

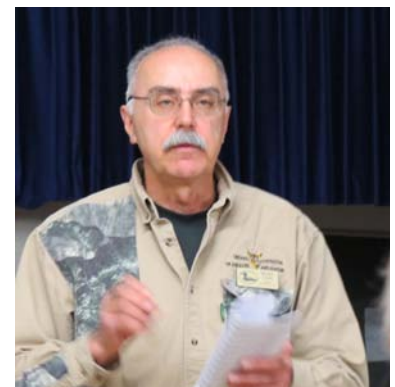
**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson – March 2017**

**“opinions expressed in this report are
not necessarily those of BPSA, its
members or directors”**



1. Many of us including OFAH board members, have been critical of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights system, which is a tool that allows us to put fourth input on provincial policy decisions. Your federation has come up with recommendations to make the EBR system, more user friendly as we try to make suggestions to the MNRF and the Ontario Environment Ministry:
 - we are asking the province to do more to encourage public participation
 - we want anglers, hunters and trappers to have more time to post their views on the important issues dealt with on the EBR system
 - we want the province to be more open, more transparent on how MNRF and Ministry of the Environment policy decisions posted on the EBR, are made
2. The OFAH welcomes the MNRF decision to put Fisheries Management Zone 15 in place. These FMZ's have advisory councils that share ideas and proposals with MNRF decision makers. This zone takes in a wide area from Parry Sound East to Bancroft and Renfrew and north including Algonquin Park. OFAH head office reports our federation will have a seat at this council and that lake trout regs will be one of the first topics to be brought up by OFAH.
3. Zone H director Mike Evers of Innisfil, a former MNRF conservation officer, has joined the OFAH Fisheries Advisory Committee. It is important that he be fed any info on concerns we have with the MNRF and its fishery policies. His contact information is

Mike Evers 1-705-436-4521
1-705-305-7786
email D_evers@rogers.com



Please copy me on any info you send to Mike. All OFAH folks I regularly talk to emphasise they want and need to know how we feel about Great Lakes fisheries issues. For example if our fisheries committee wants help on an issue, Mike will do his best to help, as has OFAH chief fisheries biologist Mat Demille.

There is a debate raging over hunting for snapping turtles. OFAH is on the case.

Learn about it here

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/thunder-bay/snapping-turtles-at-centre-of-hunting-debate-1.3976892>



4. First Nations folks involved with commercial fishing in Lake Superior have reacted to discoveries of large quantities of rotting fish found in commercial gillnets. They say they want more money to prevent full commercial nets from being abandoned and left for a month. This is a follow up on the story we reported last month. The MNRF has issued this appeal:

"we are looking for information that will help identify the owners of the nets, and we encourage anyone with information to contact the MNRF TIPS line at 1-877-847-7667 toll-free"



The OFAH is closely following this story-

http://www.chroniclejournal.com/news/local/reserve-outraged-over-disrespectful-act/article_7229dcc2-e51a-11e6-94f6-97e20bdc8d83.html

5. North of us on Manitoulin Island there is a debate raging about deer baiting. The OFAH has made its views clear on the issue
- <http://www.manitoulin.ca/2017/01/27/federation-anglers-hunters-deny-lc-fish-game-club-baiting-deer-concerns-proposal/>



OFAH has commented again on the moose shortage issue. CBC News did a thorough job on the story:

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/sudbury/calf-moose-hunting-opposition-1.397087>



6. The annual meeting of the OFAH runs March 16, 17 and 18 in Mississauga. I will represent you at this session.
7. The next Zone H OFAH meeting is set for 10 am April 23, 2017 at the clubhouse of the Sydenham Sportsmen's Association South of Owen Sound. Let's have a good turnout from BPSA. Please bring your views and concerns. Take part in the discussions of the issues that affect fishing, hunting, conservation and our enjoyment of outdoors recreation. If you want our zone to approve a policy or proposal, write out your motion in regular business form for your presentation at the meeting. Speak to the executive before-hand about it.
8. The summer zone H meeting is on August 13, 2017 at 10am at the Barrie District Hunters and Anglers clubhouse. It includes a free weekend campout and for lunch the day of the meeting, some of the best corn-on-the-cob you will ever eat. The fall meeting is on September 30, 2017 location tba.
9. Perhaps you didn't realise this but OFAH is heavily involved in social media. Our federation wants you to communicate with the folks at head office.

"Share with us your prize buck, your big catch and your first-time experiences by visiting us on Facebook (ofah.org/facebook) and following us on Twitter ([@ofah](https://twitter.com/ofah)). Let us be your one-stop-shop for outdoors news and help us promote hunting, fishing, conservation and the great outdoors province-wide.

10. A personal reminder the Toronto Sportsmen's Show runs March 15-19, 2017 at the International Centre near Pearson Airport. (free admission for kids) It is well worth attending this huge show. It attracts nearly 70-thousand hunters, anglers, boaters and trappers every year. And parking is FREE!! See the OFAH booth at the show to renew your membership and buy draw tickets on a wide selection of trucks, boats and outdoors gear. Total value of prizes to be given away 361-thousand dollars. Profits from this annual OFAH draw support the work of our federation. You may recall this Sportsmen's Show, for over ten years, provided BPSA with thousands of dollars worth of prizes, to help support our efforts.

---- The Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters is the province's largest non-profit, charitable, fish and wildlife conservation organization ----



Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for the
BRUCE PENINSULA SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION