



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Great Lakes Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

ORDER OF BUSINESS	10/26/2020	1830	Zoom Meeting
--------------------------	------------	------	--------------

I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Dale Maas at 6:30 PM
----------------------------	----------------------

B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Tom Johnson, Sandra Dee Naas, Al Marotz, Bryce Luchterhand, Dale Maas, Greg Coulthurst, Steve Klock, Dave Tupa, Don Anderson, Cody Lukes, Tony Grabski, Bob Wincek, Barbara Dahlgren, Eugene Altwies, Chris Groth - DNR, Rick Peters - DNR, Iyob Tsehaye - DNR, Tom Meronek - DNR, Brad Ray - DNR, Kari-Lee Zimmerman - DNR, Falon French - DNR
EXCUSED	Tyron Larson, Mike Kelby, Joe Weiss.
UNEXCUSED	Nick Shertz, Juliee de la Terre, Madeline Karian
GUESTS	Charles Henrickson - Citizen, Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board. Dr. Titus Seilheimer - Sea Grant

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	Motion for flexible agenda by Maas, 2nd by Tupa. Motion passed.
ACTION	none

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Motion to approve by Tupa, 2nd by Naas. Altwies: correct spelling in second paragraph first sentence from "boarder" to "border"
ACTION	Correct mission statement - Maas.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	none
ACTION	none

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Resolutions

1.	Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp Fee Increase - 160420	Mr. Tom Johnson
	<p>DISCUSSION</p> <p>Tom Johnson - reiterated support statewide (70%) for facilities improvement. Hurdle is getting legislators to approve. Maas - has been presented in the past. Concern about mention of Brule State Hatchery. Concern that to forward to increase stamp and losing ground in viability of fish in the lake. Motion: Advance by Tupa, 2nd by Al Marotz. Naas - survivability of fish? Wincek - Concerned about survivability about mid-day planting and predatory birds. Racine, Kenosha, Milwaukee wanted to use net pens, hands free, denied by DNR. Naas - should we add other hatcheries or remove it? Maas - not aware of any information about Brule closing. Lets make sure its factual and we can get behind it. Wincek - sport fishermen and hunters have been donating approx \$500k for patrolling of commercial fishing fleet from General Fund. Taking money from sport fishing and hunting funds. Salmon stamp is only ear marked for Great Lakes activities Meronek: Decisions made at secretary level on how this took place, not at Bureau level. No evidence that survival is any different for these fish. Wincek: no birds at 10pm Meronek: look at survival numbers Grabski: what was the reason and why? Meronek - COVID issue, not allowed to interact with public, could shut down hatchery. Also staff safety.</p>	

	<p>Altwies: Budget? Currently about \$750k would increase to over \$1 million Marotz: Why not increase it more since it hasn't increased since 2004. Supports motion. Dahlgren: Support to get to the spring hearings, let state weigh in Maas: Next steps are to go to the DLC and spring questionnaire Maas: Needs legislative support to advance Klock: Contacted legislator, too much money in account, was contacted by people that opposed. Wincek: Department has not announced that Kettle Moraine Hatchery is open Grabski: Several people raised this objection, would author consider a friendly amendment motion by Grabski, 2nd by Naas. Motion passed. Author present letter not needed. New wording of resolution, second paragraph: WHEREAS, the Great Lakes Trout and Salmon Stamp has been ten dollars (\$10) since 2004, without the additional revenue which would be raised with a fee increase designated specifically for hatchery and rearing station needs, adequate staffing, maintenance and repair.</p>	
ACTION	A draft question will be sent to Kari for review.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Maas		

2.	[DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC]	[PRESENTER]
	DISCUSSION	
	ACTION	
	PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

B. Lake Superior Update

Brad Ray - DNR

DISCUSSION	<p>Brad Ray: Lake Superior Team Fishery Supervisor</p> <p>Lake Superior issues: Management Plan 2020 - 2029 Started implementing plan in May 2020 Habitat: Iron River - Orienta Falls Dam - WCC Advisory Question (2020) Fisheries: Updated reports and quota Science and Monitoring: PIT Tag project (Brown Trout), Walleye Management Plan Resiliency: Near Shore Monitoring, Lake Trout Contamination (w EPA) Social Value: Information sharing and website update, Public meetings NRB presentation Oct 28 - Ciscoe and Lake Trout quotas</p> <p>Ray: Ciscoe is for all Wis Waters, Lake Trout is for Apostle Islands. Lake trout have good natural reproduction. Recruitment is good, but not as high as they would like.</p> <p>Ray: There are not specific measures at Sue St. Marie locks to prevent quaggas from entering Lake Superior - deep cold waters not conducive to mussels</p> <p>Ray - Oldest ciscoe, 29 years old. Reach maturity at 3-4 years, and will not grow larger. Market for roe driven by Scandinavian countries, but ciscoe are prized for eggs, market is there, a lot of harvest after 2008 when market opened. Enforce quota for Wis waters of Lake Superior.</p> <p>Zimmerman: Congress does not take position on Scope Statement</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

C. Whitefish Management Update on Stakeholder Engagement

Tom Meronek - DNR

DISCUSSION	<p>Lake Whitefish Public Meeting information Objective: to discuss information with all stakeholders and receive comments, suggestions and ideas Six phases from Scope Statement approval to Phase VI Promulgation Currently in Phase 2, Rule Preparation Timeline: meetings started in August through November, rule drafting in June 2021, process ends in October 2022 Possible allocation formulas. Framework: modeling for Lake Michigan and Green Bay. Meetings posted on website on Lake Michigan page, presentations recorded.</p> <p>Charlie Henriksen: Chairmen of Lake Michigan Commercial Fishing Board</p> <p>Modeling in Lake Michigan did not represent Green Bay well. Had meetings in Madison, and questions regarding catch composition and bycatch. Minimal bycatch and minimal user conflict. Separate models run for G Bay and Lake Michigan.</p> <p>2.25 million pounds surplus for Green Bay Quota is 362,000 pounds. Should be able to use surplus. Would like to increase harvest in lower bay by 250,000 lbs. Management zones - quotas can be transferred. Trying to work on numbers that addresses safe levels in the lake average in lake 660,000 lbs.</p> <p>Tupa: Lots of information shared in data by biologists for both Bay and Lake in the meetings. Sport fishing effort doesn't take significant share of increased quota. Maas: Concern if by-catch and effect on other populations, i.e. walleye, perch, etc. Wincek: Also on committee - comm fishermen use trap nets. 90-99%. Most bycatch survives. Henriksen: Effect on sport fish is low.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

D. Implementation of Whitefish Trawl Rule on Lake Michigan

Tom Meronek - DNR

DISCUSSION	<p>Dr. Titus Seilheimer (Sea Grant) has done a lot of the trawl study work and analysis Meronek: New 2020 Trawl Rule in effect. MOU process from 2015 to 2019. Trawl box was previously used for smelt trawling, within zone 3, off Manitowoc and Two Rivers Trawl study results: Refined drag time, gear standards, main bycatch species, periods when bycatch increased. Rule Overview: Whitefish only 5 year sunset Electronic reporting Standard trawl dimensions 1-hour drag limit Daylight hours Mandatory video monitoring Special provisions for monitoring bycatch in August Amends definition to define bottom trawling</p> <p>Maas: Cost of trawling vs. other methods? Henriksen: Trawl net same cost as trap nets. One concern: trawl net is hunting gear, more efficient. Restricted by quota and area. Potential for bycatch in Green Bay is much higher than Lake Michigan Wincek: Charter captains prefer trawling due to complexity of navigating stationary trap nets.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

E. Analysis of Relative Changes in Walleye, Perch, and Whitefish Abundances and their Feeding Interactions in Green Bay

Iyob Tsehaye - DNR

DISCUSSION	
------------	--

	<p>Trends: Walleye numbers increasing Yellow perch declining Whitefish mixed depending on location</p> <p>Goal: Assess population dynamics and feeding interactions Based on Statistical catch-at-age model Yellow perch recruitment has not changed much in the last 10 years, and abundance has dropped. Walleye catch and harvest has increased since 2001, effort has also increased, YOY (Young of Year) has increased as well. Abundance estimates has increased in all age classes since 1990. Whitefish trends - biomass estimates increasing above L Michigan. Recruitment in GB increasing. Diet composition study since 2016. Round goby a significant proportion of walleye, yellow perch diet. Walleye diet changes throughout year, its seasonal. Perch diet is primarily invertebrates and gobies. Whitefish: primarily gobies and lesser so invertebrates.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

F. Law Enforcement Update

Rick Peters - DNR

DISCUSSION	<p>Warden supervisor based out of Ashland. Busy season on Lake Superior due to Canadian border being closed. Not a significant increase in violations. Fully staffed. Filled positions, more activity around Cornucopia and Saxon Bay.</p> <p>Klock: AIS species work on freighters? Peters: Generally no.</p> <p>Chris Groth</p> <p>Increase of activity similar to Superior. Fully staffed, water patrolled increased. Focused on unlicensed guides and overbagging on walleyes in tribs. COVID effect, lost Riverwatch with UW Stevens Point. One team member tested positive, other team members quarantined during pandemic.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

G. Fishing for Data: Angler Science in Lake Michigan

Dr. Titus Seilheimer - Sea Grant

DISCUSSION	<p>Angler Science - Fish guts and angler diaries Salmon Ambassadors program, collect data on chinook salmon caught by month, length and presence of adipose fin for wild vs. domestic stocked fish. Electronic version available at GLanglerdiary.org Going forward, focused on CWT steelhead in Michigan rivers. Wisconsin can record salmon and steelhead on the lake.</p> <p>2nd Study: Species specific diets in L Michigan and L Huron and stable isotopes. Sampling stomach contents from 2017 to 2019 from Michigan and Huron. Results: mostly alewife consumption, Lake Trout and Brown trout eating significant amount of gobies. Lake Huron fish have a more diverse diet makeup compared to fish in Lake Michigan. Need brown and rainbow trout stomachs in L Michigan October thru March.</p> <p>Structured decision-making workshop for Salmonine Stocking 12/10/20 - Kelly Robinson MSU</p> <p>Seilheimer: alewife populations remain low.</p>	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

--	--

H. Future Committee Meetings

Chairman Maas

DISCUSSION	Maas: normally in August or September. Tentative Date is Aug 21.	
ACTION	None.	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Barbara D.: appreciated committee meeting. Industrial issues on Lake Michigan. WE Energies mercury issues. FoxConn 7MM gallons of water per day, fish farming. Continue to monitor consumption of lake water. Anti-mining question moved through Environmental Committee, monitor issues as they affect L. Michigan.</p> <p>Bryce L. We could shorten the meeting by having the presenters send out their information prior to the meeting so members could better ask questions if needed. (Bryce was disconnected and sent this comment after the meeting adjourned.)</p> <p>Tom J: resolution for hatcheries - 2019 question for reference.</p> <p>Cody Luke: prefers face to face, August date is in his charter season.</p> <p>Maas: Thanks to committee for attending. Talk with others and peers for input. Share information.</p> <p>Zoom chat notes:</p> <p>If there are any questions feel free to contact me (Bradley.Ray@Wisconsin.gov). Thanks for the time. I will be signing off now.</p> <p>From Titus Seilheimer to Everyone: 07:45 PM https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganCommercialWhitefish.html</p> <p>From Sandra Dee Naas to Everyone: 09:18 PM I want to thank the committee for their support of the Orienta Dam issue last year. Tonight we heard that DNR is starting work on it! That's good news.</p> <p>From Tom Johnson to Everyone: 09:20 PM I echo Sandra's comment! Good to hear The Oienta Dam is getting attention.</p> <p>From David Tupa to Everyone: 09:22 PM I was also happy to see that the Orienta Dam fish passage made it into the Lake Superior management plan.</p>
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	9:24pm
SUBMITTED BY	Eugene Altwies
DATE	10/26/2020