

## Region 6 Fish & Wildlife Management Board Update from

St. Lawrence County Representative Matthew J. Curatolo

At the Sept. 15 meeting, held in Watertown, I was elected to be the Region 6 representative to the New York State Fish & Wildlife Management Board. An annual meeting is held in Albany in the spring and all travel will be reimbursed by the Region 6 board.

The board passed a resolution opposing the future purchasing of forestlands by the state. The board argues that the state's fiscal resources are extremely limited, the state DEC has had to reduce personnel and programs due to limited funds and wishes to maintain its existing services at their current levels. A copy of the resolution was sent to the state Fish and Wildlife Management Board for similar action.

Other highlights from the meeting include the following:

- The board was updated on the new ruling by Gov. Cuomo allowing anglers to use three rods instead of the previous two.
- DEC fisheries staff told board that there would be no fall air stocking of fingerlings in Adirondacks because there is no funding available for helicopter use. In the past, the fall stocking would take place the first place in October through the use of New York State Police helicopters. DEC no longer has its own helicopters.
- DEC fisheries staff updated board that the stocking of Adirondack lake trout yearlings will not take place in the spring. This will affect Region 6 waters such as Sylvia Lake, Lake Bonaparte and Trout Lake.
- DEC wildlife staff stated that Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) monitoring will continue state-wide and random collection of specimens will take place. No deer have been tested positive in St. Lawrence County.
- 225 DMAP applications were approved for Region 6.
- Region 6 will see a 4 percent increase in the number of pheasants stocked at its wildlife management areas. That's a total of 3,600 birds.
- I brought up the issue of wild pigs being found in St. Lawrence County. Wildlife staff said that the county should be concerned because they have three litters a year and can populate an area very quickly. Hunters can legally hunt and kill wild pigs with a small game license and can use lights at night, bait anytime of the year.
- DEC police state that in January of 2012, convicted felons will no longer be able to hunt with muzzleloaders anymore. Archery and crossbow use will still be allowed.
- DEC police captain states that Region 6 is down two officers and a total of 38 positions statewide.