

State of
New York
**CONSERVATION
FUND
ADVISORY BOARD**



Annual Report to the
Commissioner
and
Sportsmen and Women
April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000

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1. A Message from the Chairperson

The fiscal year of April 1, 1999 through March 31, 2000 was a critical year for the Conservation Fund. We continued to see the costs of programs increase during the year while license sales remained about the same as they were the previous few years. That means that the Fund continues to decline in available cash at the end of each fiscal year. Last year, the Board urged the Legislature and the Governor to support a comprehensive license fee increase in the Budget Bill. The Fund needed an increase in revenue to remain solvent in the current fiscal year. The Legislature chose to infuse the Fund with 4.1 million dollars which was added in April, 2000.

Everyone agrees that this was a temporary "fix." In the fall of 1999, the Comptroller of the State of New York conducted an audit of the Fund and the way that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) expends the monies in the Conservation Fund. The audit confirmed what the Board has known for some time - the Conservation Fund is in trouble. The audit also confirmed that the DEC is spending the monies raised from hunting, fishing and trapping licenses in accordance with New York State Law. One recommendation implemented as a result of the audit was the transfer of approximately one quarter million dollars infrom the interest from lifetime licenses to the Traditional Account. That transfer will take place annually.

To the members of the New York State Senate and Assembly, I urge you to do your part and take a bi-partisan look at the Conservation Fund. We thank you for keeping the fund solvent through the fiscal year 2000 through 2001, but we ask you to support the license fee increase when it comes before you this spring. The sportsmen and women of New York are not afraid to pay their own way to insure the best hunting and fishing possible.

Governor George Pataki, on behalf of the Board I ask you to encourage the Legislature by making a strong statement in support of the license fee package. Your leadership is critical if we are to enjoy the level of service from DEC that we currently enjoy while ensuring a future in the outdoor sports for our children.

To the men and women who enjoy being in the great outdoors, the members of the Conservation Fund Advisory Board join the New York State Conservation Council and the DEC in asking for your support. Ask your elected officials to support your sport by allowing you to pay for the services through your license fees.

With a modest increase in license fees, we can keep New York State as one of the finest places in the world to enjoy outdoor sports.

John J. Long Jr.
Chairperson

2. About this Report

The Conservation Fund Advisory Board is required to submit two annual reports. The first is to the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation. The second is a fiscal report to the sportsmen and women who buy hunting, fishing and trapping licences and other persons who are interested in fish and wildlife issues. We are required to submit this report by July of each year.

That is an impossible mandate. The fiscal information so critical to the accuracy of this report only begins to become available in late summer. Therefore, it was impossible for the Board to meet the July requirement. In the past, the fiscal report appeared in the hunting and fishing booklets and was always a year and a half old. Thus, this report provides constituents with much more timely fiscal information that is only six months old.

We have elected to combine the report to the Commissioner and the fiscal report to the sportsmen and women in one comprehensive document which is suitable for inclusion on the DEC web site home page www.dec.state.ny.us.

3. What is the Conservation Fund Advisory Board?

The New York State Conservation Fund Advisory Council (CFAC) was established by Chapter Four of the Laws of 1982 as a branch of the State Executive Department. It provides the license buying public of the State of New York with information about expenditure of Conservation Fund monies, thereby ensuring that the Fund is spent in accordance with the Environmental Conservation Law, specially for the care, management, protection and enlargement of the fish and game resources of the State and for the promotion of public fishing, hunting and trapping.

Under Chapter 308 of the Laws of 1994, the Council was reestablished as the Conservation Fund Advisory Board (CFAB) and removed from the jurisdiction of Executive Law, and placed under the Environmental Conservation Law. The change allowed the addition of ex-officio members to the Board (Senate and Assembly Environmental Conservation Committees, Senate Finance Committee, Assembly Ways and Means Committee, and the DEC Commissioner, or their representatives), in an effort to speed up communications and give the Board the ability to make more timely decisions.

All CFAB members are volunteers serving without salaries and having a long standing interest, knowledge and experience in fish and wildlife management, including hunting, fishing, trapping and related conservation activities. The members represent each of the nine DEC Regions with two statutory members representing the New York State Conservation Council Inc., and the New York State Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board.

CFAB's function is to make recommendations to appropriate state agencies on plans, policies and programs affecting fish and wildlife. This is accomplished by CFAB review of the DEC's fish and wildlife program and the enforcement program (Titles 11 & 13 only). The Board submits an annual report to the DEC Commissioner and a fiscal report to sportsmen and women and the interested public.

Board members can be contacted by writing the Conservation Fund Advisory Board, 50 Wolf Road, Room 560C, Albany, New York 12233-4750.

The specific duties of the Board are:

- Review the allocations and expenditures of the DEC for fish and wildlife programs.
- Periodically make reports and release information to sportsmen and women and the general public about the Conservation Fund and the Fish and Wildlife Program.
- Consult with fish and wildlife interests and report annually to the DEC Commissioner on fiscal needs and recommendation for meeting them.
- Assist the DEC in expanding sources of income to the Conservation Fund.
- Provide recommendations on the needs of fish and wildlife programs.
- Evaluate expenditures of the Conservation Fund by reviewing current and proposed fish and wildlife programs.

Fulfillment of these responsibilities is aimed at assuring that Conservation Fund expenditures are in accordance with New York State Fiscal Law. The Conservation Fund was created under that law in 1925 requiring one half of all monies in the fund to be spent exclusively for fish and game related purposes. In 1993, the law was amended to require that all the monies be used for these purposes. For more than a half century, sportsmen and women have purchased sporting licenses - the principal source of Conservation Fund revenue -- and assured the stewardship of New York's fish and wildlife.

4. Accounts in the Conservation Fund

The Conservation Fund consists of several accounts. The following is a list of those accounts and a general description of the funding source. The figures were obtained from the March 31, 2000 comparative statement and may not be the final figures. However, the numbers are a good indication of the status of each account.

Traditional Account

As the name implies, the Traditional Account generally consists of monies raised from hunting, fishing and trapping licenses. Other sources of funding for the Traditional Account include:

- Return a Gift to Wildlife
- Deer management and other special permits
- Fines from Title 11 & 13 violations

- Certain rentals, royalties and miscellaneous sales
- Interest, including interest transferred from the lifetime license account.

During 1999/2000, the Traditional Account generated **\$33,251,615.52**.

Marine Resources Account

The Marine Resources Account generates monies from activities in the marine district of Long Island. Licenses and permits include the shellfish permits, wetlands permits, charter boat permits, whelk permits, food fish/crustacean permits, fines and other revenues. During 1999/2000, the Marine Resources Account generated **\$955,344.16**.

Migratory Bird Account

This is a relatively small account and funds are generated through the sale of collector stamps. During 1999/2000, this account generated **\$36,681.74**.

Guide License Account

Another very small account, the Guide License Account, generated **\$55,302.32** from the sale of guide licenses.

Surf Clam & Ocean Quahog Account

The smallest of all the accounts, this account generated **\$44,089.58** from fees associated with the account.

Lifetime License Account

The sale of lifetime licenses generates the monies in this very important account. The principle may not be touched by law and interest is annually transferred from this account to the Traditional Account. The formula for the transfer is designed to replace money lost from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses when a lifetime license is purchased. The most important feature of the account is the fact that a person’s lifetime license money continues to work long after the person has stopped hunting or fishing or has died. It is the ultimate long-term commitment that a sportsman or woman can make to his or her sport. During the year 1999/2000, the lifetime license account generated **\$1,201,874.29** and had a balance of **\$7,466,177.29**.

5. Members of the current Board

Region 1

Charles A. Bevilacqua was born in Brooklyn and has been a resident of Nassau County since 1950. He is a veteran of the US Marine Corps and attended Nassau Community College and the American Management Institute. He has been active in community affairs as a former Scoutmaster, fund raiser and assistant coach for the Syosset Spartans Young Sports Program. He is an avid hunter, angler, competitive target shooter and Life Member of the National Rifle Association. Presently, Charlie serves on the Nassau County Forest Practices Board, the NYS Open Space Advisory Committee for Region 1 and the NYS Conservation Council/NY Power Authority Joint Task Force on Energy and Natural Resources. He has been active

with the Nassau County Fish and Game Association, holding offices as President, Vice-President and Director. He is a past president of the Manhasset Bay Sportsmen’s Club. Charlie has held several offices with the NYS Conservation Council, including Vice-President, Regional Director and a member of several key committees. He is associated with Nassau Suffolk Realty. He has held various management positions with Lisa & Company, has been a Senior Field Engineer with TRW and a Sales Manager with Singer Business Machines. He was appointed to the Board in 1984 to serve as the representative of Region 1.

Region 2

John F. Matusewicz, a hunter and angler for more than 45

years, was born in Staten Island, graduated from local public schools and served in the US Army from 1952-1954 as a Helicopter Crew Chief. He is an Honorary Life Member of the American Legion, a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the National Rifle Association (30 years), the Colonial Rifle & Pistol Club (30 years), Founder and Secretary of the Isle-Wide R&P Shooting Club and a member and Past Exalted Ruler of the B.P.O. Elks, now serving as a State Trustee. He has also served as a DEC Hunter Education Instructor and an Assistant License Issuing Officer. In his professional life, John worked for the Food Machinery & Chemical Corporation (9 years), Procter & Gamble Manufacturing Company as an Analytical Chemist, retiring in 1990.

Region 3

Francis E. Hartmann, Secretary, was born in Cohecton, Sullivan County in 1925 and currently resides in Sparrowbush. He is a graduate of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and is now retired after working more than 40 years on aviation and space projects. He is a veteran of the US Navy, having served in World War II. Frank is interested in all phases of the conservation field, but especially in hunting, fishing and trapping. He is a Past President of the New York State Conservation Council and the Federation of Sportsman's Clubs of Sullivan County, and currently serves as Legislative Vice President of the Council. He is a Charter Member and Former Chairman of the Upper Delaware Council, a Member of the National Rifle Association, Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars and several hunting, fishing and shooting clubs. He is presently a Town Justice in the Town of Deerpark, Orange County. He was the designee of the New York State Conservation Council from 1989 to 1994 and was re-appointed in 1998 to serve as the representative from Region 3.

Region 4

Warren A. "Ed" Dorsch was born in Maspeth, Queens in 1944. He always wanted to live outside New York City and opted to join the New York State Police after he served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Ed spent more than 30 years with the troopers, retiring with the rank of Zone Sergeant in 1997. The last 18 years of his career were spent with State Police Communications and the New York Statewide Police Information Network, NYSPIN. He is currently Undersheriff of Columbia County. Ed has hunted with his uncle since he was 16, spending many hunting seasons at his uncle's camp in Herkimer County. He has fished upstate New York streams since he was old enough to drive. Originally stationed as a trooper in Elizabethtown, NY, he moved to Columbia County and has lived in Claverack, NY, for the last 30 years. He has been married to Christine Woznieski for 29 years and has a son Warren, Jr. (also known as Ed) and a daughter Michaline Dorsch-Ringer. The family owns a camp in the Town of Indian Lake. Ed serves as the secretary the Columbia County

Sportsman's Federation. He is active in conservation, especially in land management, working with the Columbia County Land Conservancy and the Open Space Institute. He is a Life member of the National Rifle Association and proudly conducts Eddie Eagle Firearms Safety courses in Columbia County schools. He also holds membership cards for the New York State Conservation Council, the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, and the North American Hunt Club. Ed has been a DEC Firearms Safety Instructor since 1987. He was appointed Region 4 representative to CFAB in 1998.

Region 5

Robert J. Monacchio, a New York State resident for more than 30 years, has fished and hunted in the state since the 1950s. He has been a camp owner and part time resident of Adirondack Park for 20 years and a full time resident and property owner for more than 11 years. Bob spent six years in the Naval Reserve and received his formal education at Rockland Community College and the Center of Occupation Education, both in New York State. In his professional life, Bob has served as Treasurer of Mountain Home Consulting Group Inc. in Edinburg (NY), President of Coordinated Components Inc. in Tallman (NY), Vice President and General Manager of Production Services for Trans World Display Corporation in New York City and Project Director for Snyder Black & Schlegel in Hartsdale (NY). He has been a writer and board member and helped edit the Edinburg Newsletter. He also has been a member and past board member of the Great Sacandaga Lake Fisheries Federation Inc. and is involved in negotiations in FERC relicensing of hydro facilities on the Great Sacandaga Lake and the Hudson River. Bob has also been involved in stream stocking for DEC and has served on the Fulton County Water Quality Strategy Committee and the Saratoga County Water Quality Strategy Committee. He enjoys hunting, fishing, skiing, camping, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, as well as restoring fishing rods, fly tying, refinishing antique firearms and furniture.

Region 6

Linda S. Sicley is a native New Yorker who has resided in the Town of Worth, Jefferson County, since 1979. She and her husband have two daughters and three sons and raise beef cattle on their farm on the Tug Hill Plateau. Her memberships include the Fur Harvesters Association of Jefferson County where she has been Secretary since 1992, the New York State Trapper's Association, the National Rifle Association and the Black River Valley Friends of the NRA Committee since 1996. She is a DEC Trapper Training Instructor and has participated in the Cornell Cooperative Extension Environmental Awareness Days since 1994 with a Furbearer Management Presentation. Linda is an active member of the United Methodist Church, teaching Sunday School and volunteering at church functions. She is a former Delegate and Secretary of the Jefferson County Sportsmen's Federation where she served

on the Legislative and Education Committees. In 1991, she received the Conservationist of the Year Award. Linda enjoys hunting, fishing and especially trapping with her family.

Region 7

Donald H. “Hap” Sherwood was born in Niagara Falls in 1949 and is a lifelong resident of New York State. He and his wife, Lynn, presently reside in Port Crane. Hap is an active hunter, angler and trapper. He attended SUNY Morrisville from 1968 to 1969 majoring in Natural Resources Conservation, later serving in the Army National Guard. Hap is Vice President of the Region 7 Federation League of the State Conservation Council and President of Elk Run Outfitters, Inc., a Whitney Point based sporting goods business. In 1997, he was appointed Region 7 representative to CFAB.

Region 8

Dennis J. Money, a lifelong resident of New York State, was born in Rome (NY) and now resides in Canandaigua. He has been active in hunting and trapping for more than 35 years. He has been a member of the Environmental, Health and Safety Group of the Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation for more than 25 years where he deals with wetlands and stream issues, environmental audits, asbestos management and wildlife initiatives. He is a former teacher at Clifton Springs High School and a Teacher-Demonstrator for the United States Atomic Energy Commission. He has a B.S. in Biology from Utica College of Syracuse University, a M.S. in Environmental Studies from the University of Rochester and a Certificate in Management and Labor Relations from Cornell University. He is the recipient of the Hugh E. Cummings Environmental Excellence Award for 1996, the 1998 Monroe County Environmental Management Council Career Professional Award, a Member of the Ontario Sportsmen’s Federation, a Member of the American Wildlife Research Foundation, Project Manager for the Rochester Peregrine Falcon Project and President of the New York River Otter Project, Inc. He was appointed to the Board in 1996 to serve as the representative of Region 8.

Region 9

Donald Kill resides in Lackawanna. He has three daughters and one granddaughter. The oldest of seven children, Don took an interest in conservation and the environment at an early age. He has held numerous positions with conservation organizations. Presently, he is president of the Erie County Federation of Sportsman’s Clubs and Treasurer to the Buffalo Bowhunters Club. Don takes an active interest in the Erie County Conservation Society, Southtown’s Walleye Association, the Erie County

Environmental Council, and Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parent/Teacher Guild. Don is also Vice-president of the local Frontier Central Employee Association and a Member of the National Rifle Association and Safari Club International. Don works closely with the

DEC, local and state politicians and conservation-minded organizations on issues that concern sportsmen and sportswomen and conservationists. He was appointed in 1998 to serve as representative from Region 9.

FWMA Representative

Harry C. “Bud” Woodfield was born in Tarrytown, Westchester County, in 1923. He currently resides in Binghamton. He attended Cornell University. He retired from state service after 35 years with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Bud is a Trustee of Wyoming Seminary, a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Wyoming Conference and a certified Lay Speaker of the United Methodist Church. He is also President of the Broome County Federation of the Sportsman’s Clubs and has been a hunter, angler and trapper all his life. He is a Life Member of the National Plott Hound Association and is a licensed UKC bench show judge. Bud is the designee of the NYS Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board.

NYS CC Representative

John J. Long, Chairman, was born in Niagara Falls in 1933. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics from Niagara University and is Vice President of United Insurance Agency, Inc., an insurance agency where he has been employed since 1949. He is a veteran of the US Army. John has hunted and fished over most of North America and is President of Outdoor World Productions, Inc. He has been active in the NYS Conservation Council since 1955 and was presented the 1987 NYS Conservationist of the Year Award by the Council and the New York Power Authority. He is an Alternate Member of the Fish and Wildlife Management Act Board in Region 9; past president and Life Member of the NYS Outdoor Writers Association; and Past President of the Niagara County Federation of Conservation Clubs. John is a Life Member of the National Rifle Association and a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and the Association of Great lakes Outdoor Writers. He recently constructed a walleye rearing facility on his property for the Niagara River Anglers Association to stock the Niagara River. He is Captain of the Niagara County Sheriff’s Special Conservation Deputies. He was appointed to the Board in 1988 to serve as the representative of Region 9. He currently is the designee of the NYS Conservation Council.

6. Actions of the Board FY 1999/2000

The Conservation Fund Advisory Board fulfills its legislative mandate to recommend to the DEC

how Conservation Fund monies are spent and how to keep the Fund solvent. Usually, meetings are held monthly to discuss topics associated with issues affecting sportsmen and sportswomen and to formalize its recommendations. Robert's Rules of Order are followed when formalizing recommendations and other official business of the CFAB. Meetings are public and the activities of the Board are made the subject of official meeting minutes which are approved by the Board and distributed to interested parties. Actions which are formal recommendations are made in the form of a motion, which requires a second and a simple majority of the Board members present to adopt the motion.

During the fiscal year 1999-2000, the Conservation Fund Advisory Board adopted the following motions:

April 12, 1999

1. Mr. Hartmann moved and Mr. Matuszewicz seconded a motion that CFAB support the NYS Conservation Council's proposal for license fee increases. Mr. Kill opposed; Mr. Money and Mr. Bevilacqua abstained.
2. Mr. Hartmann moved and Mr. Woodfield seconded a motion that CFAB support DEC's proposal to extend the coyote season. Mrs. Sicley and Mr. Bevilacqua opposed.
3. Mr. Kill moved and Mrs. Sicley seconded a motion to support DEC's proposed cormorant management plan.

May 3, 1999

1. Mr. Woodfield moved and Mrs. Sicley seconded a motion to hold the August CFAB dinner and meeting on Sunday night.
2. Mr. Hartmann moved and Mr. Matuszewicz seconded a motion that CFAB accept the CFAB fiscal report to be printed in DEC's hunting and fishing guides.
3. Mr. Woodfield moved and Mr. Sherwood seconded a motion to transfer the annual interest (\$197,930, possibly to fund startup of DEC's video program) from the lifetime licenses account and not transfer the past year's accumulated interest of \$503,400.

June 14, 1999

There were no motions adopted in June.

July 9, 1999

1. Mr. Dorsch moved and Mr. Woodfield seconded a motion that CFAB send a letter to key people in the Legislature and the Governor covering three points:
 - The audit is justified and the Conservation Fund should not pay for it.
 - Until the audit is completed, existing programs should continue.
 - CFAB firmly supports the legislation as proposed by the department fee bill and urges that it move forward in legislation.
2. Mr. Hartmann amended the motion to read that two letters be prepared, one for the audit and one for the proposed legislation. Mrs. Sicley and Mr.

Matuszewicz seconded the amendment. The motion as amended carried.

3. Mr. Hartmann moved and Mr. Sherwood seconded a motion that the CFAB chairman, on behalf of Region 1, contact Parks Commissioner Castro with regard to how hunting geese can be included on Jones Beach.

August 1, 1999

1. Mr. Woodfield moved and Mr. Bevilacqua seconded a motion to approve a draft letter supporting the land and water conservation fund legislation to be sent to the New York Delegation as well as Members of Congress.
2. Mr. Kill moved and Mrs. Sicley seconded a motion that CFAB send a letter to the Governor in support of the Cayuga County Federation of Sportsmen's position opposing ceding Howletts Island or any other lands purchased by the Conservation Fund to the Indians.

September 10, 1999

1. Mr. Matuszewicz moved and Mr. Woodfield seconded a motion that CFAB support DEC's video proposal (to get the Governor's approval).

October 4, 1999

1. Mr. Woodfield moved and Mr. Matuszewicz seconded a motion that CFAB Chairman Long write a letter to the Governor urging acceleration of the video project.
2. Mr. Dorsch moved and Mr. Woodfield seconded a motion that CFAB recommend to NYSTEC that it include the credit card fee in the RFP for automated licensing.
3. Mr. Kill moved and Mr. Woodfield seconded a motion to invite Mrs. Sauer and Mr. Tom Kasky (NYSTEC) to the November meeting to discuss the draft RFP.

November 1, 1999

1. Mr. Kill moved and Mr. Bevilacqua seconded a motion that CFAB oppose the closing of the White pheasant farm.
2. Mr. Dorsch moved and Mr. Matuszewicz seconded a motion that CFAB support the RFP for

automated licensing.

December 6, 1999

1. Mr. Hartmann moved and Mr. Woodfield seconded a motion that Chairman Long send additions and corrections on the October, 1999 minutes to Mrs. Barbara Hogan, Recording Secretary.

January 10, 2000

There were no motions adopted in January.

February 14, 2000

1. A motion was made by Mr. Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Woodfield to send Mr. Matuszewicz to Washington to lobby for CARA.
2. A motion was made by Mr. Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Matuszewicz that the CFAB request that DEC furnish an updated report on the expenditures of the funds provided by Pittman Robinson, Dingle Johnson and Wallop Bureau.
3. A motion was made by Mr. Hartmann and seconded by Mr. Woodfield to support the NYS Conservation Council's policy that there should be no transfer of lands in lieu of settlement of Indian

land claims.

4. Mr. Matuszewicz moved and Mr. Bevilacqua seconded a motion to support the NYS Conservation Council's concept of the resource stewardship committee.

March 12, 2000

1. Mr. Woodfield moved and Mr. Hartmann seconded a motion to write letters to New York Senators in support of CARA.
2. Mr. Hartmann moved and Mr. Kill seconded a motion to hold the CFAB May 8 meeting at the academy in Oswego. The motion carried with one opposed, Charlie Bevilacqua.
3. Mr. Kill moved and Mrs. Sicley seconded a motion to support the North American Wildlife Enforcement Officers Association Conference.
4. Mr. Bevilacqua moved and Mr. Kill seconded a motion that the Board recognize an outstanding effort in wildlife management commending deer hunters on a job well done.

The complete minutes of any of the meetings are available upon request from CFAB.

7. License Fee Increase Recommendation

During the 1999/2000 fiscal year, the Conservation Fund Advisory Board recognized that the Conservation Fund was in financial trouble and that additional revenues would be needed. The Board supported a license fee increase Bill along with the DEC and the New York State Conservation Council. Rather than act on the Bill, the New York State Legislature infused 4.1 million dollars into the Fund as a temporary solution for FY 2000/2001. CFAB is still on record as supporting a license fee increase as described below:

Annual	Current Fees	Proposed	Comments
Resident			
Senior Sportsman	\$05	\$05	
Seven-day Fishing	\$06	\$10	Extend from 3 to 7 days
Fishing	\$14	\$19	
Small & Big Game	\$24	\$18	Previously 2 separate licenses
Small Game	\$11	\$14	
Trapping	\$13	\$15	
Jr Archery	\$09	\$09	Resident and non-resident same fee
Jr Trapping	\$06	\$06	
Jr Big & Small Game	-	\$09	New license same price for residents and non-residents

Annual	Current Fees	Proposed	Comments
Jr Small Game	\$05	\$05	
Sportsman	\$31	\$34	Small, big game & fishing privileges
Bowhunting	\$11	\$15	Must buy small & big game license
Muzzleloading	\$11	\$15	Must buy small & big game license
Super Sportsman	-	\$64	New - includes sportsman, bow, muzzle & turkey
Turkey Permit	\$02	\$05	
Non-resident			
Fishing	\$35	\$40	
Hunting	\$50	\$55	
Big Game	\$100	\$110	
Seven-day Fishing	\$20	\$25	Extended from 5 to 7 days
Muzzleloading	\$75	\$110	Valid during muzzleloading seasons only
Bowhunting	\$100	\$110	Valid during archery season only
Bear Tag	\$25	\$30	
Turkey Permit	\$25	\$30	
Combination	\$225	\$250	
One-day Fishing	\$11	\$15	Resident and non-resident
Lifetime			
Sportsman			
0-4 years	\$250	\$285	
5-11 years	\$350	\$395	
12-64 years	\$500	\$565	
65+	\$50	\$50	
Fishing	\$250	\$340	
Big & Small Game	\$250	\$340	
Trapping	\$250	\$290	
Bowhunting	\$125	\$170	
Muzzleloading	\$125	\$170	

These modest fee increases were designed to sustain the Conservation Fund for several years. There are some additional items that the Board recommends be included in the license fee bill in 2001. These include:

1. A recommendation that the big game hunting structure address parity between resident and non-resident hunters.
2. A recommendation that junior small and big game licenses allow 14 and 15 year-olds to hunt big game with a firearm and to apply for deer management permits with a waiver of the \$10.00 application fee. If a junior also purchases a junior archery license, he or she would be eligible to take two deer. In order to encourage hunting participation by minors, junior small and big game licenses will allow holders to also hunt in the muzzleloading seasons as if they held a muzzleloading stamp. Junior archery licenses allow holders to also hunt big game with a bow during the regular big game season. The bag limit, however, remains one deer on a junior small and big game license and one deer on a junior archery license.
3. A recommendation that a “super sportsman” license for residents providing big game, small game, bowhunting, muzzleloading, fishing and turkey hunting privileges in a single license with a waiver of the \$10.00 fee for the deer management permit.
4. A recommendation for a non-mandatory habitat stamp be made available for purchase with the receipts placed in a sub-account of the Conservation Fund to be used only for habitat management and protection and public access.
5. Non-resident fees would be modestly raised.
6. Both the resident 3-day and non-resident 5-day fishing licenses would be extended to 7-day fishing licenses.
7. Lifetime license prices would increase at the same rate as the individual annual license prices. Senior lifetime license prices would not increase.

We believe that the modest license fee increase and the other items in the package will achieve the desired result of making the Conservation Fund solvent for the foreseeable future.

8. Projected Health of Fund with and without a License Fee Increase (11/6/00)

The following table is an estimate of the status of the Conservation Fund Traditional Account without a license fee increase. The 4.1 million dollars provided by the Legislature is included in the projected receipts for FY/2000-2001. The projections are in millions rounded to the nearest two decimal places.

With **No** License Fee Increase:

Fiscal Year	Actual Cash Balance 4/1	Projected Carry-In	Uncommitted Balance	Projected Receipts	Total Available	Projected Disbursements	Cash Balance 3/1	Projected Carry-out	Uncommitted Balance
2000-2001	5.11	2.14	2.97	37.83*	40.80	37.32	3.48	1.52	1.96
2001-2002	3.48	1.52	1.96	34.23	36.19	38.66	-2.47	1.52	-3.99
2002-2003	-2.47	1.52	-3.99	34.85	30.86	39.53	-8.67	1.52	-10.19
2003-2004	-8.67	1.52	-10.19	35.12	24.93	40.41	-15.48	1.52	-17.00

* Note - Includes 4.1 million dollars infused by the legislature on 4/1/2000 in lieu of fee increase.

With **Proposed** License Fee Increase (This table reflects the status of the Fund if the license fee increase we are seeking is approved for 2001-2002.):

Fiscal Year	Actual Cash Balance 4/1	Projected Carry-In	Uncommitted Balance	Projected Receipts	Total Available	Projected Disbursements	Cash Balance 3/1	Projected Carry-out	Uncommitted Balance
2000-2001	5.11	2.14	2.97	37.83*	40.8	37.32	3.48	1.52	1.96
2001-2002	3.48	1.52	1.96	38.33**	40.29	38.66	1.63	1.52	0.11
2002-2003	1.63	1.52	0.11	40.74	40.85	39.53	1.32	1.52	-0.20
2003-2004	1.32	1.52	-0.20	41.55	41.35	40.41	0.94	1.52	-0.58

* Note - Includes 4.1 million dollars infused by the legislature on 4/1/2000 in lieu of fee increase.

** Represents fee increase taking place in fall of 2001.

9. Conclusion and Recommendation

You will note from the tables in Section 8, that even with the modest fee increase proposed by the DEC, CFAB and the NYSCC, the Conservation Fund will still be going into the red unless:

1. Additional revenue is generated; or,
2. Spending is cut.

We have lost two years increased revenue because of the delay in approving the fee increase. Even those who doubted that the Fund was in trouble must now be convinced. The 4.1 million dollars provided by the legislature this fiscal year is still not enough to prevent the deficit at the end of 2001/2002. *Even if the modest increase we have recommended is approved for implementation for the fall of 2001, we will still show a deficit the following year and each year thereafter.* We acknowledge that the projections are conservative, but this Board would rather err in favor of a healthy Fund than see a catastrophic negative carryover.

The Board has fulfilled its charge to review allocations and expenditures of the DEC and to advise the DEC with respect to the needs of various fish and wildlife programs. We have carefully analyzed the projected income to and expenditures from the Conservation Fund. We conclude that the expenditures from the Conservation Fund exceed income and that the Fund will go into deficit absent timely action to bring income and expenditures in balance. We continue to support a license fee increase, but the increase described in Section 7 of this report may not be sufficient to keep the Fund solvent. It is now time for the policy makers in the Legislative and Executive Branch to decide what action is appropriate.

10. Fiscal Report

The fiscal report is prepared by the DEC. The Conservation Fund Advisory Board has no independent means to audit the report and relies upon the DEC for its accuracy and completeness. The complete fiscal report for FY 1999/2000 was not ready as of November 6, 2000. As soon as it is ready, it will be appended to this report.