



New York B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation (N.Y.B.C.F.)

CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER

To reach the Conservation Director: conservation@nybassfed.com or (315) 786-8897



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[Burnie Haney, Conservation Director](#)

Did You Hear? We're looking for a few good volunteers?

The NYBCF is seeking willing volunteers to represent us and be our eyes and ears in each of the nine DEC regions. In short a watch dog of sorts to let us know whenever your region has any conservation related issues that impact our anglers. It might be access related, regulation changes, invasive species or a host of other topics your regional manager is working on. If you think you're interested in becoming a representative for one of the vacant regions listed below contact Burnie Haney at (315) 786-8897 or conservation@nybassfed.com So far we've filled five of the nine positions and we need your help.

Region	Rep	Region	Rep
1	Dan McGarry LIBMs	2	Vacant
3	Vacant	4	Skip Hommel RVBMs
5	Vacant	6	Burnie Haney NNYBMs
7	Barb Elliot SCBMs	8	Ian Palmer RBMs
9	Vacant		

(Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) PRISM



The NY DEC created the PRISM program to help manage invasive species. Many invasive species are shared by each region and others are specific to just a region. If you've noticed this PRISM map is broken down into eight separate regions versus the existing nine DEC regions, you're not alone, but don't let that confuse you. The importance of the PRISM is to identify invasive species in

these regions while developing strategies to effectively contain them and ultimately remove them from the environment. Last year we had two affiliate clubs, Salt City and Good Ole Boys that worked a project to remove Water Chestnut plants. This year we're challenging all of our affiliate clubs to get engaged in their region and see if there's a project that's right for them. For more information on the PRISM program and the contact points for each area go to

http://www.nybassfed.com/Data/Conservation/PRISM_Contacts_Map.pdf

Bassmaster Classic Conservation Update

During Classic week I had the opportunity to sit in on numerous seminars and discussion groups coordinated by our National Federation Nation Conservation Director Mr. Chris Horton. Agencies included the National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, American Sportfishing Association, Aquatic Plant Management and three State Federation Nation Conservation Directors gave presentations on their projects which focused on habitat restoration in Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas.

For club reps interested in reading over the material that B.A.S.S. provided contact Burnie Haney for a copy.

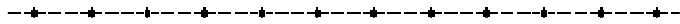
2008-10 Angling Regulation Changes

We've submitted our recommendations to the DEC on these proposed changes and hopefully they'll listen to them. To view our submission look on our conservation page under hot issues, <http://www.nybassfed.com/Data/Conservation/Index.htm> Will they include any, some, or none of our recommendations only time will tell, but I can say this. Think back to how hard our President worked as he lobbied anglers, elected officials and our DEC managers before we finally received our state wide Catch & Immediate release fishing season for Black Bass. As with most things in life, if you want something bad enough you work hard to make it happen. That's what Mike Cusano did and it resulted in good things for all Bass anglers across NY. As we move into summer 08 and beyond I ask everyone to think about any future changes you'd like to see and together we'll figure out if there's a way we can make that happen.

Conservation Education & Awareness

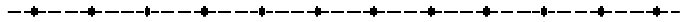
We're asking all of our affiliate clubs to find an opportunity to tell others about our fishery and how good it is. Next time you stop in for gas near your favorite lake make a point to tell them about the bass fishing you enjoyed or are about to enjoy. What about that local Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop in your area? Have you ever contacted them to see if they'd be interested in a bass fishing 101 for beginners? Or maybe you invite them to work with you on your club's annual conservation project, possibly a lake side clean up.

Just ask yourself how you got started with B.A.S.S. and decide if just maybe that same thing or something similar could help get a few more people involved. The future of our sport rests with not only our ability to preserve our water and natural resources, but also our ability to bring new people into our sport that will adopt and champion these same philosophies.



Conservation Survey and Our Program

This past month we asked each club to send in their concerns and recommendations about conservation. We want to know what's most important in your region on or near the waters your club uses. It is access, creel limits, habitat restoration, or what about courtesy docks? Let us know what's important to you and we intend to use this information to help guide our conservation program. We can't do everything, but we can do a lot and the sooner we focus our efforts and establish our objectives, both near and long term, then we can better develop our strategies to establish goals in support those objectives.



Support the Clean Boating Act of 2008

S. 2766 Preserves Recreational Boating & Protects Environment

THE PROBLEM

In 1973, the Environmental Protection Agency recognized that it would be unnecessary for recreational boaters to be subject to complex federal and state permitting requirements designed for large point source polluters, such as wastewater treatment plants, cruise ships, cargo ships, and supertankers. EPA thus issued a common sense exemption. In Sept. 2006, however, a U.S. District Court ruling nullified this EPA regulation, ruling that the Agency did not have the authority the issue it. The ruling resulted from a lawsuit brought to halt the introduction of invasive species into U.S. waters through the discharge of ballast water from large, oceangoing commercial ships. The decision, however, was a major blow to recreational boating. Included under the exemption the court nullified were incidental discharges from recreational boats,

including engine cooling water, gray water, uncontaminated bilge water, and weather deck runoff, among others. **As a result of this broad decision, all recreational boat operators in the nation will have to obtain a federal or state permit by September 2008.** Minimizing the exchange of ballast water from one international port to another is very important in reducing the spread of aquatic invasive species, but neither Congress nor EPA intended to sweep pleasure boats into same regulatory scheme. Doing so would have a devastating effect on recreational boating in America.

THE IMPACT

Unless Congressional action is taken soon, every recreational boat owner in the country (18 million strong and growing) will be subject to an unprecedented permitting system for everyday discharges associated with the normal operation of a boat. The threat is imminent. EPA has already completed the first phase of this new regulation and is moving to implement this permitting system for pleasure boaters by the court-ordered September 2008 deadline. This burdensome permitting will lead to:

- New yearly fees for family boaters;
- Bureaucratic red tape—potentially different in each state—associated with getting a permit;
- An increased burden for the taxpayer because federal and state governments will be required to develop new government programs and entities to implement these regulations;
- New enforcement regimes, \$32,000 per day penalties and citizen suits.

THE SOLUTION

Congress should enact **S. 2766, the *Clean Boating Act of 2008***, introduced by Senate Environment & Public Works Chair Barbara Boxer and Senator Bill Nelson on March 13, 2008. The Clean Boating Act restores a 35-year exemption for recreational boat incidental discharges, such as weather deck run-off and engine coolant water, and protects the health of the nation's waterways, on which recreational boaters and anglers depend, by pursuing whether reasonable best management practices need to be put into place for some recreational boat incidental discharges.

Click here to email your Representative
<https://forms.house.gov/wyr/welcome.shtml>

Click here to email or call your Senators
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_i..._e&Sort=ASC

For more information go to
<http://www.nybassfed.com/Data/Conservation/Index.htm>
 and look under hot issues.