



DATE: February 26, 2026  
 Erie County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs Inc.  
 Board & General Meeting Agenda  
 6:30 PM Directors Meeting, 7:00 PM General Meeting

<b>Host Club:</b>	<b>George Washington Club</b> <b>2805 Niagara St. Buffalo, NY 14207</b>
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**Meeting Order**

- Silence all electronic devices and phones.
- Pledge to the Flag
- Roll Call of Officers:
  - o President .....Jack Coad
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> V. President ..... Ken Delano
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> V. President .....Joe Fischer
  - o Treasurer ..... Dave Rosner
  - o Recording Secretary .....Rich Davenport
  - o Corresponding Secretary ..... Diane Steel
  - o Membership Secretary ..... Joe McAdams
  - o Sergeant at Arms..... Tom Fischer

**Excused/Absent:**

Excused	Joe Zizzi, Wattengels
Absent	

**Quorum of member clubs:**

Section-6. A Quorum: A quorum at a meeting of the voting members shall consist of twenty-five (25) per cent of the voting members in good standing. Voting members in good standing are member organizations with current paid dues status and otherwise in good standing. **Number of Active Members = 42      Quorum = 10**

**Quorum Achieved?      (YES) / (NO)**

**NOTE:**

- ❖ *All committees, both temporary and permanent, must report who their committee members are to the Board of Directors.*
- ❖ *Most, but not all, committees should have at least 4 members.*
- ❖ *Committee meetings must be posted in advance.*
- ❖ *Committees are advisory and not autonomous.*
- ❖ *Committee chair must provide written/email report to President on the status, activity and needs of the committee.*



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## REPORTS

<b>OFFICERS REPORT</b>	
Presidents Report	Jack Coad
Recording Secretary Minutes	Rich Davenport
Corresponding Secretary Report	Diane Steel
Membership Secretary Report	Joe McAdams
Treasurers Report	Dave Rosner
<b>COMMITTEE REPORTS (5-10 minutes maximum)</b>	
Teach Me to Fish	Bob Avery and Tom Fisher
Legislation & Lawsuits Pending	Carl Leas
Environment & Pollution	Chuck Godfrey
Small Game	Dan Tone
Waterfowl	George Rockey
Fundraising	Jack Coad
Law Enforcement	Jeff Jondle
Fish Report	Joe Fischer
NYS Cons. Council	Joe Fischer & Dan Tone
Federation Website & Website Programs	Joe McAdams
Hunter Education	Ken Delano
Trapping	Patti & Rick Wattengel
Big Game	Rich Davenport
Resolutions to NYSCC	Rich Davenport
Archery, Crossbow	Tom. Fischer
<b>SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:</b>	
Banquet Committee	Ken Delano
Budget and Finance	David Rosner
DEC Summer Camp	Joe McAdams
Elections and Nominations	Fred Weymer
Exhibits and Shows/Upcoming Events	Amy Plecas
Scholarship Program	Amy Plecas
Fish and Wildlife Management	Chuck Godfrey
Internal Controls	Tom Fischer
National Hunting and Fishing Day	Diane Steel
Youth Lifetime License	Joe Fischer
WNY Environmental Federation	Dan Tone
Sunshine	Diane Steel



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**\*\* Meetings marked with an asterisk are tentative at this time.**

January 22, 2026	Elma Conservation 600 Creek Rd. Elma, NY 14052
February 26, 2026	George Washington Club 2805 Niagara St. Buffalo, NY 14207
March 26, 2026	Evans Rod & Gun Club 864 Cain Rd. Angola, NY 14006
April 23, 2026	West Falls Conservation Society 55 Bridge St. West Falls, NY 14170
May 21, 2026	Erie Count Conservation Society 13319 Miller Rd. Chaffee, NY 14030
June 25, 2026	Hamburg Rod & Gun Club 3434 Hickox Rd. Hamburg, NY 14075
July 23, 2026	Niagara River Station 355 East River Rd. Grand Island, NY 14072
<b>August 2026</b>	<b>**FAIR NO MEETING **</b>
September 10, 2026	Springville Field and Stream Chaise Rd. Springville, NY 14141
October 8, 2026	Hawkeye Bowmen 13300 Clinton Alden, NY 14004
November 12, 2026	Southtowns Walleye Association 5895 Southwestern Blvd. Hamburg, NY 14075
December 17, 2026 **	Bison City Rod & Gun Club 511 Ohio St. Buffalo, NY 14204

New Business:	Old Business:
2026 Banquet is well underway, if you have any suggestions please contact Ken Delano. Advertisement needs to get to Joe McAdams for the Banquet Brochure; many clubs have not submitted the ads.	Committee assignments. Please check with me or Joe McAdams for any assignment choice. Delegates please make sure to share information with your club and club president. Banquet ticket money and Banquet raffle ticket should be returned as soon as possible – especially any unsold tickets.
Member club Erie County Conservation is requesting funding assistance to purchase gently used archery targets for their 3D league. This is an open-to-the-public event. ECCS has a reputation for offering a great 3D presentation.	Award nominations have closed.



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### **Good of the Organization / Shared News:**

New member application vote at meeting for membership: Delta Waterfowl

### **ECFSC Data Protection Policy**

With the ever-increasing risk from hacking, compromise or intentional attacks, we need to establish a policy to protect the Federation from exposure, secure our data and enforce a comprehensive protection policy.

A recommended policy will be emailed to the BOD for review.

### **Next month's meeting:**

**George Washington Club**

**2805 Niagara St. Buffalo, NY 14207**

THANK YOU TO THIS MONTH'S SPONSOR ORGANIZATION

50/50 DRAW WINNER



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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Secretary's Report

Nothing to report at this time. Attendance of the January meeting was pretty good.

### Big Game Committee

Some feedback from clubs has been received, but the feedback was light.

The Pass It On program is under framework development, and will be released in draft form for the March meeting for review and feedback. NYSCC Big Game Committee meeting should be held day before the Federation meeting (2/25), so any reports from that will be delivered verbally. Lots of deer in the suburbs again, including my own backyard in the City of Tonawanda, which has become the Whitetail Hilton!

### For Fisheries Committee

Visit Buffalo/ Buffalo Sports Commission is in the logistics stage of planning for the Bassmaster Tournament this coming August. They will be looking for volunteer help to make this event a success. I'll be speaking with Greg Gelinias at some point this week.

Chautauqua Lake – I have observed a potential problem with the food web in this lake, and my observations appear to be shared by many others, including my timelines. DEC is aware, and Chautauqua County Federation is also aware. DEC is going to take a different look at the "Zoops" surveys to see if they have captured relative volume, not just composition. No zooplankton being observed in fish bellies caught this year. Great ice fishing season so far, and it appears we're nowhere near done with it yet

### Resolutions

Awaiting the meetings to discuss the submitted resolution for 2026 consideration.

I'm putting out the call for resolutions for 2026/ 2027 NOW, instead of waiting until after the Spring meeting, and this call will be recurring.

### CROSSBOW COMMITTEE

DEC planning removal of outdated Crossbow regulations. If you were a member of the Crossbow Collation remember to renew your membership.

### LIFE TIME LICENSE

This years raffle tickets are available. See Tom Fischer if you want any. This years raffle includes a Crossbow. Walleye Kit. Fishing Kayak, \$150 Cabela's gift card. 8 dozen steelhead flies. The ticket also has a QR code for Erie County youth under 16 to sign up online for a chance to win a free LT license .



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**ARCHERY**

Larry Calleri West Falls is starting back it's adult learn to shoot archery program on the 3rd Monday of the month. If interested call West Falls at 716-652-4650.

Jack Coad On February 21 Hawkeye had their member banquet. The banquet was held a our clubhouse and had a great turnout.

On March 22 Hawkeye will be conducting their mandatory Orientation and Open House from 10am-Noon. If anyone would like to check us out, please come out on this date. We have lots of fun shoots and activities for members, including our member snowshoe shoot and our Pancake Breakfast with homemade syrup from our trees! Upcoming Shoots: Alaskan shoot March 28 and 29, 7am -noon . Courses close at 2pm each day.

**INTERNAL CONTROLS**

Trailer inventory will take place when the weather is better. TMTF Batteries being charged.

**AWARDS COMMITTEE**

The Awards Committee has completed its work. The 2026 Awards are listed below.

AWARD	WNNER	AWARD	WINNER
<b>Club of the Year</b>	Ten X Shooting Club	<b>P,J.Stoos Volunteer of the Year</b>	James Kerr
<b>Conservation Education</b>	Dr. Sheri Voss	<b>Sportsman of the Year</b>	Ian Piercy
<b>Dedicated Service</b>	Tom Fischer	<b>Valerie E. Gonnello</b>	Diane Steel
<b>Stanley J. Spisiak Award</b>	Joe McAdams	<b>Male Youth of the Year</b>	Nicholas Matthewson
<b>Environmentalist</b>	Joe Morgan	<b>Female Youth of The Year</b>	Sienna Christensen
<b>Lifetime Achievement</b>	George Rockey	<b>President's Award</b>	Don Trzepakz
<b>Public Service</b>	Frank Phillips Donna Richardson NYSDEC Reg 8 Hunter Trn. Coord's		

**Environmental Committee**

1) Asian Carp Barrier on Pause

Construction of Asian carp barrier in Illinois hits another snag Washington – Nine months ago, President Trump signed a presidential memorandum instructing his administration to "achieve maximum speed and efficiency" in moving to block invasive Asian carp from reaching the Great Lakes. But the key project in Illinois to erect barriers that would prevent the fish from infiltrating Lake Michigan has since been paused and remains under administrative review by the Trump administration, according to lawmakers in Michigan and Illinois. to The Democratic senators from both states wrote to the White House budget director and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, urging them to end the pause, review, and release the federal funds that Congress already approved to allow the project to proceed. They expressed concern that continued delay could soon affect the



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### **Environmental Committee (con't)**

next round of contract awards and cause the long-delayed project's cost to spike after more than a decade of study, engineering work and planning. "The federal investment is currently on hold without justification, and additional contracts for the project cannot be awarded due to the funding pause," the senators wrote. "The current pause and review could increase the cost and slow the final completion date of (the project), increasing the likelihood that invasive carp could enter the Great Lakes. If invasive carp were to become established in the Great Lakes, they would outcompete existing fish populations, permanently damage ecosystems, and significantly impair the \$7 billion Great Lakes economy." The senators who signed the January 15 letter are Michigan Sens. Gary Peters of Bloomfield Township, Elissa Slotkin of Holly and Illinois Sens. Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, though the project has historically had bipartisan support. Neither the White House nor the Army Corps responded to questions Tuesday about the administrative pause and halt in spending on the carp project, including when it was put in place. The episode is just the latest holdup for the \$1.15 billion project at the Brandon Road Lock & Dam in Joliet, Illinois, that Congress authorized in 2020 after a decades-long effort by the Corps, scientists and state officials to address the invasive carp. The fish are currently held in check by electrical barriers that are considered unreliable. Michigan and Illinois officials reached an agreement in 2024 with the Army Corps to move forward on construction of the project at Brandon Road. The agreement allows for \$274 million in federal funding and \$114 million in state funding to be used for the construction of the first of three phases of the project. Almost all of the federal appropriation comes from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law signed under former President Joe Biden. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer last year raised the Asian carp issue during face-to-face meetings with Trump, and he brought it up in remarks in the Oval Office in April, calling the carp a "powerful" fish. "We're also working on a certain fish that's taken over a beautiful lake called Michigan, right? And that's a tough one," Trump said at the time. "They jump out of the water. They jump at the fishermen. I mean, I've never seen anything like it." At the time, Trump said he had spoken with the Army Corps and noted they have a "pretty gruesome method" for blocking the fish, even if it's "expensive."

### **2) Meeting a Tiff about plastics in Lake Erie**

Friday, Feb. 27, at Tiff Nature Preserve at 6:30 PM. The film is Sherri Mason's Ripples of Plastic. Doors open at 6pm. Introductions and Screening will start at 6:30. A presentation by Sherri about plastics in our water will follow directly after the screening. This is presented by the Outer Harbor Coalition, of which we are a charter member.

### **President Report**

The Federation Banquet is less than a month away and our committee has been working hard to make this one of the best. Please make sure that all the banquet tickets have been paid for and unused tickets are returned to the committee. Don't forget about the Raffle Tickets! They are only \$10 and have some great prizes. Any unsold raffle tickets should be returned by the meeting.



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### **President Report (con't)**

I know that Carl has his hands full with legislation and the first 2 months are horrendous. I just want to remind people that we must stick together and fight for our traditions and heritages! You may not have heard, but a petition in Oregon appears ready to be put on the ballot this November to outlaw **all hunting and fishing** due to cruelty to animals. What will happen if people don't vote and this passes? It will only be the beginning. We need to have our voices heard and make sure we, individually, contact our representatives.

See you at the banquet!

### **Funding Report**

Nothing to report.

### **Hunter Education**

Nothing new to report, however just a reminder that the new computer system should be up and running by mid-March. Be looking for class submissions later in the month.

### **Trapping Report**

The DEC's Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator exam is now being given online. Exam and registration instructions and a NWCO training manual can be found on [DEC's "Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator" webpage](#). I guess Patti and I are dating ourselves, but when we got our Nuisance Licenses we were questioned and interviewed in person at the DEC headquarters in Buffalo.

### **Events and Shows**

Expo is March 6-8. Sign-ups are available. Fair sign-ups are available.

### **Scholarships**

Letters have been mailed to all high schools in Erie County.

### **TMTF**

Letters requesting discounted pricing were sent directly to Zebco and Eagle Claw Tackle. Both responded with significant savings for Federation programs.

### **Small Game**

Nothing to report.

### **NYSCC**

NYSCC will have a Spring Meeting April 17-19,2006 at Region 8 Livingston County, home of the oldest fish hatchery in New York and the Western Hemisphere. Plan to attend and make reservations. BAM a buck a member. Please donate and support the NYSCC with the many good achievements they do.



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## **DEC Summer Camp**

Camp applications officially open on March 22. Requested by BOD to activate a DEC CAMP application page on ECFSC website. Contacted DEC and was asked to NOT activate application but post an info page instead. Will have the info page online by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Camp Registration for 2026**

NYSDEC Summer Camps registration begins on Sunday, March 22, at 1 PM.

Please keep in mind, when registering, weeks fill up quickly. If weeks are full, you can still register and opt for the wait list. The system will notify you if a spot opens for the waitlisted week. **Reminder:** Have all your paperwork and child's information already finished before registration opens for a quicker week selection.

Please contact [EducationCamps@dec.ny.gov](mailto:EducationCamps@dec.ny.gov) if you have any questions.

## **Membership**

The application for Delta Waterfowl will be voted on at the February meeting. This is a LOCAL CHAPTER that is very active in the community. The membership committee presented their application at the last meeting.

We have collected \$3477 of the \$4365 total dues. Letters to delinquent organizations don't seem to work, so I will visit each club at their meeting (if possible) to determine if they still want to be a member.

## **Legislative Report**

(on the website)

## **Correspondence**

In coordination with Chuck Godfrey, letters were mailed to each of the award recipients. According to the scholarship report, Amy sent letters to the high schools in Erie County.

As previously noted by Jack, the coordination of outward correspondence falls within my responsibilities. To ensure consistency in our communications and the use of current letterhead, all external correspondence should be routed through me moving forward.



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**Website**

Visits have dropped off a bit, as expected with winter months, but are generally up overall. We are averaging over 400,000 visitors a year:

Summary by Month										
Month	Daily Avg				Monthly Totals					
	Hits	Files	Pages	Visits	Sites	kB F	Visits	Pages	Files	Hits
<a href="#">Feb 2026</a>	15059	11505	4373	1034	18856	19929162	25870	109346	287644	376475
<a href="#">Jan 2026</a>	15807	6488	4532	1653	27913	11797802	51258	140518	201149	490028
<a href="#">Dec 2025</a>	19021	9720	5543	2484	41819	19828098	77024	171844	301327	589670
<a href="#">Nov 2025</a>	20249	10982	3782	1487	27331	16476971	44615	113471	329486	607479
<a href="#">Oct 2025</a>	11324	6227	3147	1123	19550	9853610	34818	97586	193040	351046
<a href="#">Sep 2025</a>	16894	11187	3516	992	19442	17940305	29779	105484	335624	506842
<a href="#">Aug 2025</a>	17125	8185	3501	754	13380	12530717	23399	108539	253748	530895
<a href="#">Jul 2025</a>	11205	4978	2949	942	11145	11462118	29209	91433	154328	347371
<a href="#">Jun 2025</a>	15753	6297	5065	1585	11857	13224509	47552	151968	188934	472603
<a href="#">May 2025</a>	18002	6947	4645	1538	11324	12805233	47695	143998	215369	558067
<a href="#">Apr 2025</a>	11235	5227	2197	394	7489	8785366	11833	65922	156839	337073
<a href="#">Mar 2025</a>	11284	5528	2441	517	8217	11699493	16051	75688	171388	349820
<b>Totals</b>						<b>166333384</b>	<b>439103</b>	<b>1375797</b>	<b>2788876</b>	<b>5517369</b>

I moved member clubs to the ABOUT menu and created a standard link for scholarships to make it easier to find.

Forrest Fisher (aka Dave Barus) is now a regular contributor to the website. New content is what keeps the website active and Dave is a prolific outdoor writer. His stories are already gaining readership with the community. His new byline is "For the Love of the Outdoors" and he shares his unique insight, colorful comments and numerous outdoor adventures with everyone.

I will create a new awards page for historical reference.

**Sunshine**

Sympathy cards were sent to Russ Johnson's daughters.



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### **Banquet Committee Meeting**

February 9, 2026 – 7pm via Zoom

The committee met to discuss planning and coordination for the upcoming awards and fundraising banquet, with the primary focus on raffle preparation, donations, and overall event logistics. The group reviewed current progress, confirmed several key items, and identified remaining needs to ensure a successful event.

A significant portion of the discussion centered on fundraising through raffle items. The committee confirmed that several major prizes have already been secured, including a Ducks Unlimited edition shotgun obtained at a reduced cost, a crossbow, a smoker, and a 43-inch smart television that was donated. The group agreed to move forward with the selected shotgun, noting that it provides strong value also improving the potential fundraising return. Overall, there was a shared focus on balancing appealing prizes with maximizing revenue for the organization.

The group also discussed the importance of donations and sponsorships in supporting the banquet. The donated television was acknowledged, and there was consensus that all donors should receive appropriate recognition for their contributions. This will likely include acknowledgment in banquet materials such as programs or signage. Members agreed to continue outreach efforts to secure additional donations and sponsorships in advance of the event.

In planning the raffle structure, the committee indicated that the format will remain consistent with previous successful banquets. Emphasis will be placed on assembling attractive raffle baskets and prize packages that will generate interest and participation. Additional items are still needed, including lottery ticket baskets and other themed baskets to round out the offerings. Supplies and materials for assembling and displaying raffle items will also need to be obtained.

The discussion also highlighted the need to confirm the availability of raffle tickets. Because some members were not present at the meeting, this item remains outstanding. The group plans to follow up to determine current inventory, and if necessary, additional tickets will be purchased to ensure adequate supply for the event.

Several members were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts, which limited the ability to finalize certain details. As a result, follow-up communication will be necessary to confirm responsibilities, finalize remaining decisions, and ensure all aspects of the banquet are fully coordinated.

Overall, the meeting reflected solid progress toward organizing the awards and fundraising banquet. Key raffle items have been secured, donation efforts are underway, and the overall structure of the event is in place. The next steps will focus on completing raffle packages, confirming supplies,



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securing additional donations, and finalizing logistics to ensure a successful and well-supported event.

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### **Action Items**

#### **Raffle & Fundraising**

- Finalize remaining raffle items and basket themes
- Acquire materials for basket assembly and display
- Secure lottery tickets for raffle

#### **Donations & Sponsorship**

- Continue outreach for donations and sponsorships
- Ensure all donors receive appropriate recognition

#### **Logistics**

- Confirm ticket inventory with absent members
  - Purchase additional tickets if needed
  - Follow up on outstanding responsibilities
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NEXT MEETING – MARCH 9, 2026



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## **NHFD Committee Meeting January 20, 2026**

### **Quick recap**

The meeting began with some technical difficulties and introductions, followed by a discussion of recent events and planning for an upcoming event's budget and vendor recruitment. The group focused on promotional materials for National Hunting and Fishing Day, including the creation of magnets and postcards for distribution at various events. They concluded by planning details for the upcoming event, including registration processes, potential vendors, and learning stations, with plans to meet again in April.

### **Summary**

#### **Event Budget and Vendor Planning**

The group discussed budget planning for an upcoming event, with Diane proposing an initial budget of \$3,250 and later agreeing to increase it to \$4,000 following news of a \$10,000 grant from Erie County, which includes funding for National Hunting and Fishing Day and the Teach Me to Fish program. They reviewed last year's attendance of 338 people total and 15 vendors, with plans to increase vendor participation for the upcoming event by reaching out to Cabela's and local tackle shops. Diane also noted the need to account for additional expenses including printing costs, door prizes, and Facebook advertising.

#### **Vendor Recruitment and Event Planning**

The group discussed vendor recruitment for an upcoming event, with Jack expressing a desire to fill the parking lot with vendors and envisioning a future with nothing but tents along Creek Road. Diane shared his goal of having vendors fill the entire parking lot within five years, and the team agreed to create promotional materials for National Hunting and Fishing Day to distribute at the March Sportsman Show. Don provided updates on two potential vendors: Messenger Woods, who will attend for a limited time for a demonstration, and the DEC, which may participate in a show if a formal invitation is sent.

#### **National Hunting and Fishing Day Promotion**

The group discussed plans for National Hunting and Fishing Day events and promotional materials. It was proposed to create refrigerator magnets and postcards to promote the events, with Jack and others agreeing to the idea. They decided to order around 2,000 magnets and 500 postcards, with the magnets potentially including a QR code and generic information for wider distribution. The group also addressed the importance of clearly communicating the correct date for the event, which is the fourth Saturday in September.

The group discussed distributing magnets and postcards for National Hunting and Fishing Day. They agreed to create magnets with information on one side and postcards with details on both sides. Diane suggested using square postcards to make them easier to carry. They also discussed the need to collect lawn signs that were distributed earlier, as only 30 were returned out of 50



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ordered. Tom mentioned that lifetime licenses could be promoted with a banner or sign, and suggested using a QR code for pre-registration if a lifetime license raffle was held.

### **National Hunting and Fishing Day Planning**

The group discussed plans for the upcoming National Hunting and Fishing Day event. They considered implementing advanced registration with a box for participants to opt into a giveaway for a lifetime license restricted to Erie County youth. The hot dog vendor from last year may return, though they will confirm with Elma. They decided to use meal tickets again to help track attendance and prevent abuse. The group discussed potential vendors including U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Birds of Prey, and local fishing shops. They also considered using A-frame signs at different locations in the weeks leading up to the event. The group agreed to try using punch cards again to ensure participants visit all learning stations. They will meet again in April to continue planning.

### **Fishing**

The Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Association was invited and accepted to participate at the Sportsmen's Day at the Capital on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the event is to bring together legislators, state agencies, and representatives from the sporting and conservation communities to celebrate our state's outdoor heritage. It offers an opportunity to highlight the critical role that hunting, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits play in conservation, habitat conservation, habitat stewardship, and local economies across New York. The New York State Conservation Council will also be in attendance.

The NYSDEC Management Plan for Lake Erie Tributary Steelhead 2026-2035 is available, it is a updated revision to the previous plan. The fishery goal and vision is to maintain a high quality fishery that provides diverse angling experiences and opportunities to catch and harvest steelhead. The plan will guide efforts and resources towards maintaining it as a premier angling destination. [2026 - 2035 Management Plan for Lake Erie Tributary Steelhead](#)

I attended the New York's Niagara River Area of Concern Remedial Advisory Committee (RAC) Orientation meeting in person. RAC is a stakeholder group that assists the NYSDEC and local partners in implementing Remedial Action Plans for designated Great Lakes Areas of Concern. The purpose of the group is to restore and protect water quality and aquatic habitats by addressing contaminated sediments and water quality issues by reviewing technical documents and recommending priority actions and plans. The coverage area is from Smokes Creek to the mouth entering Lake Ontario.

NYSCC Fish committee zoom meeting, introduction of 2026 members and purpose, roles and goals were discussed. The marine resources (saltwater) and the fish and fish environment (fisheries) committees have been combined into one committee, which will give a better reach and input from across the entire state as a combined and louder presence. Region 9 no longer has representative



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on the committee, this is something to be discussed with the Region 9 Director for the Council, my representation is through the Eastern Lake Erie Charter Boat Association.

PFAS (Per-polyfluoroalkyl) commonly used in waterproof clothing, firefighting foam and lots of other products, has now showed up on fish consumption advice from the NYS Dept. of Health. Previous advisory for Walleye as an example was for the general population 4 meals a month, sensitive population 1 meal per month due to Mercury levels. Recommendation due to PFAS is now 1 meal per month, a meal is considered 8 ounce serving.

There are some proposed changes pertaining to sportfishing regulations (Coolwater Species). Adjust the fishing season dates for walleye, northern pike, chain pickerel and tiger muskellunge from May 1 through March 15 to May 1 through March 1. This will cover Lake Erie, Niagara River (Upper and Lower), Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The thought is to protect vulnerable species spawning due to water temperatures warming earlier than normal over the last few years. NYSDEC is accepting public comments on proposed regulations through April 13<sup>th</sup>.