

Minutes from Black Bass Advisory Sub-Committee (BBAS) Meeting September 13, 2016

Meeting Location: Tawes Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21401

Called to order at 6:00 PM

Dave Blazer emphasized meeting operating under Roberts Rules of Order and addressed committee regarding proper decorum and member respect both during and after the formal meeting platform.

Roger Trageser made a request that all future votes be roll call votes linking a voter with his or her voting selection. Committee agreed to request.

Dave Blazer gave update on "Parking Lot" items with particular mention to habitat (National Harbor project), invasive species (department policy on blue catfish) and haul seine concerns.

Roger Trageser volunteered and was appointed Secretary.

As pertaining to the Method 1, Option 2 vote passed at the August 9 meeting a clarification of the demarcation line on the Upper Chesapeake Bay was discussed with a committee final approval of noted location.

Discussion of Method 2, Catch and Return or No Target:

Scott Sewell made a motion to not endorse establishing any catch and return or no target areas. Motion was seconded by Steve Chaconas.

Discussion points included (but were not limited to) economic impact, negative heavier fishing pressure on surrounding areas open to all fishing, lack of hard science to support closure benefits and difficulty of enforcement.

Vote for **not** creating these areas was taken with following results:

Eight (8) for.

Scott Sewell, Steve Chaconas, Thomas Bateman, Steve Weimar, Dennis Fleming, John Wheeler, Stephen Hawks and Roger Trageser

Four (4) against

Keith Barker, Kenneth Penrod, Andy Andrzejewski and Phillip Musgrav

Motion passed and the committee agreed unanimously to accept.

Committee discussion of Tournament Permit conditions and waiver requirements:

A good deal of time was spent emphasizing good practices in transporting fish to and from the weigh in scales.

Some modifications were recommended on the permit forms.

Regarding culling methods Steve Weimar recommended deleting the line "Devices that require punching a hole in the fish's mouth are NOT permitted".

This was defeated by an eight against and four in favour vote.

Steve Weimar recommended removing the requirement for separate bags for fish over five (5) lbs.

This recommendation passed unanimously.

Clarification of the dead fish penalty was discussed. It was recommended and emphasized that the DNR may provide some assistance to tournament directors to meet the waiver requirements. This action will be discussed at future meetings.

At the next Sport Fish Advisory Commission meeting (October 18) Roger Trageser will present the Committee's actions to the Commission. Roger will provide a transcript of this to the BBAS prior to.

Public Comment:

Issues included the need for more angler education, hail seine issues on the Potomac River, Tournament Permit infraction enforcement by NRP, tournament weigh in results being forwarded to Joe Love and Tournament Permit enforcement on Virginia shores.

Closing Remarks:

John Wheeler noted his feeling of an inability to enforce as the main reason for his vote to not create the catch and return or no target areas.

Steve Weimar emphasized the need to include and address the education factor on the "Parking Lot" board in the upcoming meeting. Dave Blazer concurred.

A tentative meeting time in early January was discussed.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:55 PM.