

**Fish and Wildlife Board
Meeting Agenda**

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

The Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board will hold an in-person meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the National Life Dewey Conference Room in Montpelier.

To attend the meeting virtually via Microsoft Teams, click on the following link:

Join on your computer or mobile app

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 802-828-7667,,345384038#](tel:+18028287667345384038) United States, Montpelier

Phone Conference ID: 345 384 038#

Agenda:

- 1) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes.
 - April 27, 2022
- 2) Public Comments (Limited to 2 minutes per speaker)
- 3) Petition Discussion
 - Petition to regulate coyote hunting with hounds
 - Petition to close Nichols Pond to ice-fishing
- 4) Final Vote on 2022 Antlerless Deer Hunting and Youth Weekend Proposal
- 5) Update on Trapping Petition
- 6) Commissioner's Update

The mission of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department is the conservation of all species of fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the people of Vermont.

From: [Bradley Ferland](#)
To: [Mike Covey](#)
Cc: ANR.FWBoard@list.vermont.gov
Subject: Re: [ANR.FWBoard] Petition to regulate the hunting of coyotes with hounds
Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022 8:47:19 AM
Attachments: [ATT00001.txt](#)

EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.

Thank you Mike. Please consider this request received.

Brad Ferland
Caledonia County

On Wed, May 4, 2022 at 5:17 PM Mike Covey <mcovey802@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Members of the Fish and Wildlife Board,

I am writing to petition you to regulate the use of hounds for the hunting of coyotes. We feel this is a valuable practice, but we do see the need for regulation. We look forward to helping you facilitate the development of thoughtful rules surrounding this practice.

My Best Regards,

Mike Covey
Executive Director
Vermont Traditions Coalition
(802) 461-3786

ANR.FWBoard mailing list
ANR.FWBoard@list.vermont.gov
<https://list.vermont.gov/mailman/listinfo/anr.fwboard>

February 1, 2022

To: Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department

Attn: Christopher Herrick – Commissioner

Cc: Brian Bailey – Washington County board member

From: Kurt Behrens –Nichols Pond Association President

Subject: Petition for Rule Change

Gentlemen,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Nichols Pond Association Inc. to respectfully ask you to consider a small change to the fishing regulations as they pertain to Nichols Pond in Woodbury, Vermont. Specifically, we would like to add: *“Only open to fishing from second Saturday in April to Oct. 31”*. We believe this rule is justified for the following reasons:

- 1.) There is no suitable public access in winter.** There is a private road to the dam on Nichols Pond that is available to fishermen in summer months, but it is gated and unplowed in winter.
- 2.) Seasonal camps are vulnerable in winter.** The only way to access the ice is by crossing private camp-owners property. There are no property owners occupying their camps in winter except for brief welfare checks on their properties. Nichols Pond has a history of partying, vandalism, break-ins and thefts. No property on the pond has been spared. The property owners believe that inviting the general public to come to the pond for any reason in the winter when our camps are most vulnerable needlessly endangers our properties.
- 3.) Conservation of the trout population.** Nichols Pond is a small body of water and overfishing Lake Trout can easily be done. Ice fishing lends itself to long periods of fishing on the bottom where Lake Trout feed on dead fish and pursue Smelt. Lake Trout must compete with the invasion of Smallmouth Bass as well. East Long Pond is in a similar position and has recently experienced a decline in its Trout population even before ice fishing was allowed.
- 4.) The ice is unsafe for fishermen.** There are underwater springs in some locations of the Nichols Pond which create and hide thin ice. And the only logical access for fishermen is at the dam spillway where the ice is unpredictable. We know VT Fish & Wildlife tries to

warn ice fishermen to stay away from specific areas of lakes known to have unsafe ice. So inviting them to ice fish a lake where the only obvious access point is known to have unsafe ice seems imprudent.

Since January 1st, 2022, when Nichols Pond became open to ice fishing, we have already experienced an ice fisherman pulling a shanty with an ATV across private land without the owner's permission, vehicles blocking the turn-around area near the gate, and trash being left behind.

Please grant our request for this winter fishing rule change on Nichols Pond. We thank you in advance for the board's consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Kurt Behrens

Nichols Pond Association

behrenskurt@gmail.com

(802) 254-3303