

**OFAH ZONE “H” report for BPSA
Stu Paterson -July 2017**

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



1. It can sometimes be difficult to describe the reasons why we return to the woods and water each year to fish, hunt and trap. It seems obvious to us, and the outdoors community. But as spokespeople for these heritage activities, we also have a role to play in telling our story to the general public. The OFAH partnered with Shimano Canada Ltd. to produce a series of videos about fishing, hunting, trapping and conservation. “Telling Our Story” is the first, and perhaps the most important message that describes our passion, our connection to conservation and many of the values that fishing, hunting and trapping provide. We encourage you to watch this video. Digest it and share it among family members and friends as well as fellow anglers, hunters, trappers.

<https://www.ofah.org/tellingourstory/>

2. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (OMNRF) is working on a new hunting and fishing licensing system for the province. Numerous changes are on the way. They are proposing to do things differently in a more streamlined manner. Details are posted on the EBR that “will modernize licensing products and approaches, improve client services and support sustainable fish and wildlife management”.

Being considered are:

- one outdoors card per person (a single document would be issued listing all the holders valid hunting/fishing licenses)
- mandatory reporting of all hunting activity ...reporting by mail eliminated in favour of reporting by phone, online or with an app.
- apprentice hunters would be required to obtain an Outdoors Card which would replace the current Hunter Apprentice Card.

The proposals are posted on the EBR at

www.ebr.gov.on.ca

the registry number is 013-0487...it is available for review and comment until July 28,2017

The OFAH strongly recommends you take part in this policy review. Once the rules are changed, it will take a long time before they are updated again.



2. OFAH Fisheries Biologist Tom Brooke is critical of proposed rules governing the use and collection of bait. The proposals being considered are aimed at stopping diseases and invasive species from being introduced via bait buckets, holding tanks and harvesting gear.

Baitfish and leeches are involved.



The new rules would make it illegal for commercial bait operators to transport bait from one Bait Management Zone to another. (Six Ontario Bait Management Zones are proposed). If this proposal is approved it will require that all transactions involving bait be accompanied by a receipt that clearly states the name of the seller, the business location and the time and date of the purchase. You as an angler would be required to keep your bait receipt for two weeks. You would also be required to dispose of commercially harvested worms or leeches within two weeks of buying them.

Brooke says "these suggestions are too restrictive and will make fishing with live bait much more difficult. He says if anglers are restricted as is being proposed, it could result in serious baitfish supply and demand issues. EBR comments on this 40 page draft policy on bait management closed June 27th 2017.



3. The federal government has delayed implementation the controversial United Nations firearms marketing protocol. The regs. were to become law On June 1, 2017 but now will be delayed until December 1, 2018. The government says this deferral will "give us time to propose amendments which will help achieve the aims of the law. It is designed to "help improve public safety by making it easier for police to trace the criminal use of firearms". If implemented now, the legislation would require every firearm be marked with the date on importation followed by a marking of the letters "CA" of



the word "Canada". Some suggest this marking would add as much as 200 dollars to the cost of every rifle or handgun.

Greg Ferrant OFAH government affairs manager says "we are pleased the government has listened to the concerns of the firearms community and is taking a sober second thought on how they might implement this in the future. This will give us more time to find the best approach".

4. There is more this month about Bill C-47 an act to amend the export and import permits act and the criminal code. At first some suggested this was nothing more than a government attempt to bring in a "back door" gun registry.

Angelo Lombardo suggests the bill puts into writing practices that already occur. Lombardo is the Executive Director of OFAH. He promises your federation will carefully review the legislation to ensure that nothing in it will constitute a threat to legal law abiding firearms owners and the use of firearms for hunting and recreational shooting. In his words "OFAH will continue to stand up and speak out on behalf of the firearms community".



5. What are you planning for September 16, 2017? We already know BPSA is celebrating 55 years of conservation. Yes this is an important birthday year for us. September 16 is NATIONAL HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING HERITAGE DAY. This day reminds Canadians that these heritage pursuits are very relevant today considering the millions of people who take part in them every year. Should we hold a special open house for the public at our clubhouse like we had for the Chamber of Commerce? Should we do something special to mark this day? It is something to think about. Should we hold a youth archery contest? OFAH is promoting the wearing of camo to work or school on Friday September 15 to promote NATIONAL HUNTING, TRAPPING AND FISHING HERITAGE DAY.

6. Angler and Hunter Radio is going great guns with host Randy Jennings getting solid ratings on several radio stations across our great province.

This OFAH sponsored show is heard Saturday's on 560 CFOS, a Bayshore Broadcasting station.

Angler & Hunter Radio's 2017 Episode 11 Podcast is now available online. Take a listen <http://bit.ly/2tcm9Sw>



A reminder the summer OFAH Zone H meeting is set for July 9, 2017 at 10 am at the Barrie District Anglers and Hunters clubhouse. I will be there on your behalf. I will tear myself away from all the great fishing action in Grey Bruce to cover this meeting for BPSA.

Cheers and here's to a healthy and fun summer for us all!!



Stu Paterson reporting on OFAH for BPSA

With over 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 740 member clubs, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) is the largest nonprofit fish and wildlife conservation organization in Ontario. OFAH - the voice of anglers and hunters since 1928.