

DRAFT
LAKE MICHIGAN COMMERCIAL FISHING BOARD
MEETING

January 22, 2024

Video Meeting

1. Organizational Matters:

2. Call to Order:

Chairman Charlie Henriksen called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. Charlie mentioned that we were going to take several items out of order on the agenda.

Members Present: Charlie Henriksen, Mark Maricque, Mike LeClair, Todd Stuth, Brett Schwarz, Dan Pawlitzke.

Member Absent: Rick Johnson

DNR Staff Present: Brad Eggold, Nick Leger, Miranda Westphal, Ryan Propson, Robert Stroess.

Anonymous Attendee: Meeting Guest.

Others present: J Val Klump Retired Dean of Freshwater Science at UWM, Titus Seilheimer, Chris Houghton UWGB Professor, Mike Zorn UWGB Chemistry Professor, Will Henriksen, Dennis Hickey, Paul Burnette, Jay Virlee, Jack Tong, Sharon Moen, Lauren Jescovitch – Michigan State Professor plus Michigan Sea Grant, Nick Hahlbeck, Michaelene Corbett and

3. Discussion Items:

A. Dead Zone Concerns by J Val Klump Retired Dean of Freshwater Science at UWM, Chris Houghton UWGB Professor and Mike Zorn UWGB Chemistry Professor discussed the matter of Dead Zones in Green Bay which identifies as an oxygen depleted water of less than 2 mg/L. The Dead Zone typically occurs when there is a fast West Wind called Hypoic Stratification. Mike Zorn added that Cell-Com installed 7 LORAWAN transmitter to their cell towers, the attached 7 transmitter to the Spar Buoy which sends water temperature on top and bottom of the Bay of Green Bay along with Dissolved Oxygen sensor. The link in the presentation is <https://seagull.glos.org/>

B. The Red List: Sharon Moen, Lauren Jescovitch and Nick Hahlbeck re-presented to the LMCFB the Michigan Fish Producers the Rating of Water of the Great Lakes showing the sustainability of fish reproduction in the Great Lakes. Here is the link: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzGwJvmKtSgGLIZpNmjfgzvLjfg?projector=1&messagePartId=0.1> Red is (unacceptable) to the Yellow (acceptable) waters to consume fish. ALSO Refer to web site: www.seafoodwatch.org

C. Dan Pawlitzke discussed the costs associated with the Lake Trout Restoration. The Federal Governments annually invests about \$17.4 million plus the \$4.24 million in annual Revenue from the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp totals about \$21.6 million. In 2021 there were 2,657,293 Lake Trout planted in Lake Michigan or about \$8.20 per Lake Trout planted.

D. The 2023 Lake Whitefish preliminary harvest; Miranda presented these preliminary harvest numbers, by Zone

<u>Zone</u>	<u>Harvest</u>
1	557,020
2	199,171
3	162,953
Total	919,144

E. LMCFB 2024 Priority List:

- a. Establish a Commercial Lake Trout Harvest. The DNR Staff is engaged in the rule making process to establish a Lake Trout Harvest since 2018. Brad Eggold outlined a timeline for approval of May 2024 draft a pre-scope statement. Then in June to September 2024 Develop a draft and route scope statement processing steps. Next in October 2024 hold a preliminary public hearing on scope statement. Finally in December 2024 the full scope statement is completed. One issue is if a Lake Trout Study is needed along with interaction from the Stakeholders of Lake Trout Working Group of the Lake Michigan Technical Committee if additional information is needed.
- b. Improve EFHRS to make it efficient, effective and user friendly. Brad says the DNR is working with Commercial Fishers to work through modifications.
- c. Complete the trawl rule in a timely manner. Brad indicated the March through September 2024 have hearings. Then the NRB approval by end of 2024.
- d. Resolve the 5-day trap net night rule so it works for business. There are 2 rules one for Lake Michigan & Green Bay and another for Lake Superior. Brad replied that the lifting requirements are the same as in 1979.

4. Action Items:

A. & B. Minutes: Mike LeClair made a motion to approve the November 6, 2023 plus December 4, 2023 LMCFB meeting minutes seconded by Todd Stuth all present voted to approve minutes.

C. Election of Officers: Mike LeClair made a motion to approve the Officers same as last year, seconded by Brett Schwarz, All Present Voted Aye.

D. Lake Trout Concerns and Board Recommendations: Todd Stuth addressed the LMCFB pertaining to allocating a limited quota of Lake Trout in order to evaluate the potential of Lake Trout Harvest.

- a. Great Lakes Guide Reporting
- b. 100% Lake Whitefish
- c. Tracking Commercial Fishing Expenditures
- d. Latent Mortality Study with UW-Sevens Point
- e. Economic Impacts of Wisconsin Fishing by the Freshwater Resources of Lake Michigan and Bay of Green Bay.

Further the DNR is maintaining a delicate balance of maintaining Alewife verses the eradication of Alewife. Charlie mentioned we should continue to discuss the Alewife matter. Dan Pawlitzke referenced the 2021 Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Revenue and Expenditure Report (2018 – 2021) showing excess revenue which could be applied to Trout and Salmon Research.

- Todd Stuth made a motion to approve the 5-year extension of the M.O.U.

between the DNR and the LMCDFB, seconded by Mark Marique. All present voted Aye.

- Trawl rule and trawl report: Miranda had a Trawl presentation on EFHRS with the following comments:
 - a. There was very little bycatch to the effort invested
 - b. The 10% bycatch of Lake Whitefish caught was not close to the 10% limit
 - c. The video of fish being caught are close to the EFHRS report amount

Mike LeClair sent out 7 points he made pertaining to Trawl of Lake Whitefish which was emailed to the LMCDFB October 9, 2023:

1. Whitefish trawling to be made legal year just like trap nets bycatch is similar and if bycatch becomes a problem, the net can be moved immediately
2. Trawl should be able to be used anywhere in zone 3, except for restricted areas, just like trap nets. There is minimal user conflict unlike trap nets
3. Will use camera but do not want to be restricted to stop fishing operations if camera breaks down. I've called Team Electronics and they told me to get parts, could be 3-4 weeks. The unit is old and to replace it could cost \$10,000. No other gear is required to have cameras. I think 10 years of data should be sufficient
4. Trawling for whitefish should be considered on Green Bay. Right now I have no quota. Probably won't be able to buy any because of availability and cost, but other fishers may want to trawl in the future. Michigan has allowed trawling for 40 years. I don't see what the problem would be to try it.
5. Trawling should be permitted without restrictions in months of August and September, as we have shown we stop fishing when it is not economical and possible changes in lake trout regulations.
6. Trawling time will be when trawl doors reach the bottom and come out of the water 1 hour drag.
7. Trawl dimensions should be up to the fisher. The only part of the net that needs to be regulated is the mesh cod end 4 1/2". Mesh sizes in the rest of the net would not be smaller but may be larger in order to make the net easier to pull.

Brad Eggold agreed to meet with Mike LeClair to discuss the above 7 issues around April 2024, then with the LMCDFB meeting by May 15, 2024. Brad and Mike agreed they could meet over the computer to discuss these matters.

5. Old Business: None

Board Member Matters: Mark Marique ask what were the rules pertaining to dockside fish sales. Here is the response compiled by Miranda Westphal, DNR;

Recordkeeping requirements for sale of fish

There was a question from the Board about recordkeeping requirements for dockside sales of fish. The following regulations were provided by wardens during the meeting. (Miranda), highlighted sections pertinent to the meeting discussion. For direct sales or donations from a fisher to a consumer, the following recordkeeping regulations apply:

(7) Disposition records. Each commercial fisher shall maintain a printed disposition record in the English language of all fish harvested by the commercial fisher as required by s. 29.519 (5) (a) and (c), Stats., that includes all of the following:

(a) The complete name, address and commercial fishing license number of the commercial fisher.

(b) For each wholesale sale, each retail sale over 15 pounds and each donation over 15 pounds: the complete name, address and wholesale fish dealer license number, if any, of the buyer or recipient; the weight in pounds of each species of fish; condition of the fish and the date of each sale or donation.

(c) For each retail sale of 15 pounds or less and donation of 15 pounds or less, the condition of the fish, weight in pounds of each species of fish and the date of each sale or donation.

(d) For fish spoiled or otherwise destroyed or utilized, the condition of the fish, weight in pounds of each species of fish and the date of disposal or utilization.

29.503(5)

(a) Records. Each wholesale fish dealer shall keep legible, written records in the English language of all fish purchased, sold, possessed, or obtained in his or her capacity as a wholesale fish dealer by any means including by trade or barter and shall keep records of all fish disposed of in his or her capacity as a wholesale fish dealer for any reason, including as a result of spoilage or by donation. The record shall include the name, address, and fish dealer license number of the purchaser; the name, address, and wholesale fish dealer or commercial fishing license number of the person from whom the fish were purchased or obtained; the date of the transaction; the kinds of fish, the pounds or kilograms of each kind and the description of the fish purchased or obtained; and the signature of the person completing the record. If the record relates to a retail sale by the wholesale fish dealer, the record shall include only the date of the transaction and the kind, weight, and condition of the fish sold.

29.519(5)

(a) Records requirements. Each commercial fisher shall maintain and submit records to the department in the form and manner required by the department.

(b) Fishing records. The commercial fisher shall keep and submit a complete, legible and accurate record of the licensee's daily fishing activities, in the form and manner required by the department. The record shall include the complete name, address and commercial fishing license number of the licensee; the name and number of the boat fished from; the location fished; the month and year for which the record is being kept; the date of each day's fishing activity; the kind and amount of commercial fishing gear used; the kind of fish caught and the number of pounds of each kind of fish caught; and the signature of the licensee.

(c) Fish disposition records. The commercial fisher shall keep a complete, legible and accurate record of the disposition of landed catch, in the form and manner required by the department. The record shall include the complete name, address and commercial fishing license number of the licensee; for each wholesale sale, the complete name, address and wholesale fish dealer license number, if any, of the buyer and the kinds of fish sold, the number of pounds of each kind and the description of the fish sold and the date of the sale; for direct retail sales, the kinds of fish sold, the total pounds of each kind, and the date of the sale; and the signature of the licensee. In this paragraph, "landed catch" means those fish or fish parts caught in commercial fishing operations and brought to shore to utilize or to sell or otherwise dispose of.

6. Adjournment: Motion - Moved by Todd Stuth, seconded by Mike LeClair.
Motion passed unanimously at 8:12 P.M.