

ONONDAGA COUNTY LEGISLATURE - Environmental Protection Committee

FISHERIES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING –November 20, 2025

ONONDAGA COUNTY PARKS OFFICE, LIVERPOOL, N.Y.

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING: Michael Cusano, Brian Kelley, Les Monostory, Eric Stanczyk, Bob Walczyk

GUEST: John Corbett

Chairman Michael Cusano called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM

Old Business:

Cusano went over the minutes from our previous meeting on October 16. Moved by Eric, second by Brian to approve the October minutes and passed.

New Business:

County Parks operations

Brian Kelley reported that the Oneida Shores County Park will be plowed and open to ice fishermen this coming winter.

Brian mentioned that Onondaga County Parks operations were highlighted in a recent issue of the New York Outdoor News. The article praised Onondaga County's trout hatchery operations and hosting of the annual late September Sportsmen's Days programs that attract large numbers of visitors to the Hatchery grounds for demonstration of outdoor sporting activities sponsored by members of the Onondaga County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs. Staff members from the Carpenter's Brook Hatchery and County Parks assist in setting up the Trout Pond and other facilities at the Hatchery grounds.

Carpenter's Brook Fish Hatchery

Water shortages in summer and fall months are becoming a growing concern in recent years. This is a challenge for raising trout at the Carpenter's Brook Hatchery as more well water needs to be utilized.

Decline of Menhaden fisheries along the U.S. Atlantic coast.

On a topic beyond Onondaga County but important for coastal fisheries along the Atlantic Coast, Les Monostory reported on an article in the Washington Post about declining numbers of both game fish and bait fish in the Long Island Sound vicinity. Popular game fish such as striped bass have largely disappeared.

The foundation of the East Coast's marine food web, supporting striped bass, bluefish, tuna, whales and seabirds is the menhaden, a small oily fish that feeds nearly everything in the Atlantic. The blame has been placed on over fishing by fleets of fishing boats that vacuum nearly 300 million pounds of menhaden from the Eastern Seaboard to the Gulf of Mexico. Many scientists have called for cuts of 50 percent in the annual menhaden harvest to support the recovery of striped bass, one of America's most popular sportfish dependent on menhaden.

Adjournment

The FAB meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM. Next FAB meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 5:30 PM at the Onondaga County Parks office in Liverpool.

Minutes by Les Monostory, January 6, 2026.