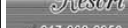




Illinois B.A.S.S. Federation Nation

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Conservation Times

BY MILT WALTERMIRE

The Recreational Fishing Alliance has blasted the executive order signed on July 19 by President Obama—an order that has been vehemently opposed by science-based fishing organizations. Saying that these are sad times for our democratic process, the R.F.A. states that the executive order is vastly similar to legislation which has languished in Congress for nearly a decade, therefore circumventing the legislative process.

"Representative Sam Farr of California has been pushing his ideological hogwash through the House of Representatives for nearly 10 years, but every time his doomsday bill gets debated in committee it is tossed out for being utter nonsense and a bureaucratic nightmare," said R.F.A. Executive Director Jim Donofrio. "Our President appears to be infatuated with bureaucracy and the belief that his authority to rule is more powerful than the legislative process, signing his name to decrees as if he were king."

Farr's failed legislative attempts, known as Oceans 21, did not gain congressional support because of its ability to restrict access to public resources while creating a new bureaucracy

hierarchy with unprecedented power to regulate fisheries without public input or oversight. The R.F.A. has been at the forefront of exposing Oceans 21 for the farce that it is. In June of 2009, the R.F.A. was the only national recreational fishing organization asked to testify before Congress in opposition to the bill.

The threat of a pending presidential order that would restrict recreational fishing set off a media firestorm in March when ESPN warned that efforts of the Obama administration's policy of "marine spatial planning" would ultimately affect the management of and public access to the nation's public resources. At that time, Donofrio warned that it appeared to be an attempt by the Executive branch to circumvent the established legislative process and enact policy that failed as legislation for several years in a row.

"Our current fisheries management process might need some adjustment, but this presidential decree sets up such an incredible bureaucratic infrastructure that Americans could find it very hard to find opportunities to fish in the future," Donofrio said. "Mr. Obama has made it very clear that he thinks that he and his administration know better than we do. Doesn't that just speak volumes about our current political climate in Washington?"

In more "hard-to-swallow" news, it has been announced that Chris Horton is leaving his post as B.A.S.S.'s Conservation

Director on August 27 for an opportunity with the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation as a regional director. Regional director? This really gives me pause. Chris is an outstanding person as well as having been a significant and critical voice for fisheries and fishermen all over the country, including the halls of Congress, and I truly wish him the absolute best for him and his family. He definitely deserves it. When he worked along side Noreen Clough, the former B.A.S.S. Conservation Director, we truly had a dynamic duo leading the B.A.S.S. conservation team. Noreen had come to us from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which is one reason this strikes me as an odd move for Chris. At the time Noreen came, the B.A.S.S. job was apparently a better one than the government agency job. Now Chris is going in the opposite direction, leaving B.A.S.S. for a regional directorship with a congressional foundation. Perhaps I'm worried over nothing, but I can't help but feel that Chris sees some "hand-writing on the wall" at B.A.S.S. (or ESPN) and is accepting a reasonably good offer to stay gainfully employed before B.A.S.S.'s emphasis on conservation gets downgraded in more cost-cutting measures. It is very difficult to demonstrate a yearly bottom line profit from conservation, which is all the bean-counters care about, especially if it is looking to make their product or organization appear more profitable to potential buyers. Just a thought.

Club News

West Suburban Bass Anglers LaCrosse, Wis., Pool 8, July 17-18

This was the site for the sixth tournament on the West Suburban Bass Anglers schedule on July 17-18. The weather cooperated for the two-day event, which saw a number of techniques produce both largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Brian Chapman (Cabela's, Shilano, St. Croix, Lee's Bait & Tackle) won his second event of the season with a two-day total of 10 bass weighing 21-15. Brian caught most of his fish on frogs in backwater areas. Mike Rubino continues his solid year finishing second with nine fish for 21-0, and Dave Homan (Shimano,

G. Loomis) took third, weighing in 12-9.

On the non-boat side, Roger Munoz picked up his first victory of the year catching eight fish for 15-6. Roger caught most of his fish drop-shooting wing dams on the main river. Taking second was Mike Gilmartin (CB's Hawg Sauce, Save Place. Strictly Bass Lures, Papa Bear's Lure Co.) with six fish weighing 13-5, and rounding out the top three was Bill Olson with six fish for 12-15.

Big bass on day one was caught by Mike Gilmartin with a nice largemouth weighing 4-1. Mike caught his big bass off of the riprap using a lipless crankbait. Big bass on day two was caught by Mike Rubino, who also caught a 4-1 largemouth bass. Mike caught his fish on the riprap with a buzzbait.

Illinois Valley Bassmasters September 12

IVBM will be having our Fall Open Buddy Tournament on Sunday, September 12. The Three Rivers Tournament, launching out of the DesPlaines Conservation Area will have a five fish, 12-inch limit for both large and smallmouth. Please contact Dave Winnie at Sticknem@att.net for an application or further information.

The Illinois Valley Bassmasters meets at the Morris VFW, the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. We are currently accepting new members, both boaters and non-boaters. Please contact Rich Miller at olbasser@att.net for more information.

Northern Illinois Crank 'N Bass Geneva Lake, July 17, 2010

Our fifth tournament of the year took us back to Geneva Lake. We fished from 1 a.m. to 10 a.m. on July 17. We had 18 sleepy heads trying to keep their focus on finding bass (and staying in the boat). Fish were asleep, as we only caught 49 fish weighing 122.22 pounds. All but two fish were released alive.

It was nice to see that as we arrived to weigh in, friends and family were waiting to welcome us back. That means a lot to us dedicated fishermen, and seeing our loved ones is just the icing on the cake. Thanks to our dedicated fans!

- 1st Place: Mike Roeser with 5 fish weighing in at 13.89 pounds.
 - 2nd Place: Jeramie Hewkin with 5 fish weighing in at 13.33 pounds.
 - 3rd Place: Chris Capasso with 5 fish weighing in at 12.8 pounds.
 - 4th Place: Robert Banks with 5 fish weighing in at 12.01 pounds.
- Big bass for the day went to Rick Garry with a fish weighing 3.94 pounds.



Illinois Bass Anglers Kids Fishing Day, July 10, 2010

Saturday, July 10, the Illinois Bass Anglers held their 10th annual Kid's Fishing Day on the grounds of the Whalon Lake Preserve in Bolingbrook. Although the big ones never starting biting, the little ones were abundant for all to have a great time. Every participant received a tackle pack filled with baits as well as a raffle ticket to choose a prize of their choice from a table full of rods, reels, bank packs and tackle boxes. This year we were graciously joined by Pat Fiacatto from Nancy's Pizza-Bolingbrook who set up games for the kids and handed out coupons for a free slice of pizza and candy for all who participated. After all the festivities, every participant and their families enjoyed lunch with hot dogs, chips, fruit snacks and a beverage. Congratulations to brother and sister Cameron Beach and

Whitney Beach for catching the largest fish in both the girls and boys division. Cameron and Whitney both received new rod and reel combos for their winning catch.

The Illinois Bass Anglers would like to thank the following sponsors for helping make the event a huge success with their generous donations: Progressive Eye Care, Nancy's Pizza - Bolingbrook, Bolingbrook Wal-Mart, Bass Pro Shops,

Jewel Food Stores, MinuteMan Press, Joliet, Riverstone Financial Advisors, State Farm - Sean Carney, Professional Center of Dental Care, Bolingbrook, Andy's Frozen Custard, AMF Lanes Bolingbrook, Buffalo Wild Wings, Chili's, Olive Garden, Food for Less and Walgreens.



1st Place: Mike Roeser.



IBFN 2010 State Team - Escanaba, Mich.

August 10-12, 2010.

(Check back next month for complete results of this tournament.)

IBFN CLUBS:

Send in your tournament info to be posted in Club News.

Featured Sponsor of the Month

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The IBFN thanks its sponsors for their dedication to the Illinois bass fisherman.