



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Patty Ritchie

## Community Spotlight: A "Reel" Good Time On The St. Lawrence River

PATTY RITCHIE June 23, 2017



With the summer season in full swing, many people are seeking out new and exciting things to add to their warm weather to-do-list. For this month's "Community Spotlight," I am showcasing the upcoming Bassmaster Elite Series Fishing Tournament, which will take place in Waddington from July 20th to July 23rd.

This is the third time in the last five years this tourney has been held in Waddington, which speaks volumes about the world-class opportunities for angling in our region. The event is

not just for competitors—but for spectators and families too. This year's tournament is slated to feature opportunities to meet Bassmaster Elite anglers, live weigh-in shows, family events, an outdoors expo, activities and games for children and more.

The four-day tournament will include the top sport-fishers from across the country and many from right here in our region. Previously, the event has drawn thousands of anglers and spectators to Waddington. In 2013, it attracted a record 34,100 fans and in 2015, it drew 31,600. Not only do these individuals enjoy the tournament, they also spend time in our local stores, restaurants and hotels, helping to boost our local tourism economy.

Being an angler myself, I know how important it is to support our region's fishing industry and encourage its growth. That is why in recent years I have been proud to support the local fishing industry across our region by "reeling in" \$450,000 to help promote local tournaments, including the Bassmaster Elite Series Fishing Tournaments.

Living in Oswego, Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, we are extremely lucky to be the epicenter of top-notch fishing and other outdoor opportunities. I wish Bassmaster Elite Series competitors the best of luck for a safe and successful tournament and encourage everyone to get outdoors to explore our region this summer and see what exciting adventures await!