

# Bass Tournament Liaison Report, July 2022

By Dave Rogers

There are two bass tournaments scheduled so far on Hancock Pond in 2022 on these dates: May 1, 2022 – Western Maine Bassers – Larry Scholtz coordinator  
November 6, 2022 – Pine Tree Bass Club – Luke Gagnon coordinator

I spoke with Larry Scholtz before the May 1 tournament and was on hand during launch and weigh-in. The main points of discussion with Larry before and at the launch on May 1 were the importance of boat inspection for invasive plants, care and caution when using the boat ramp (not to power on their trailers), and general courtesy. Below are the recently updated state requirements for inspection. Larry assured me that they are abiding by the state requirements and have multiple members certified by the state for inspection.

I will reach out to Luke Gagnon this Fall and will be on-site on the day of the tournament.

## **Aquatic Plant and Live-well Inspection Training for Bass Clubs**

All bass clubs have been required to participate in standardized training on aquatic plant and live-well inspection, and all tournament related inspections must be performed by individuals that have received this training.

Since 11/1/21 each tournament requires at least 2 aquatic plant and live-well inspectors who have completed an aquatic plant and live-well inspection training program endorsed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP).

These changes will standardize tournament inspections and will reinforce the commitment MDIFW and the clubs have made to be good stewards

and set a higher standard that reflects positively on our respective organizations.

**A question was asked at the meeting about bass caught in Sand Pond being released in Hancock Pond during a bass tournament.**

I called Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife for their input. What I learned is pretty cut and dried, and good news. Sand Pond is too small for bass tournament fishing. All permits for bass tournaments on Hancock Pond are restricted to Hancock Pond only. Tournament fisherman are not allowed to catch bass on Sand Pond during a Hancock Pond tournament. I will remind bass tournament organizers of the state's ruling on this during future tournaments.