



New York State Conservation Council

ADVOCATING FOR CONSERVATION AND THE SPORTING COMMUNITY SINCE 1933

The New York State Conservation Council asks that everyone reach out to the Governor to veto legislation S4099. This bill will make it unlawful for any person to organize, sponsor, conduct, promote or participate in any contest, competition, tournament, or derby with the objective of taking or hunting wildlife for prizes for other inducement, or for entertainment. This does not include for hunting white-tailed deer, turkey, bear, or fishing contests.

1-518-474-8390 | Office hours: 9:00am to 5:00pm

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Below is what NYSCC has sent to the Governor:

Dear Governor Hochul:

Representing the state-wide membership of the New York State Conservation Council We are requesting The Governor's veto of the above referenced bill.

The below paragraphs represent the long standing position of Council's membership opposing restrictions on competitions of taking of wildlife.

1. The NYSCC is opposed to the enactment of blanket restrictions on competitions involving the taking of wildlife.

Hunting, fishing, and trapping as all sports do, engenders a competitive streak. Thus, hunting, fishing, and trapping contests have been conducted since time immemorial with participants congregating at the end of the day to socialize and compare results and perhaps settle a friendly wager or two. The organization of tournaments only represents a formalization of these activities, often as a fundraiser for a charitable cause.

These contests are not wanton killing events. They are comprised of a number of individual hunts conducted under the same statutes and regulations as any individual hunting, fishing, or trapping activity. Contrary to often-stated complaints, these contests do not involve any confinement or impairment of fair chase practices.

Regulated hunting, fishing, and trapping activities are a vital component of species management. The stewardship of habitat and wildlife is complex, requiring both professional training and actual boots on the ground. This is best provided by a well-schooled and experienced DEC staff and not by legislative micromanagement.

Broad legislative prohibition requests of this type are based on misconceptions and emotion rather than the on the ground knowledge and experience that should prevail.

Competitive Wildlife Competitions follow the legal taking of fish and wildlife. The ethics of today's outdoor sportsmen helps preserve and important balance that is required in nature.

There are many other interests that benefit from the sponsorship of such events. Fire Departments, Disabled Veterans, VFW's, Hospice, Scouting, and Local Towns and Sportsmen's Clubs are just a few of the groups known by the NYS Conservation Council that support and benefit these competitive events.

Ecological Science and the principles under the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation <https://www.fishwildlife.org/landing/north-american-model-wildlife-conservation> has nothing in opposition to wildlife competitions. Principle 7 of the North American model states that Scientific management is the proper means for wildlife conservation.

Scientific Management is the basis for the operation of the NYSDEC. This legislation if signed into law would seriously conflict with the sound "Scientific Management" principle.

Governor Hochul, please veto this bill.