**STRAITS AREA SPORTSMEN’S CLUB**

 P.O. Box 764

St. Ignace, Michigan 49781

2018 Newsletter

Fellow Club Members and Interested Parties,

Our club is involved in a multitude of activities intended to provide enjoyable and memorable outdoor experiences. To review some of the activities of the past year in which our club has participated, the following are considered most significant as they have had a large and positive impact on this area. We look forward to another event-filled and successful year!

**Hunter Safety Education Course**

Thanks to the efforts of Mark Eby, Kevin Monte, Jim Rose, the Mackinac Straits Shooters Association, and member volunteers from our club to make the 2018 Hunter Safety Education Course a success. We will again certify another class of young sports people in Spring 2018.

**Tracks Magazine**

As in 2017, this year we will again sponsor the MUCC Tracks Magazine Program to provide the magazine to fifth graders in Rudyard, St. Ignace and Moran Township school districts.

**Kids Fishing Day (KFD)**

This program is one of the most rewarding for those club members who participate in this event.

In 2017 over 115 kids registered, with over 248 people in attendance throughout the day. This year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Jordan River Fish Hatchery will again contribute 1,000 brook trout for the event, which will add a lot of enjoyment and smiles to the kids who catch the brook trout. Congratulations and thank you to our 22 volunteers, the Hiawatha National Forest Service, the State of Michigan DNR, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and the U.P. Chapter of Ruffed Grouse Society for their combined efforts to make this event a success. We would especially like to thank all the donors whose contributions made this event possible.

The 2018 KFD will be our 22nd annual event. The event will again be held on the free fishing weekend to take place on Saturday, June 9th. All club members are invited and encouraged to participate in the 2018 KFD. We need and appreciate YOUR help!

**Big Buck Contest**

There were 94 entries in the SASC contest in 2017 and 16 Deer were registered. Boyd Bigger won 1st place, 2nd place went to Pete Redmand, and 3rd place went to Pete Langstaff.

**Deer camp surveys**

The Sportsmen’s Club sponsored a prize for the DNRs Deer Camp Survey in the November firearm deer season. The deer camp survey is used to monitor deer sightings, deer harvest, and hunter opinions during the 16-day firearm season. It provides hunters and DNR staff with feedback on the status of the deer herd and hunting satisfaction soon after the season ends. Beginning in the early 1990’s, deer camps have been casually recruited into the survey over the years by word of-mouth, visiting camps, using club membership lists, or sign-ups at banquets.

**Deer spotlight surveys**

During the month of October the SASC does deer spotlight surveys for the DNR to provide insight for the coming firearm deer season. The 2018 survey will be the seventh year that the SASC has participated in the survey.

**Brevort Lake**

The Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club has a five-year partnership with the DNR to raise walleye fingerlings for Brevort Lake. Beginning in Spring 2013 we stocked 40,000 walleye fingerlings into Brevort Lake. As the program partnership to stock the lake runs only every second year, 2014 was an off year. Then again in 2015 we stocked 51,262 walleye fingerlings into the lake and in 2017 with our partners we stocked another 49,498 walleye fingerlings into Brevort Lake.

This spring SASC will be working with the DNR to implement a total gamefish survey on the lake.

Additionally, we have ordered an additional 3,000 larger walleyes 6” - 9” in size, to be planted in Brevort Lake this fall.

Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program is a DEQ managed program which monitors Michigan lakes. Club member Art Bombry’s hard work to monitor Brevort Lake confirms that there are no contaminants in the lake and that it is biologically healthy.

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants**

Partnerships with the Michigan DNR, and area clubs such as Ducks Unlimited, the Raber Area Sportsmen’s Club, and other various clubs is in place to make application for available federal grants to help support wildlife in our area. Notification has been received that this grant has been approved and it will be implemented this summer. Funds will be used to protect and restore habitat for breeding migratory game birds and other wildlife species.

**Wolves**

As most of you know, a federal judge has relisted the wolf as an endangered species for the fourth time in ten years. The bad news is that on August 1, 2017, the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. upheld the lower court’s ruling to keep the wolves on the endangered list, even though they are well beyond their targeted recovery numbers. On a personal note all of the resource dollars used to pay all the court costs take away from the real reasons these departments exist—WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT! In the 50 years of wildlife management nowhere in this country has an animal been hunted enough to be put on the endangered list.

The second action is the work of the SASC with Congressman Jack Bergman, Safari Club International, The Upper Peninsula Sportsmen’s Alliance and the Michigan United Conservation Club to pass into law through the United States Congress a bill that will remove the gray wolf as an endangered species PERMANENTLY! We are hoping that happens later this year.

**Cormorant Harassment**

This year the SASC, in cooperation with the U.S.D.A., Wildlife Services and the DNR, will be allowed only to harass cormorants on Brevort Lake. NO shooting will take place on Brevort Lake. Last May 25, 2016 a U.S. District Court vacated our Public Resource Depredation Order for

double-crested cormorants until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepares an adequate Environmental Assessment. As you might know, this is alarming to us as we have been working very hard to build up the fisheries in our area. Cormorants will wipe out fish populations very quickly if allowed to remain unchecked. One study estimate states that in the early 2000’s cormorants were consuming 13,900 size 1 walleyes annually on Brevort Lake. We have been working with Rep. Jack Bergmans Washington D.C. office, Senator Debbie Stabenow Traverse City office, SCI, UPSA and the MUCC to find a solution to this problem.

We will still need volunteers to harass cormorants this year. We have worked hard to bring back our fisheries! Let’s work together to prevent the cormorants from having a smorgasbord on our fish. Anyone can sign up to help, and any time that you can spare will make a difference!

**CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease)**

The SASC will be working full throttle to inform as many people as possible about this horrible disease. CWD affects the central nervous systems in deer, elk, moose and caribou. It attacks the brain in infected animals which eventually leads to death. As there is no cure, prevention is the only tool we have to attempt to control and isolate this disease. The SASC will be working with the DNR and all of our partners to inform hunters and the general public about preventative ways to prevent CWD from expanding in our state.

**The Hiawatha National Forest**

The SASC is taking part on the Trails Working Group that is being coordinated by The Forest Service. Our goal is to set up a connecting trail system in The Hiawatha National Forest that actually goes from city to city, or to a given destination. The Forest Service is planning to have a new ATV trail system in place by 2019.

SASC is working with our federal officials to get more local input on what is going on in our Hiawatha National Forest. The Forest Service is great on telling us what is going on in the Hiawatha but we really don’t have much input as what we would like to see happen in the forest we live in.

**Fishing Hunting and Trapping**

Hunters, Fisherman and Trappers (FHT) are the lead conservationist in North America that help to protect us from animal rights group activists that bombard us with pictures of starving and mistreated animals to increase their financing in order to support their attorneys. As a FHT organization we support scientific Management of our fisheries and wildlife. The SASC will continue to educate and inform the public about our fisheries and wildlife.

**SASC Representation in the Following Organizations and Committees**

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| Deer Management Meetings DNR | Ruffed Grouse Society |
| DNR Citizen Advisory Council | Safari Club International |
| DNR Coalition Meetings | Safari Club International Northwood’s Chapter |
| Hiawatha National Forest Trails Workgroup | Three Shores CISMA |
| Michigan Conservation Coalition | U.P. CWD Task Force |
| Michigan United Conservation Club | U.P. Fisheries Advisory Committee |
| National Rifle Association | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| NRA-ILA | Upper Peninsula Sportsmen’s Alliance |
| RAC Forest Service |  |

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As you can see, the Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club is involved in and supports many activities. You, as a member of the club, will help to continue our support of all hunting, fishing and trapping in our area. Please be sure to send your annual dues of $25.00 (for membership only), or $45.00 (which includes the “Michigan Out-Of-Doors” magazine). If you would like more information about the SASC visit our website < www.straitsareasportsmensclub.com > or email us at sasc764@gmail.com

To: Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club

P.O. Box 764

St. Ignace MI. 49781

Sincerely,

Gary V. Gorniak

Gary V. Gorniak, President

Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club