

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum**  
**Lakeshore Technical College, Wells Fargo Room (L261)**  
**Cleveland, WI**  
**April 11, 2015**

**Notes**

8:45 Coded Wire Tag Update (USFWS – Matt Kornis)

- Overview of Mass Marking Project.
- Lake Trout recruitment higher in southern part of Lake Michigan.
- Wild Chinook had a weak 2013 year class (spawned in fall of 2012). 2012 was drought year with low flow and warm water temperatures (not great conditions for salmon). More of an issue in the north than the south.
- Post stocking survival. Where are fish stocked that contribute the most to the fishery? WM 4 and 5 are contributing the most to the fishery, lakewide.
  - Why? Could be cold upwells on west side of lake or more food on west side of lake? More insect infall and invertebrates in streams (prevailing west wind). Rocky habitat?
  - High percentage of chinook salmon stocked in Lake Huron are recovered in Lake Michigan.

9:45 Salmon Ambassadors 2014 Update (WI Sea Grant – Titus Seilheimer)

- Data collected for more than 3000 Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan.
- Results for Wisconsin ports (Southern WI and Door County).
- Results and fact sheets available here:  
<http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/salmon-ambassadors/>

10:15 Food Web (UW-Milwaukee – Ben Turschak)

- Food web presentation
- Primary species in Lake Michigan include Diporeia, alewives and chinook salmon
- Energy flows from phytoplankton/algae to quagga mussels to round gobies to alewives. These all impact salmon and trout
- What organisms are eating can be determined by the amount of C<sub>13</sub> and N<sub>14</sub>

11:15 Lake Michigan Preyfish 2014 (GLFC Lake Committee video)

- Showed presentations from Great Lakes Fishery Commission 2015 Lake Committee meeting
- Status of forage fishes (B. Bunnell, USGS) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pc5MFuTllvk>
- Gobies. The new Alewife? (R. Claramunt, MIDNR) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVT0dyAGip0>
- Other Lake Committee presentations available here:  
<http://www.glfc.org/lakecom/video/2015.html>

1:00 NOAA Marine Sanctuary Proposal (NOAA – Ellen Brody, remote)

- Overview on National Marine Sanctuary system.
- Wisconsin has submitted an application and it has been accepted to the Sanctuary list.
  - Nomination package is available here [PDF]: <http://bit.ly/1Jmi4wY>
- Sanctuary would cover area from Two Rivers to Port Washington with a focus on the marine archeological relics (shipwrecks).
- Existing fishing activities (commercial, charter, and recreational) would not be impacted.
- Some concern over new buoys to mark shipwrecks, although buoys would be easier to see.

#### 1:30 Fisheries Economics (UW-Madison – Dan Phaneuf)

- Current dollar value estimates of Great Lakes fisheries. What do they mean?
- Many research questions here.
- 138,000 Great Lakes anglers in 2011 fishing 977,000 days
- Great Lakes wide – 7.2 billion annually
- This project will focus on willingness to pay for Lake Michigan fishery. Demand side of the equation.
- Travel cost model.
- Work will be conducted in 2015.

#### 2:30 Lake Michigan Integrated Fish Management Plan update (DNR – Brad Eggold)

- Status of plan.
- Final draft should be ready for public review in late summer
- Final version should be completed in 2015.

#### 2:40 Milwaukee Harbor fishery -Yellow Perch (DNR - Brad Eggold)

- Project investigating enhancing and restoring the yellow perch fishery in the Milwaukee Harbor and Estuary.
- Project is looking at habitat, yellow perch genetics, comparing past and current surveys, yellow perch larval production in the harbor.
- Stocking may be a tool that is used, along with habitat restoration.

#### 2:50 Net Pen Update (DNR - Dave Boyarski)

- Moving forward with complete applications.
- Coded wire tags show Wisconsin stocked fish have higher survival than other parts of the lake. Are net pens needed?
- Using different CWT lot numbers for Kewaunee and Racine net pen fish. Will compare pens to non-pen stocked fish.

#### 3:00 Open Forum – New issues and concerns

- Potential topics in the future
  - Electronic reporting for charter captains.
  - Guide and reporting (Green Bay issue)
  - Steelhead in Lake Michigan
  - Tributary fishery

- Phosphorus loading in Lake Michigan
- Bird predation
- Whitefish population status in Green Bay and Lake Michigan
- Green Bay walleye population – impacts on other species?
- Provide comments on meetings and future topics: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6FHJRM>

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