

Water Division Goals for 2009-11 Biennium

Objective 4: *To enhance and restore outstanding fisheries in Wisconsin's waters.*

Fish Monitoring and Assessment

HF 1	As required in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 1.02(3), fisheries managers have adequate information to set attainable management objectives, evaluate attainment of those objectives, and make recommendations on required fishing regulations, stocking quotas, and habitat restoration and improvements on each managed water.
PM 1	All required Tier 1 assessment data are annually collected, entered, and proofed in the statewide database by each fish team as approved in their work plan for lakes.
PM 2	All required Tier 1 assessment data are annually collected, entered, and proofed in the statewide database by each fish team as approved in their work plan for streams.
PM 3	All required Tier 1 assessment data are annually collected, entered, and proofed in the statewide database by each fish team as approved in their work plan for rivers.
PM 4	As biennial funding allows, annually allocate funding and complete Tier 2 follow up studies to address the highest priority management problems identified by Tier 1 monitoring.
HF 2	As required in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 1.01(9), all stocking quota, fishing regulation, habitat restoration or improvement or environmental permit recommendations are based on quantitative management objectives and an analysis of scientific data, public input and costs.
PM 1	Performance is acceptable when recommendations for management action that are implemented by the Fisheries Management program are always substantiated by an analysis of scientific data, public input, management goals, and costs (time and expenses).
PM 2	Develop and update FH Handbook standards for documenting the analysis and decision process for approving management recommendations and ensure that the Handbook is current by the end of FY11.
PM 3	Work with affected public to complete fisheries management plans on a reasonable number of managed waters in each county each year.

Water Division Goals for 2009-11 Biennium

Objective 4: *To enhance and restore outstanding fisheries in Wisconsin's waters.*

HF 3	As required by Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 1.04, maintain viable and healthy sport and commercial fisheries on the Great Lakes.
PM 1	With funding authorized by Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 29.2285 (2) and as required in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 1.02(4), maintain Great Lakes stocking program consistent with fish community objectives developed jointly with other affected agencies and with WDNR Great Lakes fisheries plans.
PM 2	Evaluate program success by ongoing monitoring of harvest, habitat and population status. <i>(If overall funding declines, priority of spending Salmon Stamp funds should be given to fish propagation activities.)</i>
PM 3	Review and revise Great Lakes population objectives jointly with other affected agencies and stakeholders so they are consistent with the goal of viable and healthy sport and commercial fisheries stated above.
PM 4	Implement habitat restoration and protection activities consistent with Environmental Objectives adopted by the Lake Michigan and Lake Superior Committees, the Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, the Wisconsin Lake Superior Brook Trout Plan, Wisconsin's Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy, and other relevant planning documents.
HF 4	As required by Wisconsin Administrative Code NR1.02 (2), effectively utilize available Trout Stamp funding authorized by Wisconsin Statute Chapter 29.2285(1) to restore and improve an optimal amount of inland trout stream habitat each year.
PM 1	Restore and maintain habitat along 12-20 miles of trout stream per year using available trout stamp funding while protecting and enhancing habitat for non-game, threatened or endangered species.
PM 2	Through partnerships with Wildlife Management and USDA APHIS and using allocated trout stamp funding, effectively manage beaver populations to maintain and enhance trout populations on 150 miles of trout streams each year.
PM 3	In partnership with Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service and others, increase the amount of restored stream mileage above what DNR can provide alone with a target of an additional 10-13 miles.
PM 4	Provide additional Fish and Wildlife Account funding such that total investments in inland trout management programs (including inland stocking) are commensurate with the number of inland trout anglers and trout harvest (currently about 12% of total anglers and catch).

Water Division Goals for 2009-11 Biennium

Objective 4: *To enhance and restore outstanding fisheries in Wisconsin's waters.*

HF 5	Ensure that the joint sport and tribal fishery in Wisconsin's ceded territory is managed at a sustainable harvest level and within the constraints of the federal court decision.
PM 1	Complete population, fall recruitment, and angler harvest estimates as scheduled and in accordance with the treaty sampling rotation to establish safe harvest limits for walleye and muskellunge and bag limit adjustments for anglers.
PM 2	Monitor tribal and angler exploitation rates and produce an annual report on the status of monitored populations and harvest rates, and whether those exploitation rates are under the maximum exploitation rates established by the federal court.
PM 3	Participate in interagency management in calculating and agreeing to safe harvest limits for walleye and muskellunge for the waters of the ceded territory and in establishing appropriate classifications of joint fishery waters.
HF 6	While most Wisconsin waters do not need fish stocking to provide outstanding fishing because they have adequate natural reproduction, approximately 10% of lakes and streams including Lakes Michigan and Superior will have better fishing for some species if stocked. To accomplish this DNR should cost effectively stock all waters that need stocking as required by Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 1.02(4) and determined by scientific assessments.
PM 1	Implement approved stocking guidelines (<i>"An evaluation of stocking strategies in Wisconsin with an analysis of projected stocking needs"</i> WDNR, April 1999) to ensure that stocking provides a good return to the angler, is biologically sound, cost effective, and maintain the genetic integrity of naturally reproducing populations.
PM 2	Fish production facilities meet the annual production plan's quota priorities within the funding and staffing provided.
PM 3	Gain legislative approval and funding for the rebuilding and continued maintenance of the fish production system and implement the long-term hatchery development plan to produce fish and serve as centers for public education and outreach.
PM 4	Evaluate stocking protocols, success and return to anglers to increase the cost-effectiveness of the stocking program.
PM 5	Maintain all stocking information on a publicly available database and produce an annual report of stocking activity.

Water Division Goals for 2009-11 Biennium

Objective 4: *To enhance and restore outstanding fisheries in Wisconsin's waters.*

Fish Plans, Budget, Outreach

HF 7	Establish a culture that places employee safety above getting the job done. Implement a comprehensive FH safety system involving hazard assessment, development and training of safe operating procedures, compliance reviews, and systematic learning from incidents and near-misses.
PM 1	FM Board reviews safety issues and concerns monthly for compliance with Wisconsin Statute Chapter 16.752(8) (e). and consistency with the above stated goal.
PM 2	Take immediate action – including issuing an immediate cessation of work order to employees and supervisors – when a significant safety issue is reported. This action is followed by an investigation to substantiate the issue, document the problem, and take corrective action.
PM 3	By September 1, 2009 the Safety Team should develop and implement a strategy for increasing the reporting of near misses.
PM 4	Long term trends in the number of safety incidents and near-misses, and related costs to the agency show a downward trend.