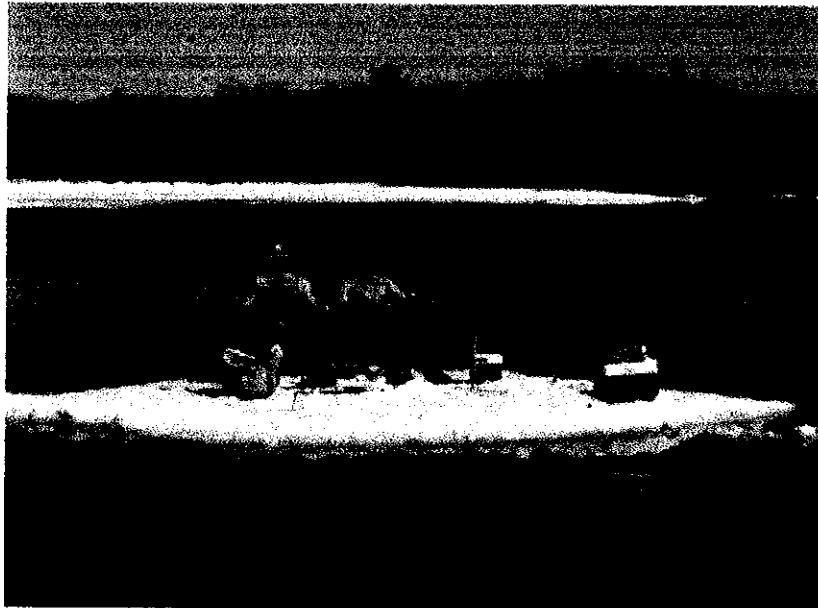


Canadian Association of Smallmouth Anglers  
PO Box 2051, Fall River, Nova Scotia, Canada B2T 1K6

## NEWSLETTER – February 2007



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### 2007 Nova Scotia Ice Fishing

Review of October Meeting  
Tournament Scene – Year End  
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Review of October Meeting

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**SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER 2006  
GRAND LAKE FIRE HALL**

The President opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. with 19 members present.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Treasurer**

Mid-year Financial Report as presented by Tony R (following). - Operating account balance \$3,900.00. Capital account balance \$2,718.84.

**Social**

Ken Roberts had nothing to report

**Membership**

As of meeting there are 122 members for the 2006-year.

**Tournament**

Report from Eddie Halfyard - Director.

General recap for 2006 tournaments by Ed Halfyard:

Shortts Lake – First year for CASA to hold tournament at this location. Most comments from membership were positive. Should schedule a 2007 tournament on Short's Lake.

Panuke Lake – Mixed reaction on the fishing. Lots of fish caught in the 10 – 12 inch ranch.

Porters Lake - Good fishing if fish are active otherwise can be a long day.

Morris Lake-Everyone enjoyed the fishing at this location.

Grand Lake Iron Man – 17 Boats with first place weighing in at 8lb 2oz and lunker 3lb 6 oz.

### **RV Show**

Sports and RV show-Should have a prize draw. Steve Watson will volunteer a nice Ducks Unlimited print to sell tickets on also, would like to recover 50% of the cost of the print. Tony R indicated that Lowrance GPS and the picture be raffled during the show.

### **Other Business**

Howard Martell made a suggestion that the tournament fee structure be changed in order to attract more young people to the tournaments. The current fee of \$20 per person can be a roadblock to some fishers bringing their children. For example one parent may have three children and would cost them \$80 plus other expenses, which may cause that parent to leave some young fisherman home. Howie's suggestion is that \$20 per person up to \$50 for boat if more than 2 anglers. This may help promote getting younger fisherman involved. Brian Naugle indicated that would be discussed at an executive meeting.

Howard Martell asked if CASA would be able to put some gravel at the Porter's Lake launch to be purchased using CASA capital fund. Tony R indicated that he was going to speak about this issue later in the meeting.

Tony raised the point that CASA should get re-involved in the fishing week. Ken Roberts used to organize CASA's involvement. Tony would like to see this happen again to promote the sport fishery. Tony and Ed Halfyard are representative on IFAC were funding requests for projects are discussed as per submissions from organizations. This year Adopt a Stream made the only request and was granted \$180,000 for their adopt a stream program. Some monies were held back but were given to then when no other applications were received. CASA is not taking advantage of this program, as there are monies available for access projects. CASA should work at this to talk advantage of the funds to create more ramps for lake access. Lakes such as Little River and Panuke ramp projects should be looked at and applications for funding should be done.

Brian Naugle brought up point that volunteers are needed to accomplish most tasks and if you can talk part.

Eddie H would like to concentrate his efforts on the launch effort but he cannot do both the tournaments and the work associated with getting access projects underway. If he is going to take on the lake access process then CASA needs to have another tournament director.

Issue was raised-Who like to become tournament director? Howard Martell volunteered to be the new tournament director, which will allow Eddie to concentrate on lake access requests and projects.

Brian Naugle indicated That CASA would put out a newsletter before year-end.

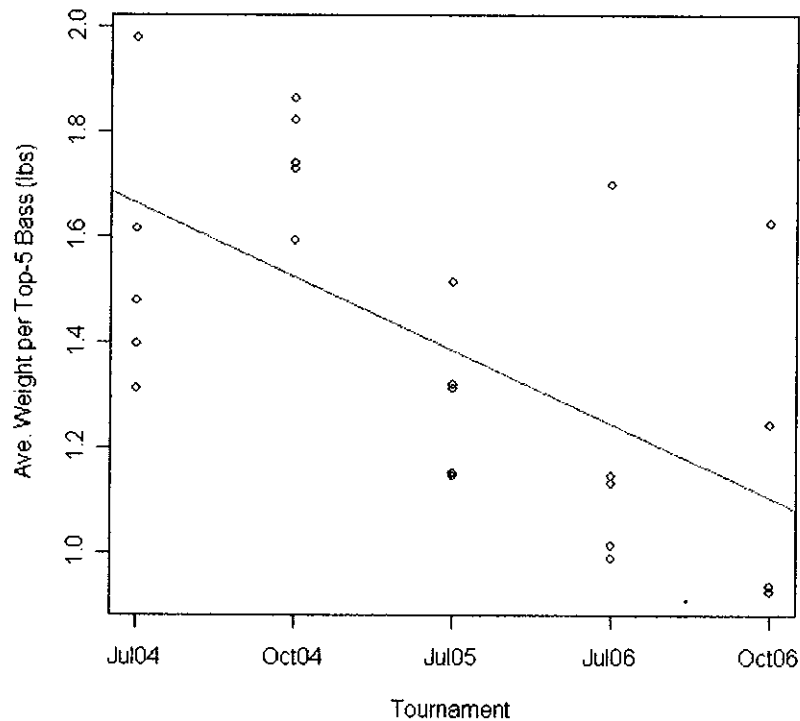
Meeting Adjourned by President Naugle at 3:26pm.

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## Tournament Scene – Year End

In hindsight, the 2006 tournament season was a great success. A revisit to Morris Lake early in the year, and our first tournament at Shortts Lake made the tournament trail exciting and new. The weather was much more cooperative this year, with no severe storm events and rather comfortable conditions on all dates. The number and size of bass caught at each tournament was fairly good, though a continued trend of poor catches in Grand Lake warrants concern. Below is a plot of the average bass weight, in the top-5 bags, from July 2004 to October 2006.

**Ave. Wt. per Top-5 Bass for Last 5 tournaments at Grand L.**



As you can see, the average weight of each bass weighed, as part of the top 5 winning bags (for a total of 5 bags per tourney), has declined dramatically since 2004. It translates to a decline from approx. 1.7 lbs to 1.1 lbs per bass! And although our data is relatively limited in this demonstration, it does show the general trend. This may be something that CASA should consider in future tournaments and in projects directed at conservation.

## 2007 Tournaments

The 2007 tournament season is shaping up rather nicely, and CASA members have much to be anticipating. Generously, Howard Martell has stepped up to the plate and will be our new Tournament Director for 2007. Already, Howie has been working hard and our tentative tournament schedule looks great. Providing the permits are approved, the schedule will look as follows:

Date	Lake Fished
May 6 2007	Lake TBA (Shortts lake preferentially)
July 2 2007	Grand Lake
Aug 12 2007	Morris Lake
Sept 9 2007	Panuke Lake
Oct 14 2007	Shortts Lake (Ironman)

The early tournament has been such a hit that we again are applying to fish a tournament at that date. This of course depends on the department of Inland Fisheries and their need for pickerel/bass data. If the opportunity for a tournament as such is not available, we do have the option of holding an early tournament on a high-harvest lake. This is something we should consider in the near future regardless of the other tournaments, as promotion of these high-harvest lakes is desperately needed. High harvest lakes include, Lake MicMac, Lake Banook, Loon Lake, Rocky Lake, Gaspereau Lake and others.

Also, the idea of a “weigh-in-water” weigh-in system for our tournaments has been proposed. The general premise of the weigh-in-water system is such that a bin containing water is placed on the weigh scale. The scale is then tared (zeroed) and the bass added. This gives extremely accurate results as the fish do not flop around. In turn, the fish are handled less and are not exposed to the air for more than just a few seconds at a time. The executive is currently examining the feasibility of adopting this procedure and we are looking at the costs associated with getting set up!

## New Initiatives

CASA has a track record of being involved with major projects concerning the fishing community (and general outdoor recreation community – for that matter). And while there have been no pressing issues as of late, it is time for CASA to once again get our collective wheels turning. Some of the proposed projects include;

- A full Catch-per-Unit-Effort (CPUE) Assessment, where all fish caught during tournament hours are measured and recorded. This would be a volunteer only project and not mandatory for all tournament participants.
- A habitat enhancement project where coarse woody structure (CWS), such as Christmas trees, brush piles, half-log structures and log-cribs, would be installed in lakes lacking natural cover.
- Other boat launch projects. Lakes that have been suggested are: Millers Lake, McCabe Lake, Little River Lake, and many others!

If you have any ideas for future projects, please contact a member of the executive and share your thoughts.

On a side note, the executive is currently assessing options for repairing the launch at Porters Lake, as much of the gravel has wash away from the immediate launch site. More should be known at the time of the AGM!

## Up and Coming

Though our AGM is nearly two months away, it will be upon us fast as preparation and planning must start long before the doors open. This year, please think about a few of the following items;

### 🕒 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.

### 🕒 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.

### 🕒 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. This award is not awarded every year.

If you have any nominations for the above awards, or ideas for junior prizes, please contact Eddie Halfyard at 441-8929 or [eahalfyard@hotmail.com](mailto:eahalfyard@hotmail.com)

## 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.