

MINUTES OF THE IHSA BASS FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 9, 2020

The IHSA Bass Fishing Advisory Committee met electronically, on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Committee members participating were: James Cherveney, LaSalle (L.-Peru); Mae Fitch, Cuba; Erik Frederiksen, Braidwood (Reed-Custer); Tim Hayunga, Hebron (Alden-H.); David Markwell, Fithian (Oakwood); Scott Plencner, Chicago (Taft); and Scott Steward, Salem. Also participating were Kurt Gibson, IHSA Associate Executive Director; and invited guest Tad Locher, Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

ITEMS OF GENERAL DISCUSSION:

1. The committee reviewed the minutes of the 2019 meeting.
2. The committee discussed the impact COVID-19 had on the cancellation of the 2020 state series.
3. The committee discussed the outlook for the 2021 state series. Given current condition, it is expected that a single culminating event, not an entire state series, will be held on the established Sectional date on May 6, 2021.
4. The committee reviewed the Phase 4 Boating and Fishing Guidelines in the *Restore Illinois* Plan. During the discussion, committee members asked if the guidelines require 6' of social distancing between those in a boat. DNR representative Tad Locher indicated he would investigate and report back to IHSA staff. A link to the Phase 4 Guidelines can be found [here](#).
5. The committee discussed whether or not there was enough concern regarding short fish being brought to the scales during state series events to warrant a penalty for doing such added to the Terms and Conditions. No action was taken by the committee.
6. The committee reviewed the results of the coaches questionnaire that was distributed during the fall of 2019. In particular, the committee reviewed the responses from coaches concerning the structure of the state series. As bass fishing participation has grown over the past decade, the current structure of the state series has struggled to keep up with the growth. The committee agreed to examine the issue and develop some specific options for a new state series structure. A sub-group of the committee was formed to work on this project, and it is expected they will report back to the larger group later this fall. At that point, the committee will determine how to move forward with any idea. No idea will create any changes for the structure of the 2021 state series.
7. The committee thanked out-going members Frederiksen, Markwell, and Steward for their service to the committee.