

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **19<sup>th</sup> Annual Sports Fishery Advisory Board Essay Contest Is Announced**

**Mayville:** -- As the snow piles up outside, students are given the opportunity to recall the warm summer days of fishing in the Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board's Annual Fishing Essay Contest.

Last year, 475 students from 18 different schools participated in the essay contest and the Sports Fishery Advisory Board is eager to see how many will participate this year.

"The entries from our young students show that there continues to be a real interest in fishing and lake ecology in Chautauqua County," said Sports Fishery Advisory Board Chairman Zen Olow. "The Fish Advisory Board enjoys reading each essay and we look forward to enjoying more this year."

Now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, the contest is for elementary and middle school students in Grades 3 through 6. The contest is open to all Chautauqua County students attending public, private, or home schools.

"Fishing is an important recreational activity and it contributes to the economy of our county," said Chautauqua County Executive Gregory J. Edwards. "I am excited to see that it is time for the Spring Fishing Essay Contest, and I encourage all schools to participate in this educational program."

The contest officially opens February 28, 2011, and all entries are to be submitted to the following address by April 7, 2011:

Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board  
Office of the County Executive  
Gerace Office Building  
3 North Erie Street  
Mayville, New York 14757

Entries can be submitted singly or together by the class. The student's name, grade, teacher, and school should be legibly printed on each entry, and each entry must follow this year's topic, "**What Would Make a Great Fishing Adventure. . . With Whom and Why?**" Teachers are also encouraged to submit their email addresses with their students' essays to allow for quick and easy communication during the school day about contest results and updates. Entries will be judged on originality, and teachers are encouraged to work with students by incorporating the essay writing into a teaching activity.

Later this year, Edwards will be joined by members of the Sports Fishery Advisory Board and local Legislators to visit each school that submits an entry, and to present the winners with their prize. Each teacher will also be recognized for his/her support of the project. In addition, two Grand Prize winners will experience a summer fishing trip with the County Executive.

Six winners from each grade will be announced by the end of April and as is accustom, Grand Prize Winners will be announced at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Legislature Meeting.

The Sports Fishery Advisory Board hopes that the essay contest can be an interesting educational experience for students, and helpful to the teachers. It is intended to promote an awareness of Chautauqua County's ecology, the factors that affect it and the role each students plays in maintaining its quality in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact Zen Olow, Chairman of the Chautauqua County Sports Fishery Advisory Board at 640-2776.

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