

New York State Conservation Council
Fall Convention
September 5-7,2025

President's Report (Keith Tidball) – Encourage everyone to be involved. We need to be visible and formidable.

Need the following actions to increase presence:

- Better fund raising events
- Revitalize Committee structure
- Update Membership System
- Increase Legislative Connections

Executive Director (Bruce McGowan) – Last year's banquet at Shenango netted the Council \$13,000.

Member Management System updated and database being updated.

Resolutions:

- 01-2025 Report On Firearms And Ammunition Background Checks
- 02-2025 Support In Writing And Policy For the 2nd Amendment
- 03-2025 Air Bows Not Be Permitted During Archery Only Season
- 04-2025 Create Youth Firearms Season For Deer In Suffolk County
- 05-2025 Allow Crossbows To Be Used For Hunting In Suffolk County
- 06-2025 NTSDEC Full Color Collectible Habitat Stamp
- 07-2025 Establish Early Bear Season In Southern Zone To Include WMU 40
- 08-2025 Allow Youth 12-13 To Hunt Deer And Bear From Elevated Stands
- 09-2025 Modifications To Black Bass Tournament Permit Regulations

All passed except 09-2025 and 05-2025 not needed due to new NYS State Regulations allowing Crossbow Hunting in NYS being changed.

Legislative Report Consider organizing Regional Trips to Legislature in Albany to cover issues directly with Delegates

NYSCC Website Advocacy software incorporated with video demo covering use of site. "Get Involved" will enable members to Track Bills, Find their Legislator, and submit Targeted Letters to Legislators about proposed or desirable Legislation. The software is available to enable Sportsmen to reach the right people at the right time. Go To: <https://www.nyscc.com/>, Get Involved, Actions for video.

Elections : No floor Nominations

Nominating Committee Slate Elected by affirmation: President: Kieth Tidball, 1st VP: Chuck Parker, 2nd VP Brian Krawczyk, Legislative VP: Patrick McBrearty, Secretary: Anthony Pittore, Treasurer: Diane Steel

Marine Issues: Largest Threats are: Round Goby, Northern Snakehead, and Hydrilla.

Hudson River Striped Bass: Expect a 12% reduction in population next year. Hearing taking place on reducing the length of the season by 4 to 6 weeks or catch and release program.

DEC

New endanger lists coming out along with a new statewide action plan for wildlife and plant species under greatest threat. Hearings on action plans will close September 20, 2025.

Wildlife Management Area regulations being updated.

Newly updated procedures for wolf sightings being developed due to presence of wolves just across the border in Canada.

20% of donated venison has been found with lead contamination. New guidelines coming to combat this problem. The NYS Department of Health needs more data since a large amount of food they have distributed has also been found to have lead contamination. This points to a larger problem than hunting ammunition.

Etag (Electronic Tagging) found to be much more accurate than paper tags. You will have up to 7 days to enter an electronic tag on your cell phone that will be permanent proof of your take. Full scale Etag will probably take effect in October 2025.

Fisher populations increasing in Western New York and Finger Lakes.

White Tailed Deer population increasing. We need to better cull the herds to prevent disease spreading. doe tags being issued in most counties to contain populations. Only 6-10% of hunters take 2 deer in a season. Extended Bow and Muzzleloading Seasons being considered.

Pheasant populations stable with growth only in the Northern Region. Wild turkey populations not growing and we will raise at least 60,000 pheasant on farms this year. More will be released closer to population centers. State Sportsmen's Clubs are being encouraged to Mentor hunts in their areas in cooperation with local landowners. Pheasants will be stocked "free of charge" as long as hunting is open to the public. Interested Clubs should contact DEC if they are interested in Mentoring a hunt.

Hatchery Modernization Approximately \$100million in State Funds will be allotted in 3 phases to update and replace our State's Hatcheries. Most Hatcheries were built about 83 years ago and are beyond upkeep attempts and need to be completely replaced.

Adirondack Brook Trout Plan Comments period completed with 48 comments and 21 themes. Final formatting of plan, approval, and implementation awaiting.

Trek For Trout QR Code Signs being erected around lakes to survey anglers about their experiences and catches. Additional signs will be erected in State Parks and around ponds.

South Moose Restoration Project starts next year.

Bass Tournament Permits Initiated in 2024; 814 permits issued. Permitting provides insights into about where, when, and how large these tournaments are. Application takes about 2 minutes.

Upcoming Projects Statewide Walleye Plan, Trout Stream Habitat Plan, Comprehensive Fisheries Information Management System Plan, Refocusing Fishing Access Plan to expand piers, river, and shoreline access.

Closing:

Committee members should resubmit their applications yearly to keep updated information available for Council

Be careful when dealing with media. Recent move to ban coyote hunting statewide was disguised by comments that a wolf could be shot accidentally. Contact the NYS Conservation Council for any help needed with media questions.

2026 Spring NYSCC Meeting planned for Livingston County. Details available at the beginning of 2026.

2026 Fall Convention being looked at to take place in the Catskills.

Fred Adriance
Saratoga County Representative.