

Changes to Walleye Size Limit Regulations in Northeastern Ontario

The following are excerpts from MNR- Hon. David Ramsay, Minister letter to KDCA Feb 8, 2005.

The current slot size regulations are considered complex by many. When anglers have difficulty understanding the regulations, it is possible that many people may unintentionally break the law, and others may choose not to fish or to take up fishing. By changing the size limits for walleye, the ministry will streamline and simplify the regulations by having only one regulation for all of Northern Ontario. This will help to increase compliance and will remove perceived barriers to participation in recreational fishing.

The Ministry will be reviewing walleye regulations across the province to determine if further changes to the regulations in both Northern and Southern Ontario are necessary. Meanwhile, the regulations for Northern Ontario are being streamlined until the review of all walleye regulations in Ontario is complete. It is expected that future fisheries assessments and field studies will result in further changes to the walleye regulations across the province in order to ensure a healthy, sustainable walleye fishery in Ontario. It is anticipated that the provincial review of walleye regulations in both Northern and Southern Ontario will be completed by January 2007.

Please let me assure you that the efforts from the previous exercise and the advice of the Regional Fisheries Advisory Committee will be incorporated in the larger provincial review of walleye regulations. Organizations such as NOTO and the OFAH, as well as others, will again be consulted during the course of this review.



KDCA Receives MNR Feedback - Oct.15, 2004 Non-Resident Deer Hunting

The Hon. David Ramsay replied that KDCA's proposal that non-resident deer hunters be required to be accommodated at a commercial tourism establishment. The Minister indicated that this request is not consistent with the North American Free Trade Agreement and stated that this was not an option that the ministry would be able to pursue until after 2005.

He said that Ministry staff are currently reviewing the status of the non-resident deer hunt in the Northwest Region, including the management options that are available and welcomed KDCA participation in reviewing both the social and conservation objectives for the non-resident deer hunting issue.

Log-on to www.kdca for more news

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(807) 223-3266



www.kdca.ca

NOTICES:

NEXT MEETING:
Friday May 6th
at Waldhof Hall
9:30 A.M.

MINUTES:
The minutes of the 2004 fall KDCA meeting can be downloaded at the KDCA web site:
www.kdca.ca

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ISSUE FOR:
February 2005

SMOKE TRAILS NEWS

From the Kenora District Camp Owners Association
Your Local Tourism Lobby Association Representing the Federal District of Kenora.
NOTO's Largest and Oldest Chapter

President's Message:

The resource-based tourism industry took a thumping in 2004 - just as it did in 2002 and 2003. (See: Ontario Tourism: FACTS & FIGURES, Winter 2004). The question becomes: How long is this going to continue?

Increasing evidence (e.g., sport show attendance, toll-free telephone line usage, outfitter comments, etc.) suggests that the 2005 season may be a continuation of this trend. However, each lodge, camp, or resort owner is in tourism because "we love it and we love the way of life." It also means that we work hard at what we do and expect to make a decent living, just like the rest of the residents of NW Ontario. But, the tourism industry recognizes that we cannot do it all by ourselves.

We need help and support from our local communities, all levels of government and our elected officials. Peter Kingsmill, referring to local community involvement, states: "It will take more than the (semi) annual spring ritual in Dryden/Waldorf (sic) to build a commitment to tourism as an important sector in the communities" (Tourism, November/December 2004, Volume 8, Issue 4).

In terms of governmental involvement, Randy Williams, President, CEO Tourism Industry Association of Canada (TIAC), has indicated that for Canada to be competitive in the tourism industry it must increase the marketing budget over 100%, or by some \$93 MILLION! Basically, dollars (and lots of them) are needed to make a difference.

And finally, tourism must become more actively involved in holding our elected officials accountable and demand more of and from them. (Tourism, November/December, Volume 8, Issue 4).

It is our belief that tourism is a vital part of each and every community across the province of Ontario; however, just as each tourist operation contributes to the local economy there is every expectation that communities, in return, support these lodges, camps and resorts.

In our eyes, tourism is one very big challenge; but, once we meet this challenge, it can pay substantial dividends for all of us. So let's get involved, and, let's support one another!

Harald Lohn, President

BORDER CROSSING FACTS

•border crossings from the U.S. dropped by 1.3% over the first three quarters of 2003 and by 18.1% over the same period of 2002.

INTERNATIONAL BORDER CROSSINGS IN ONTARIO July to September and January to September 2004 Percent Change Over Same Periods of 2003				
	JULY 2004	AUG. 2004	SEPT. 2004	JAN. - SEPT. 2004
TOTAL US	3.5%	-7.4%	4.8%	-1.3%

Source: Ontario Ministry of Tourism and Recreation Winter 2004

BRUCE MONTAGUE: SCRAP C-68 FUND

The KDCA received a thank you letter for our contribution to the Bruce Montague Scrap C-68 Fund. In the letter he emphasized that this is not just his fight but that this is our fight. He said “ This is the first chance we’ve had in ten years to seriously challenge this law....I can only assure you that despite the character assassinations attempted on me, I have done nothing criminal, I don’t have a criminal record, and there are no victims. My only alleged “crime” is purely paperwork in nature. I want to make sure you are aware that my charges are a result of an intentional effort to challenge the law. In other words I’m not a crook that got “caught in the act”. This was very much a “leap of faith” on the part of the CUFOA executive (of which I’m one) to try to get one of us arrested with the right charges to challenge this law. We believe strongly enough that we are right, that we put our own necks on the line, with the belief that the rest of the firearms community would rally up with the financial support needed to win this fight in the courts. Keep in mind, that if a charter challenge is lost, it can never be looked at again by our courts. We only get one chance at this charter challenge; let’s make it a good one.”

For more information visit: www.brucemontague.ca

VISITOR INQUIRIES:INTERNET vs TELEPHONE

MORE INQUIRIES VIA WEB SITE

- In October 2004 there were over 230,000 user sessions on www.ontariotravel.net, an **increase of 54.5%** over October 2003 and 83.3% over October 2002
- During January to October 2004, user sessions **increased by 62.0%** over the same period of 2003
- inquiries to **1-800-ONTARIO decreased** in Oct. 2004 by **18.0%** over Oct. 2003. Inquiries **down by 37.4 %** over Oct. 2002
- Total inquiries to **1-800-ONTARIO decreased by 6.1%** in the Jan. to Oct. period of 2004 over same period of 2003 and by 20.5% over same period of 2002.

Source:Electronic Data Solutions

PLEASE SUPPORT KDCA ALLIED MEMBERS:

Bay Lakes Mktg/All Canada Show	920-983-9800
BDO Financial Services	807-223-5321
Bobby’s Corner	807-227-2099
Border Bob’s	218-283-4414
Brose Management Services	807-468-6471
B. Taylor Home Building Centre	807-223-3381
Canada Borderlink Inc.	403-218-1300
Consumers Frosted Foods Ltd.	807-468-8995
CSP Printing	807-547-3229
Cushiride Canada Inc.	204-334-9000
Darkwater Developments	807-223-6331
Doug Bishop Sales	807-468-3333
Dryden Chamber of Commerce	807-223-2622
Dryden GM	807-223-7123
Duramount Fish Reproductions	204-475-0105
Eagle Junction	807-755-2226
Egli’s Sheep Farm	807-755-5231
Hawkins Taxidermists Ltd.	204-775-3384
Hook, Seller & Lundin	807-468-9831
Kantola Motors	807-468-8984
Kenora Homes GMAC	807-468-4777
Kupper Contracting	807-227-2194
Latitude 50 Realty	807-223-4950
Lund G. McLeod (Genmar)	
McAuley & Partners	807-223-2254
McTaggart’s Store Ltd.	807-468-8979
Mercury Marine	
Northern Lights Credit Union Ltd.	807-223-5454
Northland Enterprises	807-227-2057
northwest design + communications ltd.	807-223-3691
Northwest Printwear	204-982-1007
Ontario’s Sunset Country Travel Assoc.	807-468-5853
P.S.A. Insurance Services Ltd.	905-889-4933
Railside Sports & Marine	807-223-3517
Red Eagle Gift Stores	807-223-4513
Royal Bank- Dryden Branch	800-769-2511
Royal Bank - Toronto Branch	800-769-2511
Shewchuk, MacDonell, Ormiston, Richardt & Fregeau LLP Barristers & Solicitors	807-468- 5559
Skillen-Squire Insurance Services Ltd.	807-223-2215
Standard Insurance Brokers- Kenora	807-468-3333
Standard Insurance Brokers-Dryden	807-223-3676
Superior Propane	807-223-2951
Telesky Taxidermist Ltd.	204-775-6796
Timbermax	807-223-6699
Vermillion Bay Co-op	807-227-2160
Village Corner	807-227-2671
Weyerhaeuser Canada	807-223-2323
Wolframe’s Bottled Water	807-223-8836
Wolframe’s World of Water	807-468-4338
Yamaha Motor Canada Ltd.	

NOTO CONVENTION: Report by Gary Beardsley, Vice-President

The convention for 2004 was a one day meeting to interface with the Eco-north Tourism Conference. Of particular interest to KDCA members were the responses from the NOTO Board of Directors when challenged by representatives from NWOTA and KDCA regarding the financial crisis of the past year. NOTO finances were put into a crisis due to the loss of anticipated funds to support the 2004 Tourism Guide resulting in funds being diverted from other programs and projects. Bridge financing cosigned by NWOTA was not repaid in an agreed upon manner and communication was nonexistent. The NOTO board was humbled when asked why membership could not be kept abreast of critical matters; but also felt that the concept of “Branch Groups” no longer exists and that informative cooperation is only discretionary. It is hoped that the frank and open dialogue that followed will encourage better membership respect in the future. The question of whether NOTO should continue in the business of marketing instead of a focus on lobbying was raised but the response was inconclusive regarding the financial strain on the organization.

Doug Reynolds addressed several topics of continuing concern to all members. We need to continue pressure on the Federal Government to facilitate better relationships and responses to the border issues we have endured for the past several years. RSA’s are in full swing but funding is coming to an end for NOTO to continue to support individual initiatives. Contact the NOTO office if any members have questions or needs dealing with continuing forestry plans.

Water regulations were in the forefront of many member’s minds. NOTO feels very strongly that the Minister needs to focus on results not techniques for true health protection and that the Ministry of Health is the best place to focus responsibility. Letters had been sent and the Premiere has promised to review and rewrite of Reg.170. As this report is written, an extension of requirement deadlines has been announced with most of our industry looking at a December 31, 2006 treatment deadline; this gives us time to encourage a proper rewrite to meet the tourism industry’s needs and requirements. Municipal land tax issues will develop for those businesses in unincorporated areas as provincial downloads are passed to local service boards and levies are assessed for services that may be inaccessible to those taxed.

NOTO membership issues are critical for the association to continue as the industry leader and spokesman on Parliament Hill. NOTO influence and it’s voice must be kept strong through industry and allied support.

ECO-NORTH CONFERENCE: Report by Gary Beardsley, Vice-president

The Eco-north Conference was far from “Eco” and was truly a Nature Based Tourism Conference. As a consumptive orientated hunting and fishing outfitter, I felt the conference was quite informative and felt not a bit out of place or scorned by an “addle-paddle” crowd. In reality we are all Eco, or more appropriately “Nature” oriented in some way and often to a greater extent than we know or except. Here in the NW many of us watch the birds- it’s just that we shoot them after a good look!

The conference was a way to open our minds and look at opportunities that are there waiting for us. We are often surprised how simple ideas were developed into outstanding businesses. Several Key-note speakers targeted the “out of the box” thinking that is needed to assure success with a diversified business.

- Keynote by Bruce Poon Tip - Tourisn Adventure Business. He focuses on making his clients “Guests” not just tourists viewing the world from the outside but emerges them into local cultures and experiences on a basic local level. Started literally from scratch, it is now one of the 10 largest adventure companies in the world.
- Ontario receives 47% of Canada’s Tourism with 80% of that in the North according to Ted Eubanks. His presentation focused on blending tourism with conservation, and on large scale projects.
- Breakout sessions focused on such ideas as “Branding”- developing an indelible part of history, nature, or culture that can not be erased; i.e. Norseman Capital of the World.
 - Trails - not necessarily a physical path but an arrangement of experiences in a linear fashion; i.e. The new GPS tours and or car/boat tours of a broad geographical area.
- GET RID OF DISCOUNTED TOURISM! This is a value added industry where *Good Money follows Good Ideas*.
- For our government people that we need to influence - Profit can be measured in Acres Preserved that there exists a social/cultural profit on the landscape.