

**MINUTES OF THE
CASA GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 2009
GRAND LAKE FIRE HALL**

OPENING REMARKS

President, Eddie Halfyard opened the meeting at 10:30 am and welcomed all attendees to the AGM (65 members and guests present). He stated that members should be proud of CASA for all its successes and that CASA has reached its 20th anniversary. Eddie made comments that it was a good time to reflect on CASA past successes and give some thought to the future. Eddie has enjoyed his time up to this point as a member and looks forward to the years to come. He joined the Club through the encouragement of Alan & Jennifer Robb and CASA has been played a big role in his angling experiences. Some changes have been made over the winter to the newsletter format, has a more modern look. CASA is changing the process of delivery of newsletters and notices from standard mail to electronic (email and website). For members that do not have email they will need to indicate an alternate method to receive these items. Also Eddie gave a quick update on the launch proposal for Second Lake in Sackville. The proposal is continuing but the process is moving along very slowly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer – Tony Robison

Tony stated that in the current account has a balance of about \$3900 which is a little bit below the historical level of about \$4200. One reason was that requirement of CASA to have liability insurance in order to be able to have a booth in the Sport & RV show. The cost of this to CASA was \$400 a year. The other account (launch) has a balance of \$2200 which can be used for the Second Lake launch when approved. Approval process for these launches is not easily obtained. The financial statements will be posted along with the minutes in the CASA section on website www.novascotiafishing.com.

Conservation

No report

Tournaments – Howard Martell

(In Howard's absence Eddie Halfyard submitted report)

2008 tournament produced results that were a little below the break even point. A new prize format will be up for discussion. Also at the at the Fall meeting Transport Canada will be attend to go over boating safety.

Announced tournament schedule dates for 2009 as follows:

Mic Mac Lake – June 14 -7AM to 1PM

Grand Lake – July 1 (Wednesday) - 8AM to 2PM

Black Rive/Little River – July - 19 7AM to 1PM

Panuke Lake – September 13 - 7AM to 1PM

Shortts Lake - Oct 11 (Annual Iron man Tournament) - 8AM to 1PM

Changes to the Tournament Payout format for 2009 will be as follows:

Current Payout: \$250 for 1st, \$175 for 2nd, \$125 for 3rd, \$75 for 4th & 5th places and \$200 for Lunker totaling \$900. New 2009 prize format will be \$300 for 1st, \$200 for 2nd, \$100 for 3rd and \$200 for Lunker totaling \$800, \$100 saving for CASA. The Cash in Cash out tournaments such as the Iron man will be the same as before.

CASA is also looking at a weigh in water system to improve the handling of fish during tournament weigh in. Exploring the options and prices for such a scale. Most of those that meet the requirements have a cost of about \$900 to \$1000. Cost is associated with the fact that a scale that can weigh upwards of 150lb and can give weights to 2 decimal places making for more expense. Need a scale of this capacity because along with the fish there is the weight of the water that also needs to be considered.

Membership

Dave Devenney reported that membership numbers were down from last year. 2008 had 115 members which have been in the general range of member numbers for the last several years.

NEW BUSINESS

There have been some changes to CASA web site hosted by Dave Doggett's novascotiafishing.com site. A dedicated discussion form has been created for CASA and administrative rights have been granted to allow document update and posting notices without sending to Dave. CASA appreciates the work Dave Doggett has put into this function.

Eddie reported that the initial problem with the Short's Lake fish ladder has been resolved by DFO. Changes were made to the water flow and migrating fish have responded well. Another issue has been reporting concerning juvenile fish that have been getting caught in the thick vegetation around the fish ladder and having dying before they can get out. An Official letter from CASA should be sent to DFO outlining this issue at Shortt's.

OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Murray Hill, Director of NS Dept. Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division stated that it was a pleasure to attend CASA 20th anniversary AGM. He was first introduced to CASA by Ian Andrews who had come to see Murray about some fishing related management issues. CASA has done much work on the Provincial smallmouth bass fishery and most of the bass related programs resulted from work from CASA and a lot of these resulted from the work of Michael Robinson.

Jason Leblanc, Fisheries Biologist, Dept. Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Division thanked CASA for helping with smallmouth bass nesting study. Jason stated that NS has lower nesting rates successes as compared to other areas such as NB. Shortt's lake for

example has one of the lowest nesting rates for which Fisheries will continue to monitor. For the 2009 season, Fisheries will be doing research in the area of how structures help in nesting success or the lack of (example: woody debris along shore lines) and how smallmouth bass use river systems. Will look at such rivers as the Mersey, LaHave and Shubie to name a few. Will try to determine why they use rivers. Also Jason stated the NS dept of Fisheries will be sponsoring a ½ day tournament and ½ discussion. Format will be each club sends about five members who would also be willing to take some new people fishing. This will be a non cash event and currently scheduled for Big Mushamush Lake,

CASA thanked Ed and Eddie Halfyard for all their work on creating the new display board.

Explanation for weigh in water system: Scale would have to be totally water proof. The container that sits on top of the scale will contain a volume of water which the fish are placed in for weighing. Prior to the fish being put in the water the container and water are tarred to zero. When the fish are placed in the water the resulting weight displayed is that of the fish only.

Charles Thomas asked if CASA could pursue purchasing East Coast Series scales from Kevin Venoit. Dave Upright indicated that he had been talking to Kevin and he may sell after he possibly runs one tournament this summer. Comment from Mark Weare that the scale may not have large enough weight capacity to met CASA's requirements. Charles Thomas asked if the later start for the July 1 Grand Lake tournament had anything to do with the parking and permit requirements? Eddie H. responded stating the 8 AM start would allow use to park anywhere and we wouldn't have to get the permission to open park earlier.

Steve Watson stated that the booth at the RV show should have more information display and that we need to offer different prizes that would be more appealing. Comments were noted at the show that people weren't interested in purchasing a ticket on a fish finder because they had no use for it. Many show visitors asked if the ticket were for a draw on the print on the display board. Steve suggested maybe have a few prizes such as a picture and maybe a fishing package (rod and reel). Tony volunteered Steve to pursue these items and Steve accepted.

Eddie asked that if anyone had any digital Photos could they provide copies to CASA. Eddie also Thanked Ken Roberts for his efforts in organizing the RV show booth.

Mark Weare stated that in Dec of 2008 Bass Club presidents/representatives had a meeting to discuss the possibility of forming an organization that will be one voice for all bass fishermen. Would be known as RBANS – Responsible Bass Anglers of Nova Scotia. General concept was to represent bass anglers not necessarily just tournament anglers but all anglers weather they fish tournaments belong to a club or not. Ian Andrew asked why not make it representative of all fishers. Mark indicated that initially was for bass fishermen but could be a Province wide support group. Ken Roberts wanted to know if an individual could become part of this group. Mark stated that they are still writing the by

laws and that information supplied by CASA would be helpful. Main goal is to try to establish across NS representation for the first goal.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Board nominees for 2009:

Eddie Halfyard – President

Dave Devenney – Secretary

Tony Robison – Treasurer and Vice President.

Brian Naugle – Past President

Howard Martell indicated that he would remain as 2009 Tournament director, Marty Dodge and Ian Andrew would be directors at large and Ken Roberts would remain as Social Committee chair and Dave Upright as Junior Chair.

Any other Nominations were put to the floor, no more indicated.

Nominations accepted by membership.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Membership

Awards presented to membership at each 5 year mile stone of continuous membership:

5 Year Membership Awards - Rui Amaral, Joshua Hanusiak, Don MacLean,

10 Year Membership Awards - Christopher Clarke,

15 Year Membership Awards - Andrew Carver, Yves Campagna, Murray Hill,
Donald MacLeod

20 Year Membership Awards – Tony Robinson, Mike Hanusiak, Ted Powell,
Jeff Powell, Gary McLaren, Ian Andrew,
Alan Robb, Jennifer Robb, Martin Dodge

Boat of the Year

Ed and Eddie Halyard – 10 lbs 3 Ounces heaviest tournament weight for 2008 caught in Shortt's lake at the Iron Man tournament.

Lunker of the Year

Ken Sproule – 3 lbs 10 Ounces caught in Lake Mic Mac in the spring tournament

Bill Howard Memorial Award (Member of the Year)

Dave Devenney

Bob Dechman Memorial Trophy (Conservation Award)

No recipient

Junior Awards – Presented by Dave Upright

Juniors were presented with rod & reel combos donated by Shimano (Ian Andrews) and gift certificates from Fish and Fever Tackle store.

20th Anniversary

Tony started the 20th Year of with information about the beginnings of the Club. It was late 1988 or early 1989 that Ian Andrew, Jim Nickerson, Gary McLaren and Tony Robinson talked about having a bass club in the Province. A more formal meeting was held at the White Spot in New Minas on Mar 12, 1989 at which time the beginnings of CASA was formed. Tony told several stories about some of the original members. Members present at the 2009 AGM 20 years later are as follows: Ian Andrew, Tony Robinson, Bill Milligan, Jim Nickerson, Michael Pottier, Garth Hancock, Lawrence Cody, Ted Powell, Mike Hanusiak and Gary McLaren.

After lunch break guest speaker Capt. Art Gatean of Blue Shark Charters took the floor for a very informative session about shark fishing, equipment used, talk about tagging each fish caught and some stories about clients he has had out on charters. Very good presentation and Art was thanked for talking time to do this for the AGM.

Draw for the fish finder that raffle tickets were sold was won by Otto Frizzell. Otto also won the 50/50 draw at the meeting.

Auction was then held conducted by Dave Upright with assistance of Jimmie Nickerson.

Annual Meeting adjourned.