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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Jeff Arnold
Jimmy Bell
Rob Drieslein
Frankie Dusenka
Dave Hanson
Garry Leaf
Tom Mackin
Kristen Merwin
Tom Neustrom
Jay Pederson
Steve Pennaz
Danny Suggs
Craig Wilson
Babe Winkelman



MN-FISH NEWS

“Official Newsletter” of the MN-FISH
Sportfishing Foundation & Coalition

NOTE TO MN-FISH MEMBERS

November 2021

Well, how's fishing? Age old question. My favorite answer is: the fishing is great; the catching sometimes isn't so hot. I think I like that answer because it applies to me quite often. And maybe you, too. But—we still love this pursuit called fishing, right?

A passion for fishing is what constitutes our MN-FISH members as well as your MN-FISH board of directors. While the last Minnesota legislative session ended without much angling action, we're busy gearing up for the 2022 legislature which will include a state bonding bill that represents an important opportunity for all us anglers.

We have two bonding proposals we hope will find legislative support on both sides of the aisle: 1) Bonding dollars to repair, improve and build our public boat launches; 2) bonding dollars to modernize our outdated walleye hatcheries.

This is where you come in. When the bonding discussions begin, you will be receiving legislative alert emails from MN-FISH. You will be asked to contact your legislators and seek support for boat accesses and walleye hatcheries. Our political leaders need to hear from us. That is our primary mission for MN-FISH. If we sit on our thumbs, we won't rock the legislative fishing boat.

In mid-July, the MN-FISH board gathered in Baxter and had a Q & A session with three special guests: DNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen; Asst. Commissioner Bob Meier and DNR Fisheries Chief Brad Parsons.

We discussed boat access issues, including signage and AIS tools. We talked about walleye stocking and hatchery needs and the impact of Covid on Minnesota's fishing resources.

We also touched on other fishing issues, such as DNR's pike regulations (will they really work and is there more that can be done to reduce stunted pike populations?)

Board members expressed concern about the timing of some bass tournaments when smallmouth are still spawning. DNR said some changes may be forthcoming.

Topics mentioned but needing more details:

- Accuracy of DNR's hooking mortality methods on Mille Lacs?
- What will DNR reorganization look like and how will fisheries be impacted?
- Wake boat issues? Solutions?

Your MN-FISH board has yet to take a position on those issues as we await more information. Until the next bite, thanks for supporting fishing and MN-FISH.

Tight lines!
Ron Schara
MN-FISH President



NEW MN-FISH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MN-FISH Foundation now has an Executive Director. You may know him: Chip Leer.

Chip, of Walker, is a hall of fame angler who has a passion for Minnesota fishing. He has signed on as a part-time executive director to move our organization ahead in many ways, including quarterbacking our committees and a host of other duties.

This is an important step in growing our organization and our mission to give state anglers a greater voice in the Legislature and DNR fisheries programs. As we like to say: Minnesota IS the State of Fishing.



GET ON-BOARD!

JOIN US by going to MN-FISH.com and signing up for a FREE 2-Year Charter membership, a \$35 Founding or \$250 Life Membership. Your donation and participation will help to grow our coalition so we can voice your concerns, lobby and negotiate better legislative fishing programs and policies to secure the future of sportfishing here in Minnesota.

“Leading the Way to Minnesota's Fishing Future”



MINNESOTA FISHING FACTS



**Over 1.4
Million
Anglers**



**11,842 Lakes
5,400 Fishable**



**90,000
Miles of
Shoreline**



**18,000 Miles
of Fishable
Rivers & Streams**



**162
Species
of Fish**



**825,000
Registered
Boats**



**#1 in
\$\$ Spent
in Freshwater
Fishing**



**Supports Over
43,000 Fishing
Related Jobs**



**\$2.8 Billion
in Retail
Spending**



**Generates
\$271 Million in
Tax Revenue**

MN-FISH ADDS FOUR TO BOARD by Noel Vick

It takes some brainpower to build better fisheries. With that in mind, the MN-FISH Sportfishing Foundation has added four bright minds to its board of directors, each a veteran in the fishing industry. Joining MN-FISH are Danny Suggs, Rob Drieslein, Jimmy Bell, and Dave Hanson.



Danny Suggs of Minneapolis is an accomplished tournament angler, photographer, outdoors writer, and served on the board of the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers. He is the former host/executive producer of the P.O.C.O. (People of Colors Outdoors) Pro/Am Bass Trail. Originally from Champaign, Ill., Suggs moved to Minnesota to attend Mankato State University (now Minnesota State University) on a hockey and football scholarship.



Rob Drieslein has been a Minnesota-based professional newspaper and magazine outdoors scribe since 1992. He grew up fishing Mississippi River walleyes and catfish around Winona.

In addition to his editorial and general manager duties at Outdoor News Publications, Drieslein

hosts the syndicated Outdoor News Radio, writes a conservation blog at outdoornews.com/Minnesota, and has written for several national and regional magazines.



Jimmy Bell is a professional angler whose passion is working with young anglers, parents, and volunteers to help grow the sport of fishing. He started the Student Angler Organization and is one of the co-founders of the Student Angler Tournament Trail. These organizations were created to fill a void for competitive student angling that focused on conservation practices. Bell is also president of the Lund Virtual Fishing League.



Dave Hanson has been the CFO of Clam Outdoors since 2008, and part of the MN-FISH team since its inception. He has assisted with organizational financials. In 2020, Hanson and Dave Osborne (CEO of Clam Outdoors/vice president of MN-FISH) won the Partners Fishing Tournament, an annual charity fishing tournament on Lake Minnetonka. Their winning bag of bass raised more than \$75,000 in support of MN-FISH.

MN-FISH.com

BALLY SPORTS NORTH AND OUTDOOR NEWS NOW AIRING MN-FISH PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bally Sports North and Outdoor News Radio are both airing free MN-FISH public service announcements (PSAs) on behalf of MN-FISH Sportfishing Foundation

Bally Sports North is the broadcast home of the Minnesota Twins, Wild, Wolves and Gophers; weekly Outdoor News Radio explores timely outdoors topics emerging from Minnesota, the Upper Midwest, and around the country.

The TV spots are hosted by MN-FISH president Ron Schara and produced by Chad Koel, owner

of Koel Communications. The radio spots feature Steve Pennaz, a recent inductee to the Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame.

All three spots encourage Minnesota anglers and the businesses that support them, to join MN-FISH and support our goal of improving fishing in Minnesota. Here is a copy of the spots, in case you haven't seen them on air.

:15 <https://vimeo.com/637223358>

:30 <https://vimeo.com/637852693>

MN-FISH COMMITTEES ANNOUNCED MEMBERS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN!

MN-FISH members are encouraged to help improve Minnesota fisheries by getting more involved as volunteers in MN-FISH, the organization they helped found.

Besides volunteering to work the MN-FISH booth at upcoming events like the Minnesota Ice Show in St. Paul and the Northwest Sport Show next spring, we need passionate members to join in established committees.

Currently, MN-FISH has several committees that would benefit from member involvement, including: Fisheries Affairs, Marketing, Membership, Events, Communications, Minnesota Fishing Hall of Fame, Youth Anglers and Legislative.

If you would like to volunteer for committee work, please contact Executive Director Chip Leer at info@MN-FISH.com.

MN-FISH BOARD MEMBERS TOUR DNR HATCHERY

by Steve Pennaz

In mid-October, MN-Fish Board members Dave Osborne, Dave Hanson and Danny Suggs joined DNR Assistant Commissioner Bob Meier, Fisheries Chief Brad Parsons and a busload of legislators from St. Paul for a tour of the DNR's Waterville Hatchery, which raises fish for stocking in state waters.

The hatchery was established in 1954 and has had major facility updates in 1989, 1998, and 2012. It again needs updating.

Per Suggs, "The legislators on hand acknowledged the fact the hatchery needs more money to be run the way it needs to be run."

Osborne said the meeting, which included an opportunity for him to speak on behalf of MN-FISH, was both successful and eye-opening. "The meeting made it clear that everyone is taking our lunch money because no-one is standing up to change that," he said.

The Waterville Hatchery raises five species of



"State-of-Fishing"

fish including muskie, northern pike, catfish, trout and walleye. Interestingly, the hatchery does not prioritize walleye production over species like pike.

This link has more information on the Waterville Hatchery: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/minnqua/fisheries_management_tour/waterville.html

PRIZES ANNOUNCED FOR WIN-A-MN-FISH SWEEPSTAKES

Launching soon, the next Win-A-MN-FISH Sweepstakes promotion offers new and existing MN-FISH members a chance to win great prizes, including an ice fishing trip for four anglers to Bugsy's on Bostic at famed Lake of the Woods, world-class tackle from Northland Fishing Tackle, as well as gear from Clam Outdoors and an auger from StrikeMaster, and much more.

**Bugsy's
on
Bostic**



The Win-A-MN-FISH Sweepstakes is our popular bi-annual membership drive designed to raise awareness of the MN-FISH Sportfishing Foundation & Coalition and its mission to protect, restore and enhance Minnesota sportfishing for present and future generation of anglers to enjoy. It is supported by its angling and corporate membership, along with Big Rock Sports Distributors and 50 of its most prominent Minnesota sporting goods retailers.

To enter, go to MN-FISH.com, fill out an entry form at participating retailers, or the MN-FISH booth at the St. Paul Ice Show.

The grand prize trip this year is a 3-night, 2-day trip to Bugsy's on Bostic (BugsysonBostic.com) on famed Lake of the Woods. Trip includes three nights lodging, two full days fishing in heated fish house, bait and all fish cleaning.

The summer MN-FISH sweepstakes closed with 861 entries. Winners have been selected and will be announced on the MN-FISH website once confirmed.

Summer Sweepstakes Update

The summer sweepstakes included the following prizes:

- Prize #1 – MINN KOTA® Terrova Trolling Motor w/i-Pilot, GPS & Bluetooth System - \$1,900 Value
- Prize #2 – HUMMINBIRD® Helix 9 Chirp Sonar w/MEGA Down & MEGA Side Imaging - \$1,500 Value
- Prize #3 – OLD TOWN® Discovery 119 Solo Sportsman Canoe - \$1,000 Value

We would like to thank Johnson Outdoors for their support of MN-FISH.

"Keep Minnesota Fishing"



MN-FISH MISSIONS

Become a grassroots sport fishing, marine and angler advocacy network to give anglers and business stakeholders a voice before the State Legislature and DNR.

Seek greater reinvestment back into sport fishing of the estimated \$271 million in state taxes derived from Minnesota's robust \$4.2 billion fishing industry.

Act as a watchdog and support DNR fish stocking policies and fish management programs when appropriate.

Support scientific and common-sense fish management of all gamefish species to "shorten-the-time-between-bites".

Advocate and promote youth fishing recruitment and fishing programs in school curriculums.

Seek funding and assist in expanding the Minnesota Fishing Museum/Hall of Fame/Education Center programs and facility.

To restore, protect and enhance Minnesota Sportfishing for present and future generations of anglers to enjoy.



MN-FISH SPORTFISHING FOUNDATION & COALITION

Restore, Protect and Enhance Minnesota Sport Fishing

WHERE DO TOURNAMENT-WEIGHTED BASS GO AFTER RELEASE?

Bass tournaments with single-site weigh-ins generally release fish near their weigh-in sites. So, what happens to these fish after they are released?

In August, the *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* published the results of a Canadian study that followed 88 largemouth and smallmouth bass outfitted with acoustic tags. This allowed researchers to track their movements throughout Eastern Ontario's Big Rideau Lake for several months following their release.

Data showed that released bass stayed near the release site for a short time, an average of 4.6 days for largemouth and just a day for smallmouth. All bass eventually returned to their initial capture areas which, in some cases, was 10 kilometers or more from the release site.

Per MN-FISH committee member and nationally recognized fisheries biologist Dr. Hal Schramm, this study's results were consistent with similar studies, which is why he supports releasing fish in multiple locations following weigh-in events.

MN-FISH COMMUNICATION LINKS

Each quarter (4X a year) you will receive a newsletter to your home address (Spring issue) or email (3 quarterly issues). Look for occasional special issues when important hot topics arise.

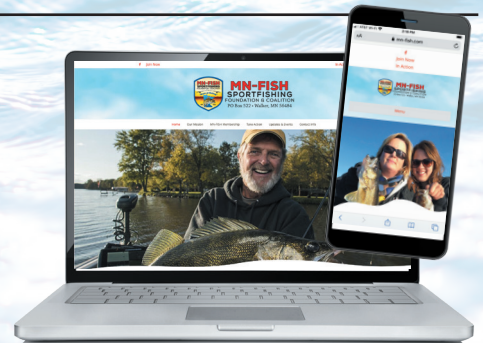
If you HAVE NOT been receiving emails from us in the past:

1. Check your JUNK MAIL where it's likely being redirected. If so, mark them as "NOT JUNK".
2. Go to MN-FISH website, click on membership and check to make sure the email and addresses listed for you are correct. You are welcome to email us at info@MN-FISH.com

FISH.com and we can confirm them for you as well.

Social Media – We have active pages on Facebook and Instagram. They are easy to find, just search MN-FISH Sportfishing on the platform. These pages will keep you informed on a daily/weekly basis on important issues, events, successes and special events. It's vital you follow Like and Share MN-FISH content.

You're a member of MN-FISH because aquatic resources and the recreational opportunities they provide are vitally important to you. We don't take that responsibility lightly. Thus, we ask you to support



our efforts by communicating and passing along our printed and e-newsletters to potential new members and following like and share our posts on social media. Communication takes more than one person, so PLEASE JOIN US.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec. 3-5 St. Paul Ice Show
Mar. 24-27 Northwest Sport Show

www.MN-FISH.com



"Leading the Way to Minnesota's Fishing Future"