

**Minutes from Black Bass Advisory Sub-Committee (BBAS) Meeting November 29, 2016**  
**Prepared by Roger Trageser, Secretary**

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

Called to order at 6:07 PM

**Sport Fish Advisory Commission (SFAC) Presentation**

Chairman Dennis Fleming addressed the presentation of the BBAS previous meeting discussions and decisions to the Sport Fish Advisory Commission (SFAC) on October 18.

Dennis Fleming included discussion on the submission of a minority report which was introduced to the members of the SFAC and the BBAS the evening prior to the SFAC meeting by way of an email from Roger Trageser. Mr Trageser acknowledged that he failed to include David Blazer, Tony Prochasca and Joe Love in the email.

Roger Trageser presented the BBAS vote of 8 to 4 in moving forward with the scoping of Method 1 Option 2 proposed regulation. However with the presentation of a minority report and with a number of public comments, the SFAC was extremely confused as to what exactly the department (DNR) was requesting them to comment and/or give their approval on.

A follow up conference call with members of the SFAC on November 17 provided more clarity and the department (DNR) will be proceeding with the scoping of the proposed regulation.

Member Andrew Andrezejewski made a motion to conduct an investigation into what he claims was false and misleading information provided to the SFAC. This motion was seconded by Kenneth Penrod III. An admonishment of a member from BBAS requires the formation of an investigatory committee who researches and prevents findings to the BBAS. A vote by BBAS would then require 2/3 approval for a sanction to be made.

After further discussion a vote was taken and the motion failed 8 to 4.

**Minority Reports**

A discussion on Minority Reports followed. The question as to whether these reports should even be allowed was brought up and Steve Weimar noted that Roberts Rules of Order recognizes the potential need and function of these reports. The Chair Dennis Fleming noted that the report should be a part of the subcommittee with known and labelled authors. Weimar noted that the subcommittee can decide whether or not to present a minority report.

Minutes, which are different than minority reports, will continue to be taken and be made available to the general public and SFAC. Minutes are posted on the BBAS website.

During the January 2017 meeting, there will be further discussion by the BBAS on Minority Report protocol.

## **Scoping and Public Comment**

Roger Trageser asked the DNR members present to explain the scoping and public comment process.

Both the scoping and public comment process are part of a regulation proposal process. Scoping occurs for fourteen days to four weeks and allows the public to comment on a regulatory idea. The opening of a scoping period allows the public to formally submit comments to the department. The formally submitted comments are summarized by the department. They may also be used to amend the regulatory idea. Once reviewed, the department decides whether to propose the amended regulatory idea as a regulation. If the department proposes a regulation, then a public comment period formally opens and lasts for thirty days. The general public is invited to formally comment on the proposed regulation. Once the public comment period ends, the department summarizes the formal public comments and uses them when considering the adoption of the regulation.

If the department scopes a regulatory idea related to Method 1, Option 2, then Joe will summarize the scoping results and provide this information to the BBAS members for comment. Steve Chaconas noted that BBAS should be involved in the process of scoping.

## **Potomac River Survey and Report**

Joe Love presented a summary of surveys on the Potomac with positive trending for juvenile production, juvenile catch and non-juvenile catch. Average non-juvenile catch is not yet greater than the reference point. Average angler catch rate is greater than last year and almost at 2008-2009 levels.

Steve Chaconas inquired about otolith aging and growth. Joe discussed the process used to age bass and the results on growth rates.

Upper Bay field work is completed but the report is still being prepared. Results will be available in the annual review issued in February 2017.

## **Parking Lot Issue**

Chairman Dennis Fleming asked each member to choose their top three issues on the parking lot board.

The three top items, in ranking order, were: 1) commercial endeavours; 2) submerged aquatic vegetation/habitat; and 3) education.

The BBAS will begin to discuss these issues at the next scheduled meeting.

## **Public Comment**

Issues included a lack of clarity pertaining to the Method 1 Option 2 proposal, difficulty some organizations would have meeting waiver requirements and a feeling to some that the BBAS is actually anti-tournament in its focus. Lee Blount noted that changes in regulation would affect Virginia anglers.

## **Closing Remarks**

Nick Kuttner was emphatic in dispelling the notion that this committee was anti tournament and, to the contrary, looking for ideas and ways to improve fish care and tournament operations for the overall good and health of the fishery.

Steve Chaconas questioned Joe Love about the use of boat live wells as “recovery vessels” for fish at tournament weigh-ins.

A Doodle Poll will be circulated by mid-December for a meeting date in mid-January. A request was made to have this poll available as soon as possible and to put a four day window on responses to the poll.

**Meeting Adjourned at 9:02 PM**