

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson –February 2018**

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



1. It is suggested that the Province is stocking wild boar in at least one region, hoping to create a wild boar hunt, making up for the growing shortage of moose.



This information comes from a reliable source with connections to the hunting community and the MNR. This source alleges he confronted a rep with the Ministry who “put on a big grin” when asked about wild boar stocking in the Magnetawan area North of Burke’s Falls off highway 11. This source says the wild pig stocking is going on in Wildlife Management Unit 49.

(Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) 49 is located inland from Georgian Bay north of the Muskoka Lakes and south of the Magnetawan River stretching across to Highway 11 east of

Algonquin Park. It is 3,670 square kilometres in area, 68% private land, 31% crown land and 1% First Nations reserve lands.)

This source says he saw seven wild boar shot last fall in this area, all adult pigs many with 6-inch tusks. He notes wild pigs multiply rapidly. They are dangerous to humans and they do a lot of damage to crops. There has been no reaction from the Province to this wild boar stocking claim. OFAH zone reps agree, if this is true, then we have a scandal on our hands. OFAH is totally against any stocking of wild boar.



I have revealed the identity of this source to President Jim and will continue to conceal the identity of this source. This person also claims the Ministry released 100 rattlesnakes in

this same region to take care of a mouse and rat problem. There is no confirmation on either claim but this source is knowledgeable and reliable according to zone H executive members.

2. At the latest zone meeting there was a report on recent activities of the Andorlin, a commercial fishing boat working under the controversial SON fishing agreement, which expires on February 25th 2018.

Reliable witnesses observed this ship in recent weeks on Colpoy's Bay near Wiarton:

- fishing close to the mouth (20 feet from the mouth) of Gleason Brook contrary to the agreement
- using only one marker when two are required
- laying nets longer than allowed under the SON commercial fishing agreement



You are reminded to call the toll free MNRF Tips Line when you observe commercial fishing actions contrary to the SON agreement.

There was a brief report that First Nations folks refuse to sit on the Lake Huron Fisheries Management Zone Council to discuss salmon and other Lake Huron fishing issues. Also a one day seminar is planned under a facilitator to discuss salmon and rainbow trout fishing issues in FMZ 13 and 14. Natives call salmon and rainbow trout invasives. Can anyone attend this event? Should we encourage all BPSA members to attend?



3. Delegates to the latest Zone meeting are concerned about the increasing consumption of zebra mussels by round gobies in our Great Lakes. Many fish I have caught in recent years have been eating gobies.

Zebra mussels are often infected with botulism toxins. We know that gobies are consumed by salmon and trout as well as many species of birds.



The feeling at this meeting was that we need an in-depth toxin study to determine how safe it is for us to eat fish and birds that have been feasting on gobies.



4. Zone chair Forgrave reports there have been more than 2-thousand cougar sightings in Ontario since 2002. Cougar tracks were seen in the last few months in Oro-Medonte and



Springwater. The Ontario Puma Foundation estimates there are about 550 of these elusive animals in our province. In recent years a large cougar was seen near the Warton golf course.

5. It appears some native groups are becoming alarmed over unregulated native moose harvesting and moose and elk shortages. Zone Native Affairs Chair Kevin Vardy reports Algonquin bands are trying to control elk and moose harvesting in their area by using a draw based tag system co-ordinated by the 10 individual Algonquin communities. And further north, Brunswick House First Nations have stopped issuing permission slips that allowed members of other bands to hunt in their region. OFAH directors are encouraged that First Nations are now considering their own hunting and fishing laws in wake of over hunting and fishing by their members. OFAH will acknowledge the positive efforts of these groups.



6. Ontario Out of Doors magazine is dropping its multi-page HOTLINE feature which for years has carried OFAH news and was included in the magazine only for federation members. Instead starting in the March "fishing edition" federation news, features, columns, position papers, releases and articles will be scattered through the magazine. The aim is to increase the reach of the federation message to a wider demographic.

7. Every year 190-thousand deer hunting licenses are sold in Ontario. Deer hunting pumps millions of dollars into the Ontario economy. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has collected public comments on a draft deer policy for Ontario that provides the “big picture” on how deer will be managed. Our federation provided recommendations which can be reviewed at www.ofah.org/deer/action



One OFAH recommendation is to implement mandatory double-fencing for cervid (deer, elk, etc) farms and eventually phase out these farms to eliminate the risk they pose to wild deer and elk populations.

8. The MNR has made a number of changes regarding hunting licenses. If you are a hunter please check this link:

<https://www.ofah.org/issues/mnrf-licensing-system-changes/>

9. For several years access to shore fishing has been discouraged by stopping angler access to the shale beach on the north side of highway 26 near Craighleith Provincial Park.

Now Conservative MPP for that area Jim Wilson promises that when his party is running our province, he will personally remove any barriers preventing anglers from entering what is called Fish Barrow Beach.



10. PAL license holders now have 6 months to renew after expiry.



Zone H chair Wayne Foregrave reports, after the six months the application will be considered as a NEW application and all documentation will have to be produced again. After the expiry date the holder will not be able to buy or use any firearm or ammunition. Wayne suggests apply at least four months before expiry.

11. OFAH Zone H has a bursary program that is open to all family members attending college or university studying FLORA or FAUNA or related subjects. The applicant must have been a member of OFAH Zone H for the previous 12 months. Applications can be made through Zone Secretary Wally Motz at buffy1@tnt21.com

12. Zone H has been extended to the south it now takes in Stratford. Our zone now has 12,068 members up 2 per cent over last year. Ours is the only zone with an increase. Last August we broke the 12-thousand mark. There are 76 clubs affiliated with zone H. Overall OFAH has more than 79-thousand members.
13. Greg Ferrant the very effective OFAH Government Relations Director, is retiring. Greg has held the job since the early 2-thousands. Several members pointed out Greg worked tirelessly behind the scenes, preferring the non-confrontational approach to get things done on behalf of our federation. I have had many dealings with Greg and can honestly say, he was the best person for the job.
14. Delegates at this quarterly meeting in Durham welcomed the news that the Owen Sound Salmon Spectacular is expanding east to Indian Brooke 4 km East of Thornbury. Several delegates suggested this will add hundreds more anglers to the 4-thousand that already take part in this derby the largest event of the year in Grey-Bruce.
15. Zone secretary/treasurer Wally Motz reminds BPSA if our club wants to apply for the same amount as last year (\$400) to support our club's 2018 Kids Fishing event, apply now.
16. The annual OFAH Fish and Wildlife Conference is coming up in March in Mississauga. I will represent you at this meeting as I have done since 2005. Quarterly zone meetings are slated for Midland April 22, 2018, Barrie July 8, 2018 and September 29 is the zone annual no location yet.

Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for the Bruce Peninsula Sportsmen's Association.

With more than 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 740 member clubs, the OFAH is the province's largest fish and wildlife conservation-based organization — and the VOICE of anglers and hunters. For more information visit us online at www.ofah.org, follow us on Twitter @ofah and find us on Facebook or Instagram @thefah.

