

NEWSLETTER

Meeting Location

*The location and time of our regular monthly meetings have changed. From now on we will meet at the **Royal Canadian Legion, Westboro Branch at 391 Richmond Road, between Churchill and Roosevelt Avenues.** The parking is on the neighbouring streets.*

The next meeting is on Thursday, November 3 at 7 PM. The meeting room is upstairs.

Our Glorious Leader suggests that we review the year's fishing to date. He would also like to get members' views on the walleye fishing around here. See the forms on pages 5 to 8.

GREG: Perhaps the forms could go on the OFC web site?

Upcoming Club Fishes

None –

*"Flown, alas, like our youth, too soon!" (from *The Kerry Dances*)*

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Fishing Poetry

"Though the mist upon our jackets

In the bitter air congeals,

And our lines wind stiff and slowly

From off the frozen reels;

Though the fog be dark around us,

And the storm blow high and loud,

We will whistle down the wild wind,

And laugh beneath the cloud."

Stanza 8 from **The Fishermen**, by John Greenleaf Whittier, 1845-46.

I resemble that feeling, except for the whistling and laughing.

October Club Fish Results

Basically, there are no results. It appears that our Glorious Leader and several other hardy members, such as Philippe and Michel Belley and Charles Gao, were the only attendees.

I was kept away as a result of prudent caution – listening to weather and wind forecasts. Others mentioned the same thing (Greg comes to mind).

For me personally, it was a most unsatisfactory season. I didn't get out as much as I would like, but that was due to personal factors. The weather did play a role – several times it was hot and clear – not good catchin' conditions. Maybe next year...

Around The Rideau

Xeriscaping

Xeriscaping (from the Greek word for dry and pronounced xerascaping) is an approach to landscaping that reduces water consumption dramatically (up to 70 percent). By following xeriscape landscape principles you can reduce the amount of water required and even eliminate pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers that conventional turf lawns require. Xeriscaping also saves time – less fertilizing and watering, and it saves money by reducing your water bill and maintenance costs. Here are a number of water-wise steps to follow:

- Limit turf area.
- Select water –efficient ground cover
- Use plants, trees and shrubs suited to local site conditions
- Use mulches to reduce water evaporation and prevent weed growth
- Improve soil by adding sand or other aggregates, peat and compost
- Limit paved areas
- Capture rain and snow runoff (rain barrel)
- Redirect storm water onto porous absorbent ground.

I suppose that I need not mention that the time saved could be devoted to fishing. Think of how virtuous you'd feel, after convincing the CEO that you are only trying to be environmentally aware and proactive. NO need to rip out the existing turf – don't water it and it'll die and be absorbed, providing valuable soil improvements.

Cormorant Chatter and Goby Gossip

The Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council sends the following cheery news.

“Populations of the invasive round goby have expanded dramatically since their discovery in the Great Lakes in 1990. The abundance of these fish and possible competitive displacement of native species from aquatic food webs suggest that they will become an important prey item for predatory birds and sport fish. To date, there is very little information on the predation of round gobies by fish-eating birds in the Great Lakes.

Scientists used a manual massage technique to stimulate regurgitation by double-crested cormorant chicks in ground nests from colonies in Hamilton Harbour, western Lake Ontario, during the 2002 nesting season.

At all locations and times, alewife was the most abundant fish species present by a large margin. The second most abundant species was the round goby, which was present in 18% of nests surveyed and made up 2 – 11% of all individual fish species identified. Fish species of sport or commercial interest were detected in samples with extremely low frequency.”

N.B. Readers of my book, ***Pathfinders***, will find a similar example on page 144. I'm not into a simple “red-neck” rant against biologists and science.

Jim & Ed's Excellent Adventure – Or, Fishing in Wonderland!

Ed Bebee and I drove to Smiths Falls last Thursday to attend a meeting of MNR staff and interested stakeholders, such as resort owners and fishermen and guides (*my note*: only one guide).

During the meeting we were informed about the decline of the walleye fishery in new "Fishery Management Zone" area 18, which covers roughly old map B or eastern Ontario.

Netting surveys and factors affecting the fishery were presented to us for our consideration.

The solution presented to us for our approval included possession reductions to four fish and slot or size limits for all waters.

When I asked why the effects of commercial harvest and natives taking fish were not discussed; the reaction seemed to be that we couldn't even discuss these issues.

From their own presentation we had learned that almost all anglers catch a maximum of two fish and probably none. The MNR solution is to ignore obvious issues and cut back on the limits of those who are not catching the fish anyway. Perhaps these people managed the cod stocks Canada used to have. Years ago the club agreed to pay for fishing licensing in exchange for improved enforcement.

Once we went along in principle then the provincial government put the cash in general revenues and cut enforcement. I am not going to rubber stamp another BS plan by the MNR.

A pair of proposals was given to us for our approval.

The second was on an Ottawa River plan to coordinate with Quebec regulations. There is an MNR web site to look at the issues.

Ed's additions:

1. I am submitting comments suggesting that they standardize the winter fishing closing date across the lakes and the Ottawa River. The suggested date would be Feb 28 or 29 (you could make it March 1). The rationale is that from an angler and CO safety viewpoint, an earlier closing would promote safety. It seems that "climate change" (AKA "global warming") is leading to thinner ice. One CO mentioned that they would like an earlier closing so that it would be safe for them to remove abandoned ice huts.
2. I am submitting comments suggesting that they study and make public the impact of First Nations' harvest of spawning fish. The MNR biologists

- had noted the lack of large spawning females. I wonder whether there is any correlation — surely not!
3. I noted that if it was thought useful to consider how to offset the impact of a “stressor” such as climate change, which is outside the control of MNR, why is it not considered useful to look at how to offset the impact of a “stressor” such as aboriginal harvesting. If it is not an important stressor, then where are the studies to support this conclusion?
 4. I am suggesting that the government could consider *investing* a significant part of the angler-generated \$2.3 billion dollars they receive every year (MNR figures) in deploying more Conservation Officers. Alternatively, seriously consider changing the balance between biologists and COs if they can’t bring themselves to spend more money. Making regulations (biologists and bureaucrats) is relatively easy, but enforcement (COs) is much more impressive. It is time to “walk the walk”, not just to “talk the talk”.
 5. No discussion of the impact of commercial fishing, apart from some arm waving. The fact is that they do not have any idea of what the commercial fishing on the inland lakes is doing. They simply assume that the licence holder is taking only those coarse fish that he is licenced for and that the incidental catch is released unharmed. They do NOT do random or surprise inspections to verify this(gasoline rationing?).
 6. I mentioned to a CO that there were reports that a group from Toronto were harvesting fish in Upper Rideau Lake and selling the fish in Toronto. He was VERY interested, since our First Nations brethren are not allowed to sell their heritage (traditional) harvest. I directed him to the Westport Lake Association for further information (they were there).

Fishing Lead Free: A Regulatory Proposal

Sandy sent me a copy of an email from Environment Canada acknowledging receipt of his email to them on this topic. The usual timely and informative response – only 217 days later. I don’t know what Sandy said to them. I do know that some 3 or 4 years ago, I spoke to a bureaucrat there who said that he had worked directly on the proposed regulations banning lead products by anglers. He mentioned the dangers of ingestion by waterfowl and cited the case of rifle and shotgun firing ranges over water. This is clearly an extreme example, but should be addressed. No problem. I asked him about the banning of spinnerbaits. He did not know what they were. When I showed him what they looked like, he agreed that they would be tough to swallow, but too bad. *For additional information, please visit*

www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/fishing/index_e.cfm



New Catch and Size Limits Proposed for Walleye in Southern Region

The Ministry of Natural Resources is planning to implement new catch and size limits for walleye in Southern Region to better protect and enhance walleye populations in these waters. These regulations will be applied within each new Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) in Southern Region.

I attended a stakeholder meeting (check appropriate response) ☐ yes ☐ no
location _____

To which Fisheries Management Zone would you like your comments to apply? (circle all that apply)

FMZ 15 FMZ 16 FMZ 17 FMZ 18 Entire Region

1. Please indicate your preference for each management option by selecting the three that you most prefer, in order of preference (1 = most preferred, 2 = second choice, 3 = third choice).

Option	Rank
Option 1: Minimum Size Limit 50 cm (19.7"), 4 Fish Limit (2 for Conservation Licence holders)	
Option 2: Maximum Size Limit 40 cm (15.7"), 4 Fish Limit (2 for Conservation Licence holders)	
Option 3: Protected Slot Limit 35-55 cm (13.8-21.7"), 4 Fish Limit (2 for Conservation Licence holders)	
Option 4: Protected Slot Limit 40-65 cm (15.7-25.6"), 4 Fish Limit (2 for Conservation Licence holders)	

2. In addition to the implementation of one of the above size limits, would you support a further reduction in the catch limit to 2 walleye for anglers with a sport licence, and 1 for anglers with a conservation licence? (Circle your response)

YES

NO

Additional Comments:

(Please see other side)

Please submit your comments via mail/fax/email/delivery to one of the following addresses:

Kemptville District Office
Ministry of Natural Resources,
Postal Bag 2002,
Concession Road,
Kemptville, Ontario
K0G 1J0
Fax: 613-258-3920

Pembroke District Office
Ministry of Natural Resources,
31 Riverside Drive
Pembroke, Ontario
K8A 2H4
Fax: 613-732-2972

North Bay District Office
Ministry of Natural Resources
3301 Trout Lake Road
North Bay, Ontario
P1A 4L7
Fax: 705-475-5500

If you are interested in receiving more information relating to the Ottawa River Walleye Regulations, please provide your contact information below.

Name: _____ **Telephone:** _____
Address: _____

Email: _____

Personal information contained on this form is collected under the authority of *The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, S.O. 1997*, and will be used for the purpose of the Southern Region Walleye Management Review and related fisheries management activities. Personal information will not be released or used for any other purpose without permission. Questions about the collection of this information should be directed to the Manager, Regional Planning Section, Southern Region, Ministry of Natural Resources, 300 Water Street, 4th Floor, South Tower, Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 8M5; (705) 755-4243.



Ministry of
Natural
Resources

Ontario

October 2005

New Catch and Size Limits Proposed for Walleye and Sauger in the Ottawa River and Lake Timiskaming (FMZ 12)

The Ministry of Natural Resources is planning to implement new catch and size limits for walleye in the Ottawa River to protect and enhance walleye populations in these waters, with particular emphasis on the protection of mature walleye. The proposed option has been developed based on extensive consultation with the Province of Quebec in an effort to harmonize regulations on the border waters. These regulations will be applied to Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 12, which includes all of the Ottawa River and Lake Timiskaming.

I attended a stakeholder meeting (check appropriate response)
location _____

☐ yes ☐ no

Proposed Option:

Season:

Friday before the 3rd Saturday in May – March 31st

Catch and Possession Limit:

Five (5) walleye or sauger in combination for the holder of a Sport Fishing Licence, or two (2) for the holder of a Conservation Licence

Size Limit:

Maximum size of 40 cm (15.7") from March 1 – June 15

Do you support the proposed option? (Circle your response)

YES

NO

If you indicated NO, do you think the regulation should be (Circle your response)

a) Less restrictive than the proposed option

b) More restrictive than the proposed option

Additional Comments:

(Please see other side)

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3301 Trout Lake Road
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