### Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
**Great Lakes Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ORDER OF BUSINESS</th>
<th>08/05/2017</th>
<th>9:30 am</th>
<th>Mead Wildlife Center</th>
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#### I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by: Chairman Dale Maas at 9:37 am

**B. ROLL CALL**

**ATTENDEES**


**EXCUSED**

Daniel Krasak, Thomas Johnson, Dennis Haanpaa, David Sorenson, Bryce Luchterhand, Jim Johnson, Jim Wierzba, Joe Felhofer, Jim Baumgart, Gary Dieck, Willie Fetzer, John Blumreich

**UNEXCUSED**

Com. Fishing Board

**GUESTS**

Charlie Henrickson - Chairmen Commercial Fishing Board, Bob Wincek - Sports Fishermen Assoc.

**C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR**

**DISCUSSION**

Maas: No Changes. Motion to approve Tupa, Remmlford 2nd. Motion passed.

**ACTION**

None

**D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT**

**DISCUSSION**

Motion to approve: Larson, 2nd Tupa. Motion passed.

**ACTION**

None

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**DISCUSSION**

None

**ACTION**

None

### II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

**A. Citizen Resolutions**

1. **Citizen Resolution - Lake Trout Stocking in the Apostle Island area... (02031/)**

   **Maas:** General background on resolution representation, author not present.
   **Naas:** Current bag limits 1, emergency lake trout rule effective in August?
   **Tupa:** Motion to advance 2nd by Marotz.
   **Discussion:**
   **Meronek:** Demand for fish exceeds the potential of hatcheries. Survival of stocked fish only 1-5%, so 100,000 returns 1000-3000 fish. Stocked fish can affect natural reproduction. 80% of lake trout harvested by commercial and tribal fishery in zone WI-2.
   **Henrickson - quota is split**
   **Naas:** Yes, correct. Tribal, commercial and private is split W2 in Apostle Islands area, W1 in Duluth area. There are negotiations between the state and tribe for tags.
   **Wincek:** Feds control stocking levels, money comes from Pittman-Robertson Act. GL salmon stamps pay for hatcheries. $500,000-$750,000 spent to patrol commercial fishing, sportsmen subsidizing.
   **Meronek:** State hatchery has limited capacity to produce fish at Les Voigt hatchery. Federal hatcheries supports restoration effort. Cost is approx. $2 per fish, more than $100,000 would be needed. Current fishery is responding positively to management. Lake trout quotas are expected to increase in 2018. CPE, catch per effort is increasing over time.
   **Maas:** Is the information conflicting about CPE and stocking levels?
   **Meronek:** you have set quotas year after year. 2017 is set. modeling updated annually. Prediction for 2018 quotas will increase.
   **Kleiman:** What is the date for the recommendation?
   **Grabski:** How does closures apply?
Meronek: Commercial fishers get tags
Groth: Credible estimates are used for sports fishermen. When the allocation is reached, the season can be closed. It is estimated, when it reached, then season can be closed. Negotiation with tribes ongoing. Current negotiations are extended at the end of the year.
Meronek: Surveys are used for lake trout, this is factored into the decision.
Naas: Bradley Rey biologist in Bayfield, expect quotas to increase. Good reproduction in the refuges.
Commercial fishery, not tribal, is the big unknown.
Kleiman: What are the biggest risks with increasing stocking?
Meronek: Can’t comment on the risks, 1-3% will be returned, cost of production is the issue.
Ragotzke: Can federal lake trout be transferred from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior?
Meronek: Feds producing for rehabilitation in Lake Michigan, Lake Superior and Michigan do not come from same budget.
Tupa: Motion is to advance, would like to withdraw motion. Does not want to support resolution.
Maas: Then we will need a motion to reject, lets give it a fair hearing.
Marotz: Not willing to remove 2nd.
Maas: Discussion will continue.
Meronek: Gull Island population considered restored. Natural reproduction is good in this area. Stocking fish in this area may not be worth risk. As population continues to grow.
Rempferd: Stocked fish can damage natural stocks.
Meronek: Much more aware of genetics for stocked fish, work to minimize impact to wild fish, stocked fish can never match wild genetics.
Ragotzke: Is it the quota or the number of fish?
Meronek: Quotas need to be increase, stocking will have a limited effect
Kleiman: Writers intention to restore natural population? Is it already restored? Is an alternative to increase the bag limit if the population is considered restored?
Henriksen: It is an emergency rule, its not permanent, only for 2017
Naas: Author is a fishing guide. Clients can only keep one fish. Hatchery manager does not have capacity to add in Bayfield, have not met restoration goals.
Maas: Passed 36 yes, 11 no at County vote. Called motion, motion to advance fails unanimously. Letter to author to include recommendation to request increased bag limits, rather than increase stocking for sports fishermen.
Kleiman: Motion to reject, 2nd by Johnson.
Maas: Add cost discussion, reduction of other stocking, limited effect for explanation to author.
Grabski: Tags for commercially stocked fish - who pays for that? are tags free?
Henriksen: Don’t think they pay for tags. Many comm. fishing licenses have been bought out, only approx. 10 licenses left. Fish in trap nets can be returned, gill nets are catch and kill. Tags are used for gill net fishery and will vary by time of year. Footage of nets is recorded. Tribal gill netting not regulated. Investigations for overfishing on-going. Emergency rule varies depending on location.
Maas: Commercial fishermen pay for licenses. There have been fee increase resolutions in the past that address cost of the program currently coming from stamp fund. No support from legislature on fee increase issue.
Henriksen: There are many sources of funding that comes into the fishing funds. License revenue does not cover the cost of the commercial fishery. Generate less than $100k in license fees.
Kleiman: There is $3 million in the fishery budget.
Remford: Sports fishing reduced, not commercial. Is the question to reduce commercial fishing?
Groth: Dept safe harvest level is split up between commercial, tribal commercial and sports fishermen.
Motion to reject passed unanimously.

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<th>ACTION</th>
<th>SEND LETTER TO AUTHOR FOR EXPLANATION OF REJECTION</th>
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<td>Eugene Altwies</td>
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2. Citizen Resolution - Allow the Unrestricted harvest of white perch... (040317)  Pat Quaintaine

| DISCUSSION | Maas: read resolution, author not present  
Motion to advance Remford, 2nd by Tupa.  
Meronek: current regulation closed all year, one (dead) fish can be submitted to DNR for study only. Populations do seem to be increasing. Lake Michigan has the rule currently.  
Naas: Concern is moving live fish from one lake to another  
Remford: White Perch in Lake Michigan can currently be harvested. DNR has accepted it for Lake Michigan, should not be a risk for Lake Superior.  
Maas: What is abundance?  
Henriksen: had big outbreak many years ago, larger white perch are salable, but its a size question. Then the fish |

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<th>Submit question to exec council.</th>
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<td>Dale Maas</td>
<td>9/1/2017</td>
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3. Increase Brown Trout Stocking Levels in Lake Michigan (410217)  

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<th>DISCUSSION</th>
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| Maas: Read resolution. Passed 122-21 in Miltown county. Motion advance Joe Felhofer, 2nd Ty Larson.  
Remppferd: read equivalency levels for stocking from Brad Eggold  
Meronek: Chinook levels maintained from 2016 to 2017 at 812,270. Wild Rose strain has been eliminated.  
Seeforellen stocking distribution shows. It is unique strain and has the best creel results compared to others.  
Thunder River hatchery closed. Factors into stocking levels. Harvest rates are the lowest for any salmon/trout species.  
Tupa: time of year affects catch rates, later in the year catch rates are higher when fish are more active  
Maas: shore anglers may not be happy with stocking levels. Many open houses and discussion for stocking levels.  
Majority of attendees preferred salmon.  
Kleiman: would like address group as representative, Wis. Lakeshore Business Association, not as congress member. Working to promote healthy fisheries across the lake. Did not lobby to cut any strains, other than lake trout. Predator/prey balance needs to include Lake Trout. Did not have any discussion about cutting brown trout.  
Agree with the resolution to increase brown trout stocking. Would like to have a new strain of brown trout for stocking. Would like state to find most robust strains of all stocked fish. The intent of group is help promote sport fishing and small communities along the lake.  
Naas: why was the reduction recommended?  
Remppferd: limited forage in the lake. Stocking levels are balanced against this.  
Ragotzke: is the brown trout allocations going to be adjusted for different areas?  
Kleiman: stocking allocation will be taken into account based on effort, will apply in the future  
Ragotzke: agree with increased stocking levels.  
Maas: need to be careful to use science not observation.  
Winck: Brad E. is one of 5 members in Lake Michigan committee. How is creel census used for CPE calculation? Fishing for one species and catching another is not counted. Trawl for forage and acoustic, in 2016 3rd lowest result on record. Michigan doing a stomach content study. Wisconsin is not. Creel census, or logs for trolls are the only records for catches. Moving forward charters will need to report. Looking for better returns.  
Natural reproduction is occurring Not sure of levels  
Meronek: $80k spent on reproduction of Steelhead, creel clerks DNR program. Head hunting program is different. Two separate programs.  
Tupa: if we pass, it might help if a reduction in Chinook (10%) can give more brown trout. People that fish for browns are disappointed. Ecosystem must be balanced and predator prey needs to be considered.  
Kleiman: Chinook have already been cut. Historically all fish have been cut. Would rather see a cut in Lake Trout rather than Chinook, if more browns are stocked. Support the intent.  
Remppferd: big support in Miltown county. Can’t advance without other consideration.  
Grabski: stocking allocations? will they be adjusted? Some northern areas stocking is higher than southern stocking.  
Remppferd: there was a fall stocking of 1,100,000 browns in southern end of the lake (Wild Rose strain)  
Meronek: showed chart with distribution for Wild Rose large fingerlings  
Kleiman: think it was lake trout, not browns  
Ragotzke: do not support any chinook cuts, support cutting lake trout  
Maas: find it difficult to accept the resolution since it plays on the balance of stocking levels  
Tupa: if we reject, committee can make own recommendation |
Motion to advance rejected, unanimously.
Tupa: Motion to draft committee question for proposed stocking levels of brown trout. Second by Rennford.
Maas: Do we want hard numbers or talk in concept? Can we address D. 1. and come back to the question.
Ragotzkie: do we want to stock other strains? Seeeforelens come later than Wild Rose strain.
Kleinnann: Wis only state to have rules around VHS, Michigan doesn't have it.
Rennpford: Seeeforelens is a andromonous strain. Wild Rose tend to stay resident.
Maas: how many questions should we have?
Zimmerman: OK to have background with questions
Tupa: need to inform that Wild Rose is no longer stocked, include equivalent ratios? Lake Michigan finite amount of forage.
Kleinnann: believe DNR is starting genetic task force. We could help them move the agenda forward. Phrasing something today is relevant to the aquaculture bill, timeliness could be positive.
Tupa: are you in favor/support an increase on brown trout stocking (refer to background information). Second question - at what level do you support, percentages in second question.
Kleinnann: Do you support an increase in brown trout stocking compatible with current lake michigan stocking levels?
Rennpford: simplify it?
Tupa: Need to include equivalency. other background information.
Kleinnann: do you favor identifying a new strain of brown trout that compliments current seeeforelleen stocking?
Grabski: ...using genetically diverse strains that compliment and enhance current brown trout stocking that was lost when Wild Rose strain was eliminated?
Motion by Rennpford, 2nd by Kleinnman to advance the following questions:

Question 1: Do you favor researching/identifying another strain of brown trout using genetic diversity that compliments and enhance current brown trout stocking that was lost when the Wild Rose strain was eliminated?
Passed unanimously.

Question 2: Do you support an increase in brown trout stocking levels that are compatible with current stocking strategies for Lake Michigan as stated above?

Motion passed unanimously.

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<th>ACTION</th>
<th>Letter to author, submit question to District Leadership Council.</th>
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B. DNR Info - Emergency Lake Trout Rule

| DISCUSSION | Kleinnann: Trawls in lake trout refuge have increased threefold. Rule has approx. 1-1/2 years before expiring. Feels that there is significant support.. Motion Kleinnann, second by Anderson: Committee to recommend to NRB to make temporary lake trout rule permanent for Lake Michigan from 2 to 5 fish.
Kleinnann: idea was brought forth by Wis Lakeshore Bus Association.
Ragotzkie: do we need to have survey or study that shows the effect on the population?
Maas: Recommendation, not binding.
Maas: Are we circumventing the Congrress process?
Kleinnann: committees are allowed to take a position.
Grabski: when does it sunset?
Kleinnann: expect NRB to extend in November. If they don't have enough information, how long can it be extended?
After 1-1/2 years it needs to be voted on. 2015 lake trout study - points to where they have exceeded goals.
Rennpford: understand all biomass is down. Stocking will continue. If the rule becomes permanent, its a relief valve and promotes fishing.
Henrickson: NRB approved in March, effective for one year. Can be extended once. Emergency and permanent rule can be addressed at the same meeting.
Motion to advance passed unanimously. |

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<tr>
<td>Dale Maas</td>
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C. DNR Info - Superior Stocking Update

| DISCUSSION | Information presented during resolution 020317. |
| ACTION     | None |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| n/a        | n/a |

D. Lake Michigan, Bay of Green Bay Commercial Fishing update

| DISCUSSION | Henricksen: in process of restructuring commercial fishing board. Two big issues: whitefish trawl study out of Two Rivers. Very little by-catch. Asked for permanent rule to legalize. Trap nets in front of Two Rivers would be eliminated or reduced. Some evidence about impact on small whitefish, concern of effect on fish populations near Cedar River. Second item: whitefish tagging study with UW Steven's Point. Telemetry receivers have been put over the bay, going to tag a total of 400 fish that will be tracked. Funding over a two years tag up to 6000-7000 fish. Concerns over genetics, North Bay area genetics indicated from North Moonlight Bay. Difficult to differentiate strains. Some fishermen are reporting catch electronically, pilot program. Could help reporting for charter boats and guides. Want guides to report whitefish in Green Bay. Interested in Lake trout emergency rules. 80,000 fish allowable harvest by commercial fishermen. Not attainable. Believe quota needs to continue to be shared. in the fall, lake trout can be found in trap nets but they are easy to let go. Would like system like lake superior with limits to participate in Lake trout fishery. Maas: what happens when by-catch is high? Groth/Henricksen: if over 10% by-catch need to move by 3 miles. Naas: fish trawling - does lake Michigan have quota? Would it apply to lake superior? Henricksen: yes, three zones. Groth: that equipment is not allowed on Lake Superior. Rempford: what is the benefit of gill nets over others? Henricksen: ease of operation, portability. I have trap nets. Gill nets can be lifted and moved. Very size specific. |
| ACTION     | None |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| n/a        | n/a |

E. Sportfishing Update

| DISCUSSION | Wincek: attended cisco workshop in July. Michigan Sea Grant and Mich DNR active on cisco restoration. Federal government involved. Want buy-in from fishing community. Effort to reintroduce herring. As lake trout stocking is decreasing, now raising herring in the hatcheries, looking for places for reintroduction. Need cold flowing water for spawning. Streams targeting in Michigan and Wisconsin. Mich Sea Grant program to collect stomach contents. Last fall low forage levels. Wis DNR not checking stomach contents. Blood shrimp - hemimysis. Hatch in 2016 was observed by satellite. Not sure of effect or value for fishery. Ships continue to dump ballast water. Will continue to have problems until ballast water is required to be treated. |
| ACTION     | None |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| n/a        | n/a |

F. Charter Boat Captain Update

| DISCUSSION | Tupa: contacted charter boat captains, fish are healthy and large. Larson: Charter boats for Green Bay (walleyes) want one fish over 23" |
| ACTION     | None |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| n/a        | n/a |

G. DNR Law Enforcement

| DISCUSSION |  |
| ACTION     |  |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| n/a        | n/a |

Charlie Henricksen

Bob Wincek

Dave Tupa

Chris Groth
**DISCUSSION**

Groth: only guide reporting for whitefish. Working on electronic reporting system. Both guides and charter boats require captain's license. Alignment: wardens will be doing all enforcement, including parks. Finished hiring 11 LE mostly from parks, will be active in 2018. 2018 recruit class - 20 new wardens. Shifting of positions into LE. General trend: amount of qualified candidates is tight. Losing people to municipalities. Currently 27-30 open positions. Fill from top down. Parks model of enforcement different from LE.

**ACTION**

None

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**III. MEMBERS MATTERS**

Johnson: Great Lakes restoration, Brandon road study will be released. Then it goes to Congress. Feliofer: Need to stop exotics and pollution (ballast water) in Great Lakes. Tupa: Invasive species discussion goes back at least 15-20 years. Need to make a statement about ballast water. Keep getting new ones. Needs to be controlled by the shipping industry. Altvies: Maybe someone can address the issue in front of this committee. Maas: Thank you for your participation. Need public support to help with conservation issues. Need compromise between parties. Feedback is welcome, see the WCC web page for feedback forms. Next meeting: August 11, 2018

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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<tr>
<th>MEETING ADJOURNED</th>
<th>2:19pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>SUBMITTED BY</td>
<td>Eugene Altvies</td>
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<td>DATE</td>
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