

Invasive Species meeting
August 16, 2012
SAM Conference Center
In attendance: 26

Opening remarks by: David

History: Mary Gallagher

Rock bass is a new fish species, but they are now in the state of Maine in the Androscoggin.

Banded sun-fish is also a new species.

Requirements for confirmed reports of introduced species

Anglers need to bring the fish to biologist and tell them where they caught it; or

Photos that are verifiable to the area and species; or

The Department will use a Standardized methodology.

IFW relies heavily on angler reports of invasive fish. They have a new technology: micro DNA analysis.

Tournaments and Derbies – new idea: the Department suggests using cumulative weight prizes instead of biggest fish prize – this will get rid of more fish

PREVENTION:

Fishing Regulations – no possession of live fish

Private pond stocking permits – applications reviewed by IFW

Restriction of importation of live fish in to the state unless with IFW permit

Restriction on waters where live bait can be stored by bait dealers

Aquarium trade – list of unrestricted species (NEED TO LOOK AT THIS LIST AGAIN).

EDUCATION

We need to provide education to the public, children, bait dealers, anglers and private pond owners.

Mary will provide the slide show to others and on our website.

Open forum:

- Don Kleiner: Why do so good with plant invasive species, but why so difficult with fish?
- David: we need to education the anglers – it's important to contact the right people and keep the fish to show the department
- Greg Pone suggests education kids at the middle school conference level – science teachers needs to teach middle school kids. The kids will teach the adults that they take along.
- David – we need to have a consistent message – SAM needs to push it as an organization, such as an ad, “we appreciate our resources, but it's important that we don't have a hand in invasive fish”
- Steve- we need policy guidance – management following the introduction of species –
- Mary – policy issues were identified at that time, we need to look at the policy again.
- DAVID – SAM to put in legislation on updated report – find out what the cycle has to be.
- John McPhedran – plan was coordinated by DEP – talk to both him and Mary to update policy. Find out a reasonable way forward. As information comes along- it should be incorporated in the policy/plan.
- Greg – terminology definition – such as “pest” – regulations vs. demonizing - it's too loose now – people don't understand it.
- It was said by several people that the Dept. needs consistent messaging

- David – is the DEPT going to take a look at messaging?
- Mike Brown – messaging is very important – folks need to know we don't want to see the invasive fish move from the waters they are in now.
- Greg – would like to see mandatory fish kill. Is it possible to have the legislature create a mandatory fish kill?
- David – have teaching moments with kids.
- Don – clients don't kill fish? How do we teach clients? THROUGH EDUCATION.
- Paul Johnson – introduction is intentional and easy to do. How do you turn that around?
- David –peer pressure is what stops the invasive introduction intentionally
- Jeff Reardon – organized group of people moving pike around the state – there is a pattern there – put investigation and enforcement would send a message – resources (?) Analysis would help us know where to start – there are criminal rings.
- David – initiative – enforcement – anyone have any idea of where the money would come from?
- Ken Holeline - trying to instill in bass fishing – anti-bucket regulations doesn't believe education or peer pressure will work. People want something in their pond and will do it until they get caught.
- David is this a losing battle? Ken – I don't think we are fighting a losing battle.
- Guy at the front table – not many high profile cases – let's look at the budget to where the finances should go? DEP plant program what is that attributed to?
- John McPhedran – people don't move plants around intentionally – plants don't swim on their own, so it's easier than fish species. The DEP work closely with lake associations
- David – the lake associations have strong commitment to their lake. All of us need to be looking out for invasive activity.
- Gary – consistent message – everyone – includes the legislature – fines, penalties, closing waters due to introduction. Mandatory penalties and fish – we need to send a message - we need management plans.
- Mary – management plans for pike
- David – shouldn't there be a policy for pike
- Mike – we will follow up on that

Warden:

Boats can only be viewed with permission

Summons to date: 40 –(20 in 2012)

Warnings – triple (a guess); that they can't keep the fish alive. We need to educate anglers of this.

Wardens have to get permission to search anglers' boats and private property and do not have the authority like people think.

- Jeff – live fish issues – difference with live pike vs. trout that is still sluggish due to hitting over the head. There needs to be different penalties for this.
- Bass transfer – Mike doesn't know if Dept. is transferring bass, Mary says no.

- Public needs to hear more success stories. And how we irraticated water ways and invasive fish. Again education – they have ice fished long pond to get the pike out. Success stories will help people understand. We can open up more fishing commercially. There are a lot of people that would fish perch to send out west.
- Deirdre Fleming, reporter for Portland Press Herald– story on this subject running: convictions 10 year - 7 people in Maine for stocking; 4 were convicted \$1000.00 fine. Of the 4 were 28 yrs to 55 yrs old.
- Mary – regarding commercial fishing resources– we need to be aware of the fish consumption advisory for Maine – the Department has also thought hard about pet food trait as a market. That has issues too -items out of IFW jurisdiction. This would be area specific and fish specific.
- The young man sells yellow perch. He sells to schools. Maine allows the selling of yellow perch.
- Tom Abello – aquatic plant – reaching out to a broader constituency. To build attention to the viewers would be to get out to the broader non consumptive user.
- David – use lake associations?
- Tom – I think the Lake Association would agree to that.
- George – every species is a problem; we can't deal with every, let's manage. Have an aggressive policy moving forward.
- Jeff – questions regarding live well –
David, a bill needs to be introduced that a live well not be running.
- Josh – TNC – needs more literature with numbers of lakes/ water ways with different species. Clear of where the opportunities are.
- Mary – fish from this local – that is how we stock “can they mix” it may be a value to look at genetics of brook trout. They are highly mobile species. The Dept. has 8,000-10,000 fins from trout. Wild brook trout are distributed state wide.
- Steve Brooke– Dept. hasn't prioritized this. Read the opening paragraph of statute in rules book. Should we be prioritizing things differently? This is the core issue for all of.
- Mike, define what our native fisheries are.
- Matt Scott, retired regional biologist, the biologist could never reach everyone – everyone needs to help education the public and anglers.