

**Email from John Harmon to Steve Hurst
April 19, 2023**

Greetings, Steve,

It's snowing here on the lake today!

Despite the weather, we continue to look forward to this year's Bass opener. At our most recent Board meeting, we invited Tony Van De Valk from the Cornell Field Station to give us his annual report. We're grateful that he includes plenty of metrics on a variety of fish species. His data show a downward trend in catch rates for Smallmouth Bass. The decade from 2000 to 2010 was strong, but catch rates have dropped significantly in the last 10 or so years. The researchers have not yet come to a conclusion. VHS? Overfishing? Tournaments? This last concern is at least one that we could--and should--get some data on.

The OLA Board, therefore, would like to renew our request that DEC takes the lead on monitoring the scope and amount of Bass Tournaments on Oneida lake. We're not looking for any kind of regulation. Just a fairly accurate tally. We know that might be difficult since these tournaments range from highly publicized B.A.S.S. events to smaller events that are arranged in bars or sports clubs. By monitoring social media, however, it can be done. Could we possibly start with compiling a fairly complete list of these tournaments that occur pretty much every week throughout the season?

Please let me know your thoughts.

Thanks,

John