

# **Massachusetts Bass Federation Directors Meeting**

## **Nov 18, 2025**

Meeting called to order at: 7:09 pm

### **Officers in Attendance:**

- Present: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Environmental Director, Youth Director
- Missing:

### **Attendance:**

- Present: All State, Celtic Bass, Forge Pond Bassmasters, Green Water Wizards, North East Bass, South Shore Bassmasters, , Wildside Bass Anglers, Yankee, Good Spirit
- Missing: Bass Tactics, Pioneer, Tri-Valley Bassmasters, Boston Bass

### **Secretary Report:**

- Presented by Secretary Erik Swanson
  - Erik Presented the October Minutes
    - Motion to accept the October Minutes as presented by Good Spirit, seconded by All State
      - Motion passed unanimously

### **Treasurer Report:**

- Presented by Treasurer Bob Rivet
  - Bob reviewed the October bank statement
    - If anyone has any bills, forward to Bob for reimbursement
      - Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented made by Celtic, seconded by North East
        - Motion passed unanimously

### **Committee Reports:**

- N/A

### **Awards Banquet Report:**

- Banquet is March 28<sup>th</sup> at the Maynard Elks
- Price is still to be determined
- Joe has continued ordering prizes for the Banquet

### **Youth Report:**

- Presented by Youth Director Seth McNary
  - Seth has started receiving a few inquiries for the 2026 season
  - A reminder that the 2026 Youth events are scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup>, May 30<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>

**Scholarship Report:**

- Presented by Scholarship Director Dave McNary
  - Dave has not received any applications to this point
  - Enrollment for 2026 is still open

**Conservation Report:**

- Presented by Conservation Director Tim Germain
  - Massachusetts Boating certificate requirements goes into effect on 4/1/2026. Anyone born after 1/1/89 will be required to have a boating certificate. If you already have a certificate from any other state, you are exempt

5:19



hanson milone a...



## Massachusetts Boating Law Changes: THE HANSON MILONE ACT OF 2024

Massachusetts has passed new laws affecting recreational boating, known as the **Hanson Milone Act of 2024**. These changes are important for everyone who enjoys boating on our state's waters.

### ✓ Here are some key points to know:



#### 1. Mandatory Boating Safety Education

- Starting **April 1, 2026**, all motorboat operators **born after January 1, 1989**, must complete a **boating safety course** to operate motorized vessels or personal watercraft (like jet skis). Anyone **born before January 1, 1989**, will have until **April 1, 2028**, to obtain their boater safety certificate.
- The course can be taken online or in person and covers essential safety rules, boat operation, and how to avoid accidents.
- After completing the course, boaters will receive a **boating safety certificate**, which must be available for display while operating a boat.

#### 2. Age Requirements for Boating

- To operate motorboats, you must be at least **12 years old** and hold a **valid** boater safety certificate **unless** accompanied on-board and directly supervised by a capable adult who is **18 years of age or older with a valid boater safety certificate**.
- Personal watercraft (PWC) users must be at least **16 years old** with a valid boater safety certificate to operate, with no exceptions.

#### 3. Life Jacket Laws

- A **throwable personal flotation device** is designed to be thrown to someone in the water. This includes Type IV or Type V devices with Type IV performance. However, wearable PFDs are not considered throwable unless clearly marked as such.
- A **wearable personal flotation device (PFD)** is designed to be worn or attached to the body. This includes legacy Type I, II, III, or V PFDs with Type I, II, or III performance.
- Every vessel must have at least one **wearable** personal flotation device (PFD) for **each person** onboard. All PFDs must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, the right size for the user, and in good condition. Boats 16 feet or longer must also carry a **throwable PFD** (legacy Type IV).



#### Why is this Important?

The changes made by the **Hanson Milone Act** are designed to make boating safer for everyone. With more young people and families on the water, it's important that everyone knows the rules and understands how to stay safe. By following these new laws, you help keep our waters safe for all boaters!



- Tim presented an interesting article on a 7# Large Mouth caught on Lake Champlain. They did testing on the fish and determined that it is between – 16-18 years old!



**Vermont Fish & Wildlife** ✓

November 3 at 1:20 PM · 🌐

How old is this fish? 🐟

Collecting age data from fish populations is a routine part of the job for department fisheries biologists, but getting to handle a bass this big doesn't happen often! As luck would have it, when Vermont angler Roy Gangloff caught this 7 lb 13 oz Largemouth Bass in Lake Champlain this April, department biologist Shawn Good was on-hand and he snipped off a single dorsal fin spine before it was released. Back in the lab, the spine was cleaned, embedded in epoxy, and sliced paper-thin using a special saw. Under a microscope, slices from the spine reveal growth rings – just like a tree trunk. Each ring marks a year in the fish's life.

The verdict? At 22-inches and nearly 8 pounds, this bass was between 16 and 18 years old!

That's nearly two decades of growth – an impressive reminder of just how long it takes to reach trophy size in northern climate waters, where fish don't grow year-round. Aging studies like this help biologists understand fish growth rates, lifespan, and population health – key information that helps us manage Vermont's fish populations and provide outstanding fishing opportunities. Like this incredible bass!

[#FishVermont](#) [#BassFishing](#) [#LakeChamplain](#) [#VermontFishing](#) [#TrophyBass](#)  
[#ConservationInAction](#) [#CatchAndRelease](#) [#FisheriesScience](#)

- Permits for mass – get in your applications as soon as possible as the director is going on medical leave for 2 months – get them in by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Tournament Report:**

- Presented by Dave McNary
  - The 2026 Team Trail (pending permit approvals) is:
    - April 19<sup>th</sup> – Webster Lake, MA
    - May 17<sup>th</sup> – Lake Wequaquet
    - June 21<sup>st</sup> – Lake Winnepesaukee – Alton Bay
    - July 19<sup>th</sup> – Conn. River – Norms
    - August 16<sup>th</sup> – Lake Quinsig – North Ramp
    - TOC – October 3 & 4<sup>th</sup> – Lake George, NY

### **Old Business:**

- None

### **New Business:**

- Dues are due by 12/31/25
- The Dues will stay at \$30 and are due as we speak so get your dues in asap

- Secretary casts one vote so Officers for 2026 are:
  - President- Joe McKinnon
  - Vice President- Peter Maclellan
  - Treasurer- Bob Rivet
  - Conservation Director- Tim Germain
  - Youth Director- Seth McNary
  - Secretary – Erik Swanson
- The 2026 National Semi-final is on Sept 12 & 13<sup>th</sup> out of Apple Tree
- The 2026 State Fish-off is on Aug 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> out of Apple Tree
- The Fishing Expo is Jan 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> & Feb 1<sup>st</sup>
- If anyone is interested, on February 7<sup>th</sup> at Thayer's Marine, Jacob Wheeler will be there
- A reminder that:
  - The rule that was enacted last year of a Boater having to go to youth tourney in order to be eligible to go as a boater without a co-angler and be entered into the lottery of potentially not drawing a co-angler (if applicable), will remain in place
  - No power-scoping will be allowed – if the big motor is running, no Forward Facing Sonar is allowed to be in the water / used
- Green Water made a motion to keep By-laws as they are currently written (there were no proposed by-law changes submitted), seconded by Yankee
  - Motion passed unanimously

**Raffle Results:**

- N/A

**Meeting Reminders for Next Month:**

- **Next meeting 12/16/2025 @ 7:30pm**
- **Club Dues are due by 12/31/25. Please get this done asap!**

Motion to adjourn made by Good Spirit, seconded by Wild Side

Meeting adjourned at: 8:21 pm

Minutes taken on 11/18/25 and submitted on 11/24/25 by Erik Swanson, Secretary