

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum
UW-Sheboygan, Room 2114 (Wombat Room)
One University Drive
Sheboygan, WI
November 7, 2016**

AGENDA

6:00 Introductions

6:15 Lake Michigan Terms of Reference – Review and Discussion (Titus Seilheimer, WI Sea Grant and Brad Eggold, WDNR)

- Current purpose of LMFF is not recommendation, but more focused on information sharing with some feedback to WDNR on specific issues.
- Proposed potential changes. Move to more of a recommendation making group.
- Question: who votes on forum recommendations? The public? Forum members will work toward consensus decisions. Public can provide feedback and comments to forum members.
- Interest from forum members in attendance to return to a more formal recommendation making capacity to WDNR by forum.
- Suggestion to consider moving location of the meeting so driving distance is shared
- Interest in moving to more of a consensus model with recommendation. We will revisit at the next meeting. Make sure more groups are present to make the decision.
- Brad Eggold will work to clean up draft terms of reference for the next meeting.

6:30 Lake Michigan Salmon and Trout Management Plans (Brad Eggold, WDNR)

- Stocking recommendation from WDNR and Lake Committee. Where are the reductions?
- Equivalences used in stocking numbers. Traded lake trout and brown trout for Chinook salmon.
- Lake trout numbers.
 - Lake trout are being reduced on the mid-lake reef (300,000) and nearshore stocking locations (150,000).
- Brown trout numbers.
 - Wisconsin is reducing by 138,000 fingerling and 200,000 yearling brown trout
- Proposed method to distribute brown trout between ports. Use status quo, updated strategy for 2017. Could be based on process used to distribute Chinook salmon.
- Fast timeline to make decision, Lake Michigan Fish Team meets 12/1 and discusses based on comments tonight. Another discussion in winter by Forum? Brown trout will be stocked starting March 1, 2017. Lake Michigan Fisheries Team will discuss and create draft strategy for the next meeting.
- Moving forward on changing bag limit of lake trout. Emergency rule for 2017.

- Stocked in the right places to support the nearshore fishery? (Coded Wire Tag data shows movement from deep water to nearshore fishery).
- Net pen usage.
 - If ports want to start using net pens then they will have to work with the DNR to get the right permit and cooperative agreement. This takes time so interested clubs should start now. If clubs have net pens then they can be used for other species with stocking and releasing them occurring on the same day.
 - Use google calendar to coordinate stocking.
 - Have plan in place completed by February 1, 2017.
- Continue discussion of management options to increase survival.
- Some stakeholders felt blindsided by Brown Trout reductions. Enough consultation?
- Forum members and other stakeholders created a list of potential criteria for brown trout allocation:
 - Tournament/contest
 - Seasonality of fishery
 - Forage base (predator prey?) - GB forage.
 - Access (launch/pier/Marina/river)
 - Creek (how to address bias?)
 - Environmental quality
 - Proportion of allocation based on even distribution v. Proportional by county.
- Info need
 - Tagging/clipping study
 - Better characterize harvest and effort
 - Guide reporting
 - 3:3:3 bag (steelhead, brown, lake trout)

7:30 Lake Trout – Management & Ecology (Mark Holey, USFWS)

- History of lake trout in Lake Michigan.
 - Restoration is why FWS is in the lake trout business.
 - Extirpated from LM in 1956. Harvest followed by decimation by lamprey.
- Restoration strategies and evolving program over time. Responding to problems in program and making it more effective.
- Stocking priorities based on goal of restoration. Target best habitat (Julian's reef, northern refuge, and southern refuge).
 - Based on survival, now (2016) 93.5% stocked offshore from Spencer F. Baird.
- Genetic sources for diversity.
 - Some from Lake Superior: Lewis Lake (Yellowstone, a Lake Michigan remnant) and Klondike, Seneca Lake (New York Finger Lake), and Parry Sound (Lake Huron). Strains have also been used in past and then abandoned.
- Survival

- Lamprey are big issue, if high, will have mortality. .1 mortality from lamprey is target.
- Currently at target In LM.
- Thiamine deficiency. Eggs are being collected and tested. Target is 4nmol/g. Many areas in LM are near target. Not just alewife predation, other factors too.
- Assessment of restoration success
 - Obj 1: Spring assessment, not meeting the objective.
 - Obj 2: spawning assessment. Meeting in some places. Southern is better.
 - Obj 3: spawning % female and 10+ age groups. Meeting female requirement. Not getting enough year classes, but WI has more.
 - Obj 4: viable egg density. Thiamine levels. Not hitting target.
- Percent wild fish. Increase in percentage. Higher in south end of lake. Trends increase recent years.
- Lakewide movement of Lake Trout.
 - Northern refuge fish didn't move much. Southern refugee. Mostly in refuge, but lots on both coasts in shallow water. Julian's too.
 - Mass marking LT data. Lake wide sport creel 64% catch lakewide were planned in offshore reefs. Wisconsin 86.2% lake trout catch from priority sites (northern, southern, Julian's).
 - Nearshore stocking not contributing significantly to fishery because fish move.
 - Survival of LT, stocking location is most important factor (70% variation), genetics (20%), and other factors (10%).
- How are trout and salmon adjusting to change in forage? Stable isotope analysis.
 - LT feeding on different trophies level than other trout and salmon.
 - Supported by Michigan DNR diet study, shift by lake trout to goby consumption, moving deeper, offshore to feed.
 - LT most opportunistic, brown trout are second most opportunities to (likely feeding more on gobies).
 - Brown trout diet not overlapping with salmon and steelhead, which are more focused on alewife consumption.

8:30 Lake Michigan Fisheries Communication Plan (Jennifer Sereno, WDNR)

- Outreach, education, and marketing. What can be done?
- Lake Michigan marketing team. LMFF members?
- Depending on the budget available, can be big or small. WDNR has big reach right now.
- Target message, timing.
- Recruiting from this group. Times, messages, etc. If interested in joining this group contact Jennifer:
 - Contact Jennifer: (608-770-8084; Jennifer.Sereno@wisconsin.gov)

8:55 Wrap up

- New invasive species present in Great Lakes *Thermocyclops* (<http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/special-reports/great-lakes/2016/11/04/new-invader-found-great-lakes/93296222/>).
 - Has been present in Lake Champlain since 1991, but likely a ballast water transport to Lake Erie.
- National Weather Service is looking for input on marine forecast. See attached document to share your opinion.
- Schedule LMFF meeting in January-February to discuss brown trout stocking allocation.
- Spring LMFF meeting focusing on Green Bay food web.

9:00 Adjourn

Attachments:

Terms of reference - current

Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board – Lake Trout harvest (from Forum member Charlie Henriksen)

NWS marine forecast request

Power Points from meeting:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/fishing/lakemichigan/lakemichiganfisheriesforum.html>

Attendance list

Forum members

Thom Gulash

Mark Holey

John Janssen

Scott Haberman

Dan Peterson

Lee Haasch

Bob Wincek

Russ Kleinert

Keith Waloway

Guests

Dan	Mitchell
BOB	HAMMEN
JAY	^{GLSF} MATHWICK
GARY	SEAR
JERRY	FETTERER
JASON	WAAA
DENNIS CHERNY	CHERNY
Tom	Nowak
Keith	Waloway
Jim Jim	Coc
Riley	Thill
Mark	Holey
Fritz	Dramm
STAVE	STACKHORS
DAVID	SWELL
Scott Tyler	Goodman Courtis

Willard	Rusch
Dale	Schumacher
James	Hirt
Nissen	Gehyon
Bret	Cook
Scott	Habermann
Dan	Peterson
Tom	Thil
John	Hanson
John	Jansson
Cluck	Brante
Eric	Haataja
Scott	Skafar
RYAN	BAKER

Wisconsin DNR

Cheryl Masterson
 Tom Meronek
 Willie Fetzer
 Todd Kalish
 Nick Legler
 Brad Eggold
 Mike Donofrio
 Joe Jerich
 Jenny Sereno

Wisconsin Sea Grant

Titus Seilheimer

Terms of Reference

Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum

Purpose

This Forum is a citizen-based group. The charge of the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum is to review and provide input into the fishery goals, objectives and management plans for Lake Michigan. Members will assist Fisheries Management in charting the future course of fisheries management by advising the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team (DNR).

Membership

Chair

The Sea Grant designated liaison will serve as the chair for the Forum. The Chair is responsible for facilitating the meetings and will work with the members and a Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor to establish meeting agendas and approve final minutes.

Fisheries Supervisor

A Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor assists the Chair in preparing the agenda, obtaining the appropriate speakers, facilitating meeting arrangements, and finalizing draft minutes for the Chair's review. The Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor works with the Chair and members to determine the direction of the Forum.

Members

Members are appointed by the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team (DNR) with input from the Chair of the Forum after taking into consideration the following factors:

1. The Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum should be representative of the diverse stakeholder interests including sport and commercial fishermen and geographic regions on Lake Michigan, as well as other interests such as academia, non-governmental organizations, agencies and governmental offices.
2. The members should represent a significant network of fisheries and other stakeholder interests.
3. The members should be capable of providing effective insight, knowledge and guidance from their own experiences and constituencies.

All members of the Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum at the time of adoption of these terms of reference will be asked to continue as a member. Fisheries Management and the Chair may appoint an alternate member for an organization to serve in the absence of the primary member. Primary and alternate members alike, and other visitors, are permitted and encouraged to participate in discussions. In addition to the Members, the meetings will be open to all interested persons.

Member Responsibilities

Membership on the Forum comes with several responsibilities including, but not limited to the following:

Members are responsible for-----

1. disseminating the Forum's activities and deliberations throughout their network of constituents and others in their community as appropriate.
2. seeking to resolve conflicts among user groups and constituencies.
3. regular attendance at meetings and participating in a respectful manner with fellow Forum members, DNR staff, and visitors.

4. representing the interests of their constituencies with the rest of the Forum.

Procedural Rules

Minutes

Since the purpose of the Forum is to advise the Lake Michigan Fisheries Team on fisheries issues related to Lake Michigan, detailed minutes will be recorded for each meeting. An effort will be made to provide members with a copy of the minutes within a month of the meeting. Minutes will be corrected via email with a review/comment/approval period of 2 weeks. Any significant changes would cause a second period of review. No reply from Forum members will be taken as an approval. At the following meeting, the Chair will distribute copies of the approved minutes to the members.

Agendas

Any Forum member can bring an issue to the meetings by working with the Chair and the Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor to have their issue added to the agenda. The members are strongly encouraged to work with the Chair and Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor to place items on the Agenda. Agenda items will be solicited by the Chair and/or the Fisheries Supervisor at least 30 days in advance of the next meeting. An effort will be made to provide the members with the final agenda and meeting notice at least 7 days prior to the next meeting. Members will be expected to bring copies of any handouts or presentations that are provided electronically prior to the meeting.

Lake Michigan Fisheries Team

The Lake Michigan Fisheries Team will provide the following services to the Forum:

- 1) Coordinate with the Chair of this Forum on meeting logistics
- 2) Provide informational presentations on topics of interest
- 3) Host two meetings annually
- 4) Provide meeting notes, handouts and informational items to members and the public

Establishing Meeting Dates

During the last meeting held each year dates will be established for meetings in the following year. The Chair and Lake Michigan Fisheries Supervisor may establish additional meetings throughout the year based on need or a desire by the Forum to address an issue sooner than the next meeting is scheduled.

Evaluation and Review

The Forum, led by the Chair, will review and evaluate the effectiveness and direction of the Forum at least bi-annually.

Adoption

These terms of reference were approved and adopted by the Lake Michigan Fisheries team on September 1, 2012.

Good Morning,

I hope everyone had a great and safe summer enjoying their marine interests on the Great Lakes. Now that marine traffic is diminishing on Lake Michigan, I wanted to get some feedback from the National Weather Service - Milwaukee Marine Users Group regarding a potential enhancement to the Nearshore Marine Forecast product.

The Nearshore Marine Forecast includes a forecast of wave height for four periods, as well as a forecast of wind direction and speed as well as expected weather conditions. The wave height forecast is an average of the highest 1/3 (Significant Wave Height) of the wave spectrum across the near shore waters, which extends 5nm from shore.

For 2017, the National Weather Service in Milwaukee is considering adding a forecast of the Maximum Wave Height to the Nearshore forecast. The Maximum Wave Height is the average of the highest 1/10 of the wave spectrum, or in other words the highest wave expected out of every 10 passing waves. We believe the inclusion of the Maximum Wave Height into the Nearshore forecast would provide a more descriptive and accurate assessment of the wave field expected at any particular time across a marine zone.

This additional information would further improve the value of decisions made within the marine community, and could reduce the number of marine incidents and accidents on the lake.

The Maximum Wave Height information would be included for wave height forecasts of 3 to 5 feet or higher, or essentially when a Small Craft Advisory is in effect for wave heights and wind speeds. This occurs most often when the wind direction is along or onshore to Lake Michigan.

The Nearshore Marine forecast is as a tool for planning purposes to support and promote safe transportation and recreation on the Great Lakes. The latest Nearshore Marine Forecast can be found on our Marine page at www.weather.gov/mkx/local-marine or the Great Lakes web portal at www.weather.gov/greatlakes. This forecast can also be heard on the [NOAA Weather Radio](#) broadcasts that have marine responsibility.

What do you think? Do you see value in adding this information to the marine forecast? Would your service benefit from receiving this additional information?

Please respond back to me by November 9th with your feedback.

Thank you for being part of the National Weather Service - Milwaukee Marine Users Group and having input into NWS products and services that serve the marine community.

Best Regards,

Marc Kavinsky
Lead Forecaster - Marine Program Leader
Marc.Kavinsky@noaa.gov

National Weather Service - Milwaukee/Sullivan
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Wisconsin Commercial Fisheries Association

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To: Governor Walker and the Natural Resources Board

re:Statement of Scope FH 20-16E and FH-21-16

This scope statement has done consumers in Wisconsin and the Commercial Fishery that provides access to our healthy, sustainable resources a great disservice by completely ignoring our input and interest. We are not opposed to the stated intent to minimize cuts in Salmon stocking, but the changes in trout harvest should include us.

The commercial fishery has been heavily regulated to achieve an abundance of Lake Trout for over FIFTY YEARS. We have vast closed areas that encompass tremendous whitefish and chub fishing grounds to protect lake Trout. The original efforts through the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to control lamprey and restore Lake Trout was aimed at reestablishing the great Commercial Fishery

Now to have lake Trout successfully reproducing and to heavily modify the program and not include some relaxation of these restrictions and a Commercial Harvest is unacceptable.

The sport fishery has not fished lake Trout and regularly harvest a mere portion of the estimated acceptable harvest. A food supplier use of those 50,000 fish would be a positive addition to the Wisconsin economy and would be much more likely to meet the objective of increased lake trout harvest than any changes in sport fishing regulations.

The sport fishery does not catch Lake Trout because they prefer to target other species. Lake trout are naturally reproducing because alewife is no longer their main diet. The Commercial Fishery needs and deserves help.

Please modify these scope statements to include a relaxation of current restrictions and a commercial harvest.