to the Spring AGM.

Ken R suggested that if Shortt's lake is used maybe CASA should do some promotion in the Truro area.

Ken E states that the Halifax Wildlife association made an offer to CASA to use their advertising medium to promote tournaments. Ed will pursue with Ken E who will find contact for that association.

### Initiatives

Lead Ban – Tony Robinson stated that there doesn't seem to be much of the lead ban proposal that have been pushed forward. Possibly only way to get this done is an outright ban on lead.

Grand Lake Launch Repairs -- Mike Hanusiak going to Contact DNR about repairs to the walkway. Tony indicated executive should have some answers by spring Meeting. Ed suggested that DNR should fix this, as the launch is theirs.

Executive

Tony's term as treasurer will be completed at the end of Oct 05. Position open and needs to be filled. Maybe put vacancy on CASA web site.

Marty Dodge indicated that he is not re-offering as president for next year.

Brain Naugle volunteered to take on the president's roll in 2006 with Tony indicating that he will serve as Vice President. Brian indicates that his main focus will be the club itself, keeping CASA a good organization. Other clubs are having issues with executive replacements and as stated by Ian Andrews CASA doesn't have the interesting conflicts that some other clubs are having.

Tony suggested that there needs to be 2 mail outs, one in December and one in February. Ken Roberts suggested that the club needs a good method of contacting members in case of a tournament cancellation. Maybe use web site or maybe phone committee.

### RV Show

All members should be contacted to seek more help with the both, etc.. Ken Roberts volunteered to look after the RV show.

Brain N suggested that CASA needs someone to co-ordinate raffles etc. Tony commented that nobody is looking after these things currently, but in the past when everybody looked after something, everything worked at its best.

### New Business

AGM tentative date for 2006 will be April 9 at the Grand Lake Fire Hall. Ed Halfyard volunteered to take the lead role to organize the AGM. Ian Andrews and Brain N. will provide assistance.

Date for the next executive meeting will be determined with notice sent out by e-mail.

Meeting Adjourned.

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## Tournament Scene: Year-end

All in all, the 2005 season provided decent fishing at each of our tournaments (I hear the chuckles!). Good weather was another issue. With the May tournament being a monsoon, the Porters lake tournament gusting to 65 km/h and the Ironman being cancelled all together because of a hurricane, we have certainly seen better conditions. However, CASA anglers are a hearty bunch, and the average weight of fish brought to the scales was on par with previous years.

Attendance this past year was less than desirable and we did not realize a financial gain. In fact, money was been lost. As tournaments and the AGM auction are the two main money makers for the club, this should concern us. The bass angling community as a whole appears to be experiencing a province-wide depression in angler participation. However, we anticipate resurgence in the near future and look forward to the trend being reversed in 2006!

## 2006 Tournament season

At the October meeting, it was discussed that a possible reason for low attendance was the location of some tournaments. With the majority of our current membership residing in the HRM, it was proposed that we concentrate on HRM lakes, thus avoiding log treks to the valley. It was generally agreed upon and lakes discussed. The issue of unsuitable lakes within HRM is a problem and it was suggested that perhaps one tournament be fished at Shortts lake. A potential schedule is as follows:

Date	Lake	Event
May 7 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Morris lake	Icebreaker - Pickerel & Bass
July 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2006	Grand lake	Season Opener
Aug. 13 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Shortts lake	Mid-Summer Sizzler
Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Panuke lake	Early Autumn show-down
Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Grand Lake	Ironman

**Please note.** These dates and locations are still subject to Inland fisheries approval. Also, members are encouraged to comment/suggest schedule changes for the 2006 season.

The response to the past years tournament format was well received and plans are to continue the “By-the-boat” format. Prize structure and awards are slated to remain the same as 2005.

## CASA's Future

At the time of this newsletter, it appears as though our sister club, the Nova Bassmasters, has landed on tough times. It is shame to see such a fine club go and the Nova Scotia bass fishing community will undoubtedly miss them should they not return. We wish their executive, past and present, well!

On the steps of Nova's challenges, CASA members must take note of the potential for our club to follow the same path. We have on several occasions recently sent a plea for members to sit on the executive. These rewarding positions require little time and ensure the continued existence of our club. Ask yourself what CASA has done for you over the years. Be it the comradely of the club, the joy of tournament fishing or the many contributions CASA has made to regulation and management of our sport, CASA is a major part of Nova Scotia Smallmouth fishing. Ask yourself what you can do to ensure that this tradition of meeting new anglers, laughing at old tales and of course bassin' continues into the future. If you haven't already, maybe it's time to give back! Nominations accepted before and at the AGM.

**CASA is still in need of a treasurer for the 2006 season. This position is not overly time consuming but is an integral part of our executive. Please give thought to volunteering!**

## Catch and Release Awards

As per usual, CASA members successfully catching and releasing a Smallmouth either in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick are eligible to enter the Catch and release award. As the current format allows for multiple entries, don't be afraid to enter all qualifying fish to up your odds. I know that everyone has landed their share of lunkers this season so enter as often as you like. Entries are to be sent to Martin Dodge before the Sport & R.V. show!

\*\* Please refer to the attached form.

## Things to look forward to

As everyone knows, time, and even winter, seems to fly by. Before long, the spring thaw will be happening and it will be time to re-spool those reels. In the not-to-distant future, the Sport & RV show will be on, closely followed by our AGM. It's time to start thinking about both!

### Sport & RV Show

This year the Sport & RV show will again be held in March, 2006! Be sure to make time to visit, as the annual show at the Exhibition grounds will surely have something for everyone. CASA will again have a booth set up and **Ken Roberts** has volunteered to be the organizer. I know that Ken will be looking for volunteers to work the booth, so if interested, please contact Ken at **455-5681**! The show is a time to meet

fishing friends, old and new, as well as do your part in introducing CASA to those who may not be familiar with our club. We hope to see you there.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, popular as ever, will be held on **Sunday, April 9, 2006** (tentatively) at the Grand Lake Community Hall. Activities, as usual will commence at 10 am, with the business meeting followed by lunch at 12 am. There will be another mail-out prior to the AGM with further details.

If you have any items that you wish discussed at the annual meeting please contact **Eddie Halfyard** at **864-1972** or e-mail at [eahalfyard@hotmail.com](mailto:eahalfyard@hotmail.com)

### **Things to keep in mind for the AGM →**

#### Junior Members

It has been our custom at the end of the AGM, to award prizes and have a little fun for the top five juniors of the year. This year, with our revised format, juniors will be recognized for their participation. Again, we are looking for your kind donations for those junior members. If you have anything in mind, large or small, please contact Eddie Halfyard at 864-1972 or [eahalfyard@hotmail.com](mailto:eahalfyard@hotmail.com)

#### Nominations for the Bill Howard Memorial Award (Member of the Year)

-This prestigious honor is given each year to a Member of CASA who in the opinion of the Executive of the Board and Members has made a substantial contribution to the Association.

Please contact Eddie Halfyard at 864-1972 or [eahalfyard@hotmail.com](mailto:eahalfyard@hotmail.com)

#### Nominations for the Bob Dechman Memorial Conservation Award

-Awarded annually to an individual, group or organization that is not a member of CASA but has made an outstanding and recognizable contribution to the sport fishery. Does not get awarded every year.

Please contact Eddie Halfyard at 864-1972 or [eahalfyard@hotmail.com](mailto:eahalfyard@hotmail.com)

### Member info – some interesting tidbits

In this section, interesting tidbits of information on some of our members can be found. Feel free to send us your “tidbits” for the next newsletter.

**Dave / Angela Doggett** – Dave, the creator of the successful [Novascotiafishing.com](http://Novascotiafishing.com) and [Novascotiahunting.com](http://Novascotiahunting.com) has recently launched two more sites:

**[www.newbrunswickfishing.com](http://www.newbrunswickfishing.com)** and **[www.newbrunswickhunting.com](http://www.newbrunswickhunting.com)**. As many CASA members frequently fish and hunt in New Brunswick, these sites will be of interest. We wish Dave all the best with his endeavors.

Also, Dave and Angela Doggett are expecting their first child near the start of the 2006 fishing season. – Congratulations!

### **Michael Robinson –**

**Brian/Brenda Naugle** - As many may know, Brian and Brenda Naugle head down to Florida at this time of year. Much of their time is spent fishing the states central lakes, catching monster bucket-mouths. Be sure to listen in to on some interesting stories when they get back.

**Art Gaetan** – One of our charter members, Art Gaetan, runs a successful shark fishing charter out of Eastern Passage. I (Eddie Halfyard) had the opportunity to fish with him and Dave Doggett this past September. In one word – Amazing! Consider booking an outing this coming year. Art indicates another successful year with 177 shark being caught, the largest being over 350 lbs! Also, the largest caught on a fly rod, yes fly rod, was 162 lbs.

**Howard Martell** - Howard Martell has plans on initiating a tournament trail in 2006. Word is that 9 tournament will be held, mainly on central-Nova Scotia lakes. We wish Howard the best of luck with the new series.

**Randy DesChamps** – Randy has been a member since 1993 and has been active on the tournament scene, often placing! Randy has recently moved to Ontario for work-related reasons. We wish him all the best and hope that his return to CASA is not far off.

### **Special note**

In 2006, we will attempt to establish an electronic mailing system for our newsletters. This will speed delivery, cut down on mailing costs and also deliver newsletters in a new format. Please take note that on the 2006 membership forms there is a space reserved for the newsletter e-mail option. If you are interested in receiving your newsletters via e-mail please indicate so and include your e-mail address. Traditional paper mail-outs will be sent for those not included in the e-mail list.

### **Contact us!**

Don't forget, you can always access up-to-date CASA information, day or night, on the webpage [www.novascotiafishing.com/clubs/casa/](http://www.novascotiafishing.com/clubs/casa/) , or enter via [www.novascotiafishing.com](http://www.novascotiafishing.com) ! All executive contact information and more can be found on this page.

**We wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year. Take care!**



## Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers

I, \_\_\_\_\_, declare:

1. That I caught a Smallmouth bass by legal angling methods on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

2. That the bass was \_\_\_\_\_ inches and the girth was \_\_\_\_\_ inches.  
(Closed mouth, pinched tail)

3. That the fish was caught in a public lake or watershed known as:

\_\_\_\_\_ and successfully released in the same body of water.  
(Lake or Watershed)

I declare the above statement to be true and correct. Dated the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2005.

Signature of Declarant: \_\_\_\_\_

### Certificate

I, \_\_\_\_\_, certify that I was present and witnessed

\_\_\_\_\_ measure a Smallmouth bass which had a length

of \_\_\_\_\_ inches and a girth of \_\_\_\_\_ inches.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Witness)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Address of Witness)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Telephone Number)

Carry this form in your tackle box!



<p><b>CASA</b>  <b>2006 MEMBERSHIP</b>  <b>FORM</b></p>
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PO Box 2051, Fall River, Nova Scotia, Canada B2T 1K6

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Province:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

(To receive electronic newsletters)

**Res. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bus. Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:**                      **New**                      **Renewal**  
 (Circle one)

Senior \$15.00

Junior \$7.50 (16 & under)

Family \$25.00

The Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers (CASA) was formed in 1988 to serve and enhance the habitat for Smallmouth bass; to share the friendship, camaraderie, and experience of our fellow anglers; to support and improve those conservation measures that allow a self-sustaining Smallmouth bass fishery; and to extend courtesy and respect to all who share our waters.

When you join CASA and support these important conservation measures, you will receive a CASA crest, membership card, and quarterly newsletters, as well as the right to attend seminars, tournaments, the annual meeting and more. Family groups and junior members are cordially welcome.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, will faithfully observe all provincial angling regulations, abide by the ethics covered under CASA's rules, regulations, by-laws and constitution.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Junior Angler (Guardian's Signature)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_