

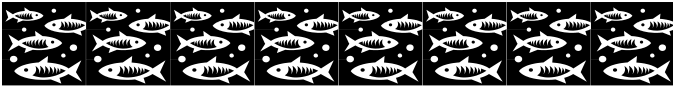
FISH TALES

BLUEWATER ANGLERS NEWSLETTER

bluewateranglers.com

facebook.com/groups/1513538452226134

FALL 2020



CLUB ACTIVITY CALENDAR For September - December 2020

September 2	Board of Directors Meeting
September 15	General Membership Meeting
October 7	Board of Directors Meeting
November 4	Board of Directors Meeting
December 2	Board of Directors Meeting

Check the Bluewater Anglers website or FACEBOOK for current information on upcoming club events

bluewateranglers.com/events.html
facebook.com/groups/1513538452226134.

SPECIAL STATEMENT REGARDING EVENTS

For the protection of our members and the public, the Bluewater Anglers have decided to cancel the upcoming General Membership Meeting. The remaining upcoming events are tentative, and we will continue to monitor the situation.

These decisions are based on the current and forecast COVID-19 situation, health advisories for isolation and physical distancing and the Ontario government restrictions on group sizes.

Thank you for understanding and we look forward to continuing activities when it is safe to do so.

HATCHERY REPORT

This has been a different summer of operation for the hatchery. With the Covid-19 virus affecting all our lives, some changes to hatchery operations were made. The crews operated with minimal staff and employed all disinfecting protocols required. The fish continued to grow and were well cared for over the summer months. We have less fish this fall than normal because none were held over from the spring stocking. At present there are 18,000 Brown Trout and 44,000 Rainbow Trout growing at normal rates. Most of the Browns will be stocked later this fall with the Rainbows remaining in the Hatchery until spring.

In mid August we were notified that we will once again be able to have a Salmon egg collection at the Owen Sound Mill Dam. Work will begin shortly preparing the equipment and the hatchery for the collection and rearing of the Salmon. The collection will be a little different as we will be operating under the protocols required for the Covid-19 virus.

The faithful hatchery crew completed some major maintenance work to keep the hatchery at peak performance for the next number of years. The aeration towers were both rebuilt, and the holding tanks cleaned. The west well was also cleaned out to improve the restriction around the intake screen. This was no easy task as the screen is 60 feet below grade. All the well pumps were rebuilt and are ready for service.

Running with minimal fish stocks the past few months, we have been able to keep our operating costs low. We have not been able to put out our vending machines this summer and other fundraising activities were cancelled. So, our revenue is reduced as well.

The **Community Hatchery Program**, which is funded through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters approved a funding grant for our hatchery of \$13,000. This program has just been renegotiated and is in-place until 2023. Our hatchery has received funding for the past 8 years through this program. This is the largest grant we have received to-date. It sure makes our future continue to look bright.

Once again thanks to all the people who make the Anglers work.

Jake

BLUEWATER ANGLERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

The remaining 2020 Board of Directors meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, and December 2nd (... the first Wednesday of each month) starting at 7:00 PM at the hatchery. The meetings are open to all club members. If you are thinking about becoming a Director in 2021, you are encouraged to attend one or more of the Board of Directors meetings. Please contact Ralph Eves (519-383-0873, r_gary_1217@outlook.com) if you would like to attend one of the meetings or if you have a subject or issue the Board of Directors should consider.

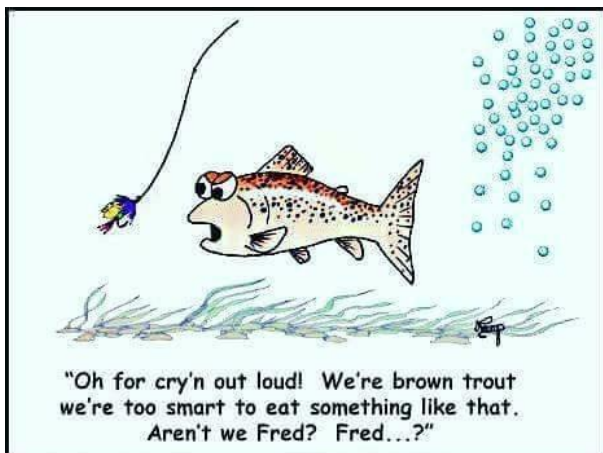
BLUEWATER ANGLERS FAMILY FUN (GOBY) DERBY

Saturday, July 4, 2020

CANCELLED



Unfortunately, the decision was made to cancel the Goby Derby this year due to public health concerns. We hope that you were still able to enjoy some fishing and time outdoors with your families this summer. We look forward to running this event again next year!



VILLAGE OF POINT EDWARD AND BLUEWATER ANGLERS WALLEYE DERBY

6:00 PM August 7 – 9:00 AM August 8, 2020

CANCELLED

Unfortunately, this event was also cancelled this year. We hope to see everybody again at next year's Walleye Derby!

UPDATE ON FIREARMS LICENSING BACKLOG

The following notice was released by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)

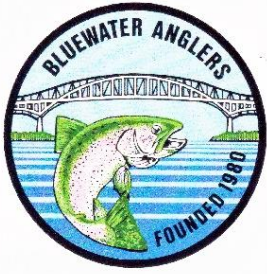
In July, [the OFAH wrote a letter to Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness, Bill Blair](#), to express concerns with the backlog of firearm licence processing and the potential for it to prevent hunters and sport shooters from using their firearms.

We received a response from the Director General of the Canadian Firearms Program (CFP) informing us that ***"even though [firearms owners] may not be in possession of [a] firearms licence card their licence may have been approved by the Chief Firearms Officer and they could obtain proof through this online submission portal"***. In a follow-up to clarify what is 'proof', we were told that the CFP was originally suggesting clients to print/display the online message stating ***"Your application has been processed and your licence has been issued"*** while they worked on the backlog, and noted that ***"the enforcement community can view the newly issued firearms licence via their online systems even if the client has not received their firearms licence card"***.

The CFP also reported to us through e-mail correspondence that they are now currently up to date on the printing of firearm licence cards.

If you have not received your firearms licence card, and you get the message stating ***"Your application has been processed and your licence has been issued"*** when performing a licence application search through the [CFP's online Individual Web Services](#), the CFP suggests you contact them by calling 1-800-731-4000.

This information should help clarify the uncertainty and confusion hunters and recreational shooters have been facing with their licence renewals during COVID-19. The OFAH will continue to monitor firearms licensing, inform the firearms community, and advocate for efficient and user-friendly renewal and application processes. Stay up to date at www.ofah.org/firearms.



45th Annual Salmon Derby

April 30 - May 9, 2021

The Salmon Derby is back in 2021! The dates for the 2021 Salmon Derby are **April 30 - May 9, 2021**. Only 8 months to go!

Planning for next spring's **45th ANNUAL SALMON DERBY** will begin in late September or early October. The date and location of the first Salmon Derby Committee have not been decided at this time.

The 2021 Salmon Derby Committee is looking for some new members to bring the committee back to full

strength. This is critically important this year. The current Salmon Derby Committee members have been around for several years and we are all getting older every year. New people bring new ideas and perspectives that help make the derby better. The committee usually meets for 1 - 1½ hours every 2 - 4 weeks. Anyone interested in helping with the 2021 Salmon Derby is asked to contact Paul Heckley (519-869-2593; pheckley@outlook.com).

Do you know somebody or a company that might be interested in becoming a 2021 Salmon Derby sponsor? Please contact Paul Heckley (519-869-2593; pheckley@outlook.com). Do you know somebody or a company that might be interested in having an ad in the 2021 Salmon Derby brochure? Please contact Pete Bothwell (519-869-4611; pbothwell@cogeco.ca).

Our sponsors are the reason that the Salmon Derby is so successful each year. We appreciate their continued generous support. Please support our numerous Salmon Derby sponsors when you make your purchases.

2020 SALMON DERBY SPONSORS

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MANY GENEROUS SPONSORS

Lambeth Rod & Tackle

Major Sponsors

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR MANY GENEROUS SPONSORS

THANK YOU Derby Sponsors

The Bluewater Anglers would like to pay **SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS**, many of whom have been with us since 1980 when we first took over the derby. They, like all of you, realize that every dollar raised by the Bluewater Anglers Salmon Derby goes right back into the fish hatchery account to cover operating expenses. So take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with our many derby sponsors. This event would not be possible without their much-appreciated support.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Phase Electrical • A1 Security • ALL SEASONS Trophies & Signs • ARLANXEO CANADA Inc. • B&B Taps & Grill • Bayview Chrysler Dodge Ltd. • Bluewater Industrial Coatings • CAA Auto Club and Travel Agency (Chatham) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAA Auto Club and Travel Agency (Sarnia) • Cameron Canada Inc. • COPPER BLUES Fishing Charters • Crabby Joe's Restaurant, Petrolia • Cross Works Physiotherapy • Cuda Sinkers Inc. • Dowler-Karn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dreamweaver Lures • Fenwick Motors • Forest Golf Club & Inn • Four Star Painting • Grog's Pub & Grill • Hana Japanese Restaurant • Iron Works Gym • MacKenzie Oil Limited • MacPherson's Restaurant • Mellon Inc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mettler Toledo Inc. • Northpoint Technical Services • Ontario Sportfishing Guides Association • Play It Again Sports • Purdy Fisheries • Ranger Nets • Raymond Blondin | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refined Fool Brewing Company • Rock's Custom Embroidery and Apparel • RONA Wilson Plumbing & Hardware • Salvatore's Restaurant • Sandhill Golf Course, Port Franks • Sarnia Heating & Cooling • Sim Propane Limited | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelley Machine & Marine • Suncor Energy • Sylvain's Marine • T.J. McCarthy Ltd. • Tomlinson Enterprise • The Wharf Restaurant • Wesco Electrical Wholesaler • Widder Station Golf and Country Club |
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LAKE HURON PREY FISH SURVEY

The following selected comments are from the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee – August 2020 Q&A session:

<https://sites.google.com/msu.edu/lhcfac/home>

Lake Huron Prey Fish Survey

Is there a prey fish recovery occurring anywhere in Lake Huron?

A: There is more of a forage fish recovery in the south than in the north. The north has more predation because of more lake trout. In the south there is especially more bloaters.

If there is more productivity in the shallower water, why is the deeper offshore waters surveyed?

A: Historically, the offshore waters produced much forage fish so if the mussels begin to decrease there could be an increase of forage fish abundance in the deeper water. It is important to measure the trends since many predators depend on the forage fish present in the offshore waters. Also, this is the area that the state asked USGS to assist in surveying.

Does USGS conduct the forage survey in Ontario waters?

A: Yes, but Ontario assists with staff and funds.

Do the high lake levels help forage fish survival?

A: It probably helps species like smelt that spawn in rivers and near shore areas. The high waters probably released significant nutrients when the substrate was flooded.

Is the abundance of quagga mussels increasing?

A: It seems to be stabilizing but it can fluctuate significantly from year to year.

Lake Huron-Michigan Predator Diet Study

Are cisco showing up in the predators' stomachs?

A: We are not seeing many yet. There are some closely related bloater chubs occasionally found in stomachs.

Why did the alewife population crash in Lake Huron and not in Lake Michigan?

A: The smelt and bloaters declined greatly in Lake Michigan, while the alewife and smelt declined in Lake Huron. The smelt have been showing up at low levels in Lake Huron over the last several years. It is hoped that the diet study results will help determine why the forage species are surviving differently in each of these lakes.

Does size of prey relate to preference or availability of year class of prey?

A: Short answer is: BOTH! If only 1 year-class is available, then predators will only consume that single year-class. If multiple year-classes are available, you would see predators selecting individuals of a particular size more often, but also consume others based on what is available at a particular moment in time. We do not really see that now. We only see predators consuming a single year-class for most prey species

Cisco Restoration in Lake Huron

What predators will eat cisco?

A: Trout, salmon, walleye, burbot and others along with people.

What is a cisco?

A: It was known previously as lake herring which is related to whitefish.

How large is a 2-year-old cisco?

A: About 8-9 inches.

What strain of cisco is being stocked in Saginaw Bay?

A: The northern Lake Huron shoal strain which has a stout body.

Is there an expectation that a successful cisco restoration program will take the pressure off yellow perch as prey fish for walleye and other predators?

A: Historically, that was the case in Saginaw Bay, and it is not only the goal but also the hope.

Other Comments

How many Chinook salmon will be stocked this year by the DNR in Lake Huron?

A: Approximately 670,000 fish.

To ensure that the predator and prey populations remain balanced, an effort is being made to determine if stocked Coho salmon will do well in Lake Huron and to stay within the predator/prey ratio, 30,000 Chinook salmon were cut in the north which allowed about a total 100,000 Coho salmon to be stocked in the central and southern sections of Lake Huron. Results should become apparent this season since the first plants in the Thunder Bay River and at Port Sanilac will mature this fall and return to the stocking sites.

ONTARIO INTRODUCES A FALL HARVEST FOR DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS

The following article was included in the August 2020 issue of the Great Lakes Basin Report, a publication of the Great Lakes Sport Fishing Council.

<http://www.great-lakes.org>

FENELON FALLS – The Ontario government is taking steps to protect fish stocks and natural habitat from the harmful impacts of double-crested cormorants by introducing a fall harvest for the species. The harvest will help address concerns about impacts to local ecosystems by cormorants, a bird that preys on fish, eating a pound a day, and that can damage trees in which they nest and roost.

The announcement was made late last week by John Yakabuski, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry.

"We've heard concerns from property owners, hunters and anglers, and commercial fishers about the kind of damage cormorants have caused in their communities, so we're taking steps to help them deal with any local issues," said Minister Yakabuski. "In large amounts, cormorant droppings can kill trees and other vegetation and destroy traditional nesting habitats for some other colonial water birds, so it's critical that we take action to strike a healthy balance in local ecosystems."

Following public consultations, the province has made changes to its initial proposal and has decided to introduce a hunting season that will run annually from September 15 to December 31, starting in 2020.

"We listened to those who provided comments about the cormorant hunting proposal, and as a result, we are introducing only a fall hunting season to avoid interfering with recreational users of waterways and nesting periods for some migratory birds," said Minister Yakabuski. "We have also reduced the maximum number of cormorants a hunter can take to 15 a day, which is a similar limit to one for federally regulated migratory game birds such as mourning doves, Snow and Ross's Geese, Rails, coot and Gallinules."

In 2019, the ministry and partner agencies surveyed cormorant colonies across the Great Lakes and select inland lakes in Ontario. Based on nest count surveys, there are an estimated minimum of 143,000 breeding cormorants in 344 colonies across the province.

Combined with historical data, trends suggest that cormorant populations are increasing in Lake Ontario, Lake Erie, and Lake Superior and are stable on the St. Lawrence River and Lake Huron.

"Growing up in North Bay and spending many summers fishing on Lake Nipissing, I have seen firsthand the issues that cormorants have caused in some local areas," said Mike Harris, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. "A new fall hunting season will help communities manage cormorant populations where they have negatively impacted natural habitat and other water bird species."

"Cormorants have been a growing problem on Sturgeon Lake and Balsam Lake, where they have covered islands with their guano, killing trees and vegetation," said Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock. "We're listening to local residents who have voiced their concerns and asked for additional tools to address the issue."

Ontario has a healthy and sustainable cormorant population. We will continue to monitor the cormorant population status and trends to support sustainability of cormorants in the province.

Quick Facts

- Double-crested cormorants are fish-eating birds, usually eating easy-to-catch fish species. They nest on the ground or in trees on islands and peninsulas.
- In large amounts, cormorant droppings, called guano, can kill trees and other vegetation and destroy traditional nesting habitats for some other colonial water birds.
- Competition between cormorants and some colonial nesting water birds has been well documented, including the displacement of some other species by cormorants.
- Hunters are responsible for appropriately identifying their target and ensuring they are harvesting only double-crested cormorants.
- While some hunters may choose to consume cormorants, those who choose not to consume the cormorants they harvest must retrieve the birds and dispose of them properly.

[Find out more about hunting in Ontario.](#)

[Find out more about the fall cormorant hunt in Ontario.](#)



Federal Law and Rules of the Road

1. Fishing, Sailing and Vessels less than 66 feet (20 meters) shall not impede the passage of a vessel operating in a narrow channel.
2. Anchoring in a navigation channel is against the law except in the case of an emergency.

What you can do for the safety of your vessel and passengers.

- Be aware of your position in channels and where large ships may be transiting with extra attention at night.
- If a vessel is approaching, take early and obvious action to move out of the way. Do not wait to the last second.
- Never converge towards the path of a large vessel or where the vessel may turn.
- Monitor VHF Ch. 11 (St. Clair River) or Ch. 12 (Detroit River) and AIS websites for vessel positions.
- 5 or more short blasts of a ship's whistle means DANGER. You need to take action immediately to move out of the way.

Courtesy of Lakes Pilots Association, Port Huron, Michigan - 2018

BLUEWATER ANGLERS AND OFAH MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The **Bluewater Anglers** are an affiliated club of the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)**. Membership in the Bluewater Anglers includes membership in **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** since all members of an affiliated club must also be members of OFAH (www.ofah.org). Members can choose between an "affiliated" OFAH membership which includes the personal insurance and OFAH benefits but not the **Ontario OUT OF DOORS (OOD)** magazine or the "full" OFAH membership which includes the personal insurance and OFAH benefits plus the **Ontario OUT OF DOORS (OOD)** magazine. You can join the **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** at a discount rate through the Bluewater Anglers. If you have a current **Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters (OFAH)** membership through another club or organization, then you only need to pay for your regular Bluewater Anglers membership.

Complete the form below to become a Bluewater Anglers member or to renew your current membership. More information about membership benefits can be found at www.bluewateranglers.com/membership.html and www.ofah.org. Contact Ralph & Jo-Anne Eves (519-383-0873 or r_gary_1217@outlook.com) for more information.

BLUEWATER ANGLERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION - 2020

Membership: New Renewal

(A) With a current OFAH Membership through another club Bluewater Anglers Membership ONLY	OFAH Membership #		OFAH Expiry Date	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Junior: \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single: \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$30.00	
(B) Without a current OFAH Membership Combined Bluewater Anglers AND OFAH Memberships	No Ontario Out of Doors magazine	With Ontario Out of Doors magazine	With digital Ontario Out of Doors magazine	With digital Ontario Out of Doors magazine + Fishing & Hunting Annuals
Single Adult	<input type="checkbox"/> \$37.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$63.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$53.00
Family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$58.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$84.00	Not available	Not available
Junior (under 25 yr. of age)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$23.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49.00	Not available	Not available
BWA Life Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$17.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$43.50	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$33.00

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____

Province/State _____ Country _____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ (***) *Mandatory for digital OOD magazine*

Make cheque payable to **BLUEWATER ANGLERS** and send the completed form to
Bluewater Anglers, c/o Membership Chairman, P.O. Box 174, Sarnia Ontario N7T 7H9.