

Lake Michigan Management Action Plan for 2017/2018

Stakeholder Engagement Process

- Over the course of the last year, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources conducted an extensive stakeholder outreach and engagement process to inform this management strategy. As part of the outreach and engagement process, DNR staff:
 - Convened seven public meetings to gather input; these meetings drew approximately 400 total attendees.
 - Attended numerous angler group meetings to gather input.
 - Received over 100 comments and suggestions via e-mail, regular mail and phone conversations.
 - Attended 10 Great Lakes Fishery Commission meetings to collaborate and share information with state, federal, tribal and academic entities regarding the Lake Michigan fishery.
 - Compiled and posted summaries of the public engagement process (meeting minutes, FAQs, public presentations, etc.) on the DNR web site.

Stocking

Projected stocking Overview

Species	2016	2017	2018
	Actual numbers stocked	Projected stocking numbers	Projected stocking numbers
Chinook salmon	812,270	812,270	TBD
Coho salmon	452,867	452,867	TBD
Lake trout	712,377	300,000	300,000
Steelhead	269,512	340,000	TBD
Brown trout	727,014	362,000	362,000
Totals	2,974,040	2,267,137	TBD

Chinook salmon

- Fisheries Bureau will have a target to maintain 2016 stocking numbers for 2017.

Coho salmon

- Fisheries Bureau will have a target to maintain 2016 stocking numbers for 2017.

Steelhead

- Fisheries Bureau will have a target to increase steelhead stocking in 2017. Fisheries Bureau will advance renovations at the Kettle Moraine Springs Hatchery to increase 2017 stocking and raise additional steelhead at facilities that historically raised brown trout.

Brown trout

- Fisheries Bureau will discontinue stocking the Wild Rose strain of brown trout. Therefore, brown trout stocking locations will be reevaluated through a public engagement process to assure that stocking cuts are located in areas that are not currently contributing to a significant fishery. We are committed to sustaining a diverse fishery and brown trout remain a critical part of that diversity.
- Reductions in brown trout stocking will open up space in the DNR hatchery system to raise and stock additional steelhead.

Lake trout

- Lake trout stocking will be reduced by over 400,000 to stock approximately 300,000. The Lake Michigan Committee has convened a work group to review lake-wide lake trout stocking as it relates to individual jurisdictional and multi-jurisdictional management goals.

Timeline

- DNR will continue to collaborate with diverse partners to assess the fish community of Lake Michigan on an annual basis and we acknowledge that stocking changes could be made at any time in the future due to changing environmental or biological conditions. In order to inform future management strategies, we will work with stakeholders throughout 2017 to assess options for 2018 and beyond stocking options.

Other Management Activities

- Increased net pen usage.
- Enhanced education and outreach to promote the Lake Michigan fishery.
- Attempt to decrease bird predation by stocking fish into net pens and releasing them at night.
- More active involvement of stakeholders in data collection.
- Incorporation of an economic factor in the chinook salmon stocking strategy.
- Pursue enhanced research capacity.