



# CONSERVATION CORNER

By Burnie Haney - Conservation Director



## EDUCATE YOUR CFAB REPS!

Evaluating the current political landscape and how the New York Federation fits in.

In 2008 I learned some valuable lessons as I traveled across the state meeting various representatives from our Regional Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) offices and other stakeholders. This newsletter will identify some of the things I've learned and areas that we need your help in.

The first thing I learned is that across New York, bass fisherman, for the most part, aren't very well represented to environmental or conservation action groups or stakeholder assemblies. What I did see were Trout Unlimited members, Trout & Salmon anglers, Ducks Unlimited and a host of other organizations in attendance, and with not just one person, but with several people. These groups have learned through trial and error that mass representation at public meetings is a very good thing.

We need to get our clubs and membership more involved. We also have many state and county organizations that are assembled and recognized by state officials as our public voice. If we fail to get involved locally and regionally to make our wishes known then we have no one to blame but ourselves.

### Shifting Policies

As we all know, our nation is facing difficult times and New York is certainly not excluded. This year is a very challenging year for our DEC, because Governor Paterson has pulled approximately \$11M from the state's general fund that used to support DEC programs. When this was announced our DEC Commissioner immediately went to work to identify alternate ways to

generate that revenue. He held stakeholder meetings that I attended and initially it was agreed that some sort of a stamp program was the most likely way to generate the additional revenue. On January 7th the DEC Commissioner submitted a legislative proposal for a \$10 Trout & Salmon stamp and a \$19 Marine License. The Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) and the New York State Conservation Council (NYSCC) supported both proposals.

In February, the DEC Commissioner held another stakeholder's meeting seeking additional input. During this meeting the CFAB introduced their objection to the previous proposals and instead presented their proposal for an overall license fee increase for the 2009-10. I voiced our objection to that proposal as did three other groups in attendance, but the final vote was four against and eleven for it. I share that with you to highlight the fact that our DEC Commissioner is seeking input from all stakeholders and he needs everyone's participation.

In the end we haven't lost, because the revenue generated by this license fee increase is good for our DEC programs and ultimately good for fishing. However, there's more to this process than just state meetings with the DEC Commissioner, and to borrow a phrase from the late Paul Harvey... "Here's the rest of the story."

### Conservation Fund Advisory Board

Source: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/566.html>  
The New York State Conservation Fund Advisory Council was established by Chapter Four of the Laws of 1982 as a branch of the State Execu-

tive Department. It provides the license buying public of the State of New York with an oversight in the expenditure of Conservation Fund monies, there by ensuring that the fund is spent in accordance with the Environmental Conservation Law, specifically for the care, management, protection and enlargement of the fish and game resources of the State and for the promotion of public fishing, hunting and trapping.

Under Chapter 308 of the laws of 1994, the Council was re-established as the Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) and removed from the jurisdiction of the Executive Law and placed under the Environmental Conservation Law. The change allowed the addition of ex-officio members to the Board (Senate and Assembly Environmental Committee, Senate Finance Committee, Assembly Ways and Means Committee and DEC Commissioner, or their representatives), in an effort to speed up communications and give the panel the ability to make more timely decisions.

All CFAB members are volunteers serving without salaries and having a long-standing interest, knowledge and experience in fish and wildlife management, including hunting, fishing, trapping and related conservation activities. The members represent each of the nine DEC Regions, two statutory members representing the New York State Conservation Council, Inc. and the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board.

CFAB's function is to make recommendations to appropriate state agencies on plans, policies and pro-

grams affecting fish and wildlife. This is accomplished by CFAB review of proposed and final allocations and expenditures of the Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources. The Board submits a report annually to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation by November 15th of each year. The primary purpose of this report to DEC is to advise the Commissioner regarding the Board's assessment of the extent to which expenditures and appropriations from the Conservation Fund are consistent with the requirements of State Law.

and that you're glad they represent you and that you're prepared to provide information for the decision making process.

**County Federated Sportsmen's Association**  
Most counties across the state have a Federated Sportsman Association or Club. Where I live in the Watertown area it's called the Jefferson County Federated Sportsman's Association. I initially met this group in 1992 when I attended my first meeting representing the Indian Lakes Bassmasters. During this meeting I found out two things about this organization; it's members

times have certainly changed since then, but my point remains the same. These organizations are out there and designed to provide a common voice for all sportsmen in your county.

Prior to that initial meeting I had no idea this organization existed and I knew even less about what they did. It turns out the organization was made up of several sporting clubs across Jefferson county; Henderson Harbor Fish and Game Club, Watertown Rod & Gun Club, our club and several others. It created a collective voice of several clubs that joined together to find ways to promote, preserve and enhance the outdoor experience for all residents and visitors to the county.

If your club's not involved with your County's Federated Sportsmen I ask you to find out who they are, where they meet, and at least attend a meeting or two. Make the time to go hear first hand what they're all about. You can make a difference in your county and help influence the outdoor sports and conservation decisions made...but only if you get involved. **FL**

*Practice Selective Harvest and Free the Fighter*

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Source: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/about/566.html>

**- Members of the CFAB -**

Region	Representative
1	Charles A. Bevilacqua, Vice Chairman
2	The Honorable Gordon J. Whiting
3	Dominick Scarzafava
4	Alan L. Rosa
5	Jason Kemper
6	Linda S. Sicley
7	Charles (Charlie) Pace
8	Charles (Charlie) O. Hancock, Chairman
9	Dale Dunkelberger
NYSCC	Howard (Howie) Cushing
NYFWB	Gerald Bierker

Board members can be contacted by writing the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4750, or e-mail the Conservation Fund Advisory Board.

If you're wondering why learning a bit about the CFAB is so important it's because they speak on our behalf and that's a good thing. The question is if these Regional CFAB representatives don't know about your club or what you feel is important in your region, do you really think you're getting the quality representation you deserve?

We need our affiliate clubs to take the time to contact your Regional CFAB representative to identify you're out there. Let them know who you are

were from many different sporting clubs in the county and they provided input to assemblymen and legislators regarding outdoor sports and sporting issues. I also learned the state provided a set amount of money to each County Federated Sportsman's Association for conservation, habitat restoration and conservation education. We presented a proposal for a weigh-in tank with an estimated cost of \$250 and they issued the Indian Lakes Bassmasters a check right then and there. Apparently the Jefferson County Federated Sportsmen's Association had this pot of state allocated money and no idea what to do with it. I was just glad hear we could help them spend some of it.

Yes, that was 17 years ago and