

DRAFT
LAKE MICHIGAN COMMERCIAL FISHING BOARD
MEETING
August 28, 2023
Video Meeting

1. Organizational Matters:

Call to Order:

Chairman Charlie Henriksen called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

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

Member Absent: None

DNR Staff Present: Nick Leger, Brad Eggold, Meredith Penthorn, Ryan Propson, Kari Fenske, Justine Hasz, Tami Ryan,

Others present: Al Blizel, Bob Wincek, Brandon, Jerry Fetterer, Eric Weyborg, Paul Smith, Will Henriksen, Sharon Moen, Nick Hahlbeck. Meeting Guest.

2. A. Minutes: Rick Johnson made a motion to approve the July 10, 2023 LMCFB meeting minutes, seconded by Todd Stuth, all present voted to approve these minutes.

3. Discussion Items:

A. Report on the NRB Meeting of August 8 & 9, 2023 was reviewed and explained by Brad Eggold

i: Lake Whitefish TAC: The Natural Resources Board (NRB) has set the 2024 Lake Whitefish quota as outlined below:

<u>Finalized Lake Whitefish Quota</u>	<u>2024</u>
Green Bay T.A.C.	1,142,534
Lake Michigan T.A.C.	874,385
Zone 1 Quota	776,647
Zone 2 Quota Total	888,785
Zone 2 Green Bay Sub-total	365,887
Zone 2 Lake Michigan Sub-total	522,898
Zone 3 Quota	351,487

There were no comments from the LMCFB OR other registered comments.

ii: Latent Mortality: When the tagging research was in progress, the latent mortality of those research tagged fish was 12%.

iii: Lake Trout Commercial Harvest Timeline update: This update was pushed back to the next agenda due to very time-consuming discussions on Wolf discussions. There was no decision on the Scope Statement acceptability, as promised in the July 10, 2023 minutes.

Charlie Henriksen read his comment into these minutes; “Rather than drag this process out interminably, I would suggest we have an experimental program that would allow a moderate harvest of lake trout that could have a TAC (maybe 10,000 fish; open to all commercial license holders). It could be easily controlled through our EFHRS system and we would be providing data on size, location caught, natural vs. planted and any other information needed or requested. Dockside checks should be sufficient to verify data.”

iv: Lake Whitefish Trawling update: The Trawling Scope Statement was approved in April 2023, with the DNR finding that the Grids would NOT change and the camera system would remain in place.

B. Update of LMCFB Priority List for 2024:

1). Lake Trout Research Quota: Create an experimental program of the TAC of 10,000 Lake Trout, Accumulate data as to the scientific data showing the excess supply of 40,000 Lake Trout. A proposal along these lines, coming from the DNR, would be satisfactory to most of the interested stakeholders and would advance the use of actual scientific information in our management decisions.

2). Lake Whitefish Quota – completed and should be going to the NRB in September 2023.

3). NR 25.102 Trap Net Fishing in Southern Green Bay containing Grids 901, 902, 1001.

4). Trawl Scope Statement – Move the Rule forward without delays.

5). Lake Whitefish Catch Composition Study: The LMCFB will work with any researches on data collection as has been done in the past (UWSP & UWGB) and others.

6). EFHRS: The Regulations governing the great lakes abutting Wisconsin should be the same. For example; 7 nights of fishing should be the same in Lake Michigan, Bay of Green Bay and Lake Superior.

C. Trap Net Nights Discussion; Ryan Propson, DNR L.E and Brad Eggold, DNR.; discussed the violations of Trap Net lifting; EFHRS entries indicates that the trap nets be lifted less than every 5 nights with several exceptions. Those exceptions should be listed on the EFHRS report in the Comment Box. By way of example: if

there are 5 nets to be lifted and issues arise such as poor weather, emergency health care issues resulting in the nets not being lifted which results in the remaining net lifts cannot being completed, Reasons should be listed in the EFHRS comment box. The DNR is concerned about the 5-day rule that ALL commercial fishers are operating by the same rules in order to have an equal playing field.

D. EFHRS Trap Net Instructions by Brad Eggold; Brad explained that Trap Net Names cannot be reused during the same calendar year. If Trap Nets are moved, the new location needs a new name containing start date & end date, Be aware that November 2 is the end date. The calendar year is the same as fishing year.

4. Old Business:

- Economic Study; UW – Whitewater Professor Winden is assembling the final survey along with contact information of what information could be OR not be provided.
- Additional info to DNR website including pertinent studies; There have been many studies completed by UWSP Professor Fred Copes and others pertaining to commercial fishing. The LMCFB needs to know “how-to” post these studies onto the DNR website dedicated to commercial fishing.
- Update on historical perspective; DNR Attorney, Chandra Harvey is compiling the history of commercial fishing and the rationale of those regulations pertaining to the limited entry system developed in the 1970’s.

5. There was no #5 on the Agenda

6. Board Member Matters:

- The WCC Great Lakes study committee meeting is scheduled for August 26, 2023;
- Any additional comments; Bob Wincek commented on the Zoom meetings VS face-to-face meetings for the meeting to be held on September 14, 2023.
- CARES Act advertising Funds;
 1. Round 1 & 2 went to business losses for fishing businesses
 2. Excess funds were used for marketing of commercial fishing including restaurant serving commercial catches.

Thus, the next LMCFB meeting will be October 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

7. Adjournment:

Motion - Moved by Rick Johnson seconded by Todd Stuth.
Motion passed unanimously at 7:25 P.M.