Wisconsin Conservation Congress  
Great Lakes Committee  
Meeting Minutes

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**  
08/11/2018  
09:30 HRS  
Grand Lodge Waterpark Resort, Wausau

## I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

### A. CALL TO ORDER
Meeting called to order by Chair, Dale Maas at 09:30 HRS

### B. ROLL CALL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ATTENDEES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>David Sorenson, David Zielke, Tyrone Larson, Dale Maas, James Baumgart, David Tupa, John Blumreich, Robert Winck, Marya Robinson, John Rempfer, Eugene Altweis, Chris Groth, Iyob Tsehaye, Tom Meronek, Tony Grabski (Forced to split time between GL and D&amp;E)</td>
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<td>EXCUSED</td>
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<td>Dennis Haapaa, Jeffry Giese, Ithomas Kleman Jr, Barbara Mamiotis, Tom Johnson (@ D&amp;E), Al Marotz (@ D&amp;E)</td>
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<td>UNEXCUSED</td>
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<td>Daniel Krisak, Jeff Robl, Randy Connour, Austin Ragatzke</td>
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<td>GUESTS</td>
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<td>Troy Krause, Brett Jolly, Charlie Henrikson</td>
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### C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

**DISCUSSION** None

**ACTION** Motion to adjust agenda to move resolution authors that were in attendance to the top of the agenda was made by Dave Sorenson; motion seconded by Tyrone Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

### D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

**DISCUSSION** None

**ACTION** Motion to keep mission statement the same was made by John Blumreich; motion seconded by Bob Winck. Motion carried unanimously.

### E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**DISCUSSION** None

**ACTION** None

## II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

### A. Motion for Administrative Action.

**DISCUSSION** Chair Dale Maas proposed the idea that a motion could be made to remove those who were unexcused from the committee.

**ACTION** Motion to remove unexcused committee members from the Great Lakes Committee was made by David Tupa; seconded by John Blumreich. Motion carried unanimously.

**PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**  
WCC Chair  
**DEADLINE**  
NA

### B. Resolution 050218 Walleye bag and size limit in Green Bay  
Chair Dale Maas

**DISCUSSION**  
9:39 Resolution read by committee chair.  
The chair explained the rules for adjusting/rewriting any resolutions, and explained the rules for committee questions.  
The chair then invited the resolution author (Troy Krause), and his supporting guest (Brett Jolly) to address the committee.  
Troy Krause introduced himself. Troy explained that he, and others are seeing heavy fishing pressure on Green Bay, and that he is seeing a reduction in larger fish. Troy explained that he is concerned that there is a problem developing, and that the fishery resource needs protection.  
Brett Jolly introduced himself. Brett explained that he has been guiding for almost 20 years, and he sees a need for the slot limit due to all of the additional pressure on the Green Bay fishery. Brett is concerned that possible seasonal environmental conditions could cause bad recruitment. Brett stated that he witnesses anglers pulling in large female Walleye with eggs, and harvesting them.
9:47 The chair informed authors that they are running up against the time limit for their input.
Brett Jolly continued speaking, and expressed his concern that something is needed to prevent the fishery from crashing. Brett explained how much commercial activity is driven in the Green Bay area by the recreational fishery.
9:48 Eugene Altweis requested that the committee call the question. The chair reminded the committee that we are allowing the members to ask the authors questions for a few minutes before the question is called.
Tyrone Larson asked if the resolution is meant for all tributaries, Green Bay, or Lake Michigan? The authors indicated that they would love to see the whole system get the regulation update.
The chair reminded the committee that the scope of committee mission is all tributaries of the Great Lakes to the first barrier, the bays, and the lakes themselves.
9:50 James Baumgart asked if this is a band aid approach, he asked if there are other options, and wanted to know what the department [WI DNR] stance is. The author, and guest had no input as to what the department might think.
James proposed that getting DNR input before writing the resolution might have been a good idea. The author indicated that they wanted to get something on the board right away, that the intention was to get something simple proposed to bring this issue to the forefront of the discussion for Green Bay.
9:52 The chair mentioned that he had seen similar things in the past, and noted that some charters have issues, and asked how the guides might react? The author responded that many guides have size rules for their customers to keep the best spawner’s in the system.
9:55 The chair indicated that he has experience fishing in Sturgeon Bay, and that friends/neighbours indicate that the fishery is changing. The chair indicated that his friends, and neighbours that fish Sturgeon Bay are concerned whether additional regulations will help the fishery. They would like to hear what the biologist think.
9:58 The chair reminded the authors of how the resolution process works.
Eugene Altweis requested the county vote [93-16].
9:59 Tom Meronk [Fisheries] addressed the resolution with a slide. The slide explained that Green Bay has high Walleye recruitment, fast growth, and that large numbers of fish reach the proposed protected range. Tom explained the slide, and indicated how the spawning population is already protected in the Spring by a 1 fish bag limit in Green Bay; a 29 inch minimum in the Fox River. Tom also mentioned that the state of Michigan eliminated this rule in a southern Lake Michigan river because it did not make a difference in walleye population numbers, size structure, and that a similar regulation has not protected the Bay de Noc fishery.
The current Green Bay fishing regulations for the Walleye population was briefer, and the current toolbox of regulations options does not specify this as an option.
10:03 The chair asked if there is a commercial fishery in Bay de Noc? Tom Meronk responded that there is a Tribal Subsistence Fishery. The chair followed up with a question of what the impact is, noting that the other fisheries have a right to exist, but knowing their impact is important to these questions.
Tom indicated that it could take 4 to 5 years for Walleye to hit breeding maturity in Green Bay [based on personal knowledge of other similar fisheries].
Tom indicated that the 1 over 28 inch trophy regulation is the regulation applied on the Fox River in the Spring. He also explained that many of the regulations are available statewide, and are working, and making the regulations manageable while protecting the fisheries. Tom noted that the Wisconsin River is similar to Green Bay in the fact that there is currently good/high recruitment; then indicated what regulations on the slide are working well on the Wisconsin River.
10:10 The chair clarified that we can’t just make up random tools/regulations, and that the goal right now of the department [WI DNR] is to simplify, and we need to follow the tools that they provide.
Eugene Altweis asked for the year over year recruitment, and harvest data; he wanted to know if the data refutes, or supports the proposed rule change question.
10:12 Mike Schmidt [WI DNR] noticed that our attendance had dropped to 11 committee members, and then offered to get one of our floating members who were going back, and forth from Deer & Elk so we could call the vote on the resolution.
Chris Groth [Law Enforcement] indicated that rule changes might mean Wisconsin has to entertain Michigan to promulgate the fishery rules to keep things consistent; and that the process is not the easiest to manage.
Tom Meronk [Fisheries] indicated that it might be best to keep the same regulations as Michigan, and Chris mentioned that Bay de Noc is one regulation, and the rest of Green Bay in Michigan waters is another regulation [which is already in alignment with Wisconsin regulations].
Tyrone Larson indicated that there are quite a few walleye tournaments in the area, that they are important to the local economies, and that complicating rules might interfere with the tournaments. The chair reminded the committee that the Wisconsin Conservation Congresses stance is that our interest is biological interest over economic interest when it comes to our sport fisheries.
10:17 Iyob Tsehaye [Fisheries] indicated that the electro-fishing index indicates recruitment is stable, and harvest is growing (any/all legal lengths).
Tony Grabski returned from Deer & Elk bringing the committee back to quorum for a motion.
The chair requested a motion from the floor.
John Blumreich made a motion to advance the resolution. David Zielke seconded the motion.
David Tupa mentioned the fact that recruitment is stable even with high harvest. He indicated that that the resolution is preventative, but he did not see a need based on the available data.
Eugene Altwies asked a question about year-over-year correlation to year class harvest in Green Bay. He stated that he would like more data by year class to provide a better picture of the fishery. Iyob stated that newer numbers exist but are not ready in a presentable format at this time.

The chair asked fisheries if the department would support this resolution. Tom Meronek indicated that the department does not see a need for this rule change, but encouraged more discussion.

The chair provided a story similar to this from his past that culminated with the DNR not having enough data to support rule changes, and stated that we need to know the data before we propose changing the rules, and make the best decision as the voice of the public. The chair indicated that authors can help the process by speaking with the DNR biologists to get the data up front so we can make informed decisions.

James Baumgart, and Robert Wincek both indicated that we do not have enough hard data to make a decision. Both also stated that we cannot make decisions based on anecdotal observations.

10:26 Eugene Altwies explained to the authors that he got involved because he came forth with a trout resolution with similar intent as the author, and he didn’t understand things at that time. Eugene explained that he has been through this process, and he advised the author, and his supporter get the data up front, and speaking with the DNR really helps resolutions succeed.

The chair explained that we do have repeated issues like this, and that this fishery has a lot of ongoing, and cycling studies that could help provide the data needed to support this resolution. The chair stated that speaking with the fisheries biologist in Green Bay would really help.

Eugene indicated that this is a disappointment that the data was not present today to help discuss this resolution.

Tom explained that we do have some recruitment, and harvest data, and that we don’t know what a regulation change will do, it is speculation. Tom also reiterated that the fishery is strong right now, and the department would need to model the rule change using the existing data.

10:34 The chair asked if there was any more discussion? The chair then called for a vote on the motion [motion to advance the resolution].

The motion to approve was defeated with unanimous vote against.

Tyrone Larson made a motion to reject the resolution. Eugene Altwies seconded the motion.

The motion to reject passed with a unanimous vote.

The chair asked if the author, and his guest if they required a follow up letter, or if all the information provided was enough to answer the status of the resolution. Brett Jolly indicated that what was provided at the committee meeting was enough.

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<tr>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>Motion to reject passed by unanimous vote. No further action required.</th>
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**C. Resolution 150218 Reporting whitefish caught in Green Bay and Lake Michigan**

**Chair Dale Maas**

**DISCUSSION**

10:35 The chair read the resolution for the committee.

10:37 Floor given to the author [committee member David Tupa] to explain why he brought forth his resolution.

Dave indicated that he is consistently asked about the topic in his county, and that the ultimate question related to Whitefish is “How do we assess total harvest?” Dave clarified that since writing his resolution the DNR has indicated that guide harvest is recorded, but sport harvest is not. The question remains “How many whitefish are taken by sport fishers?”

Dave asked Charlie Henriksen [commercial fishing board] for his input from the perspective that commercials are required to report.

10:40 Charlie stated that the commercial fishers have always supported guide harvest reporting. He indicated that there are a lot of people fishing with guides. Charlie indicated that he has been told that creel reports are good. He also indicated that the Whitefish fishery is growing. Charlie indicated that the commercials are electronically reporting everything, (what is kept, discards, sub legal, etc…), and that they are now reporting everything which provides a lot of detailed data for the whole community. Charlie stated that commercials are tagging fish to get more data, and that the commercials are moving into the Fox River to donate time, and resources to help the DNR get data, and to tag fish. Charlie indicated that he believes the department is doing a good job getting data, and that the commercial fishers support more data.

10:43 The chair asked if the guide reporting is mandatory. Tom Meronek [Fisheries] indicated that it has been mandatory since 2017. The chair also asked if the average Whitefish is it marketable? Charlie Henriksen stated that he only heard anecdotal reports about harvest sizes. Charlie indicated that he has heard that there are bigger fish getting caught. Charlie also indicated that commercials are getting good harvests, and they are returning a lot of legal but small fish back to grow due to the health of the fishery from their perspective.

Tony Grabski asked if there is enough information that the author would want to advance the resolution. The author indicated that he did not know about a lot of the data, and that he would want it published in an accessible manner, and that he would want sport fishers to have a way to report catch data since they are the missing part of this issue.
Tom indicated that there is a winter creel for Green Bay on the WI DNR Lake Michigan page. Tom indicated that Scott Hanson [WI DNR Fisheries Biologist] is doing additional recreation catch data at the Green Bay cleaning house; Scott is working on reporting the size structure of the fishery. Tom clarified for the committee that the winter creel is just like a normal summer creel but for the winter Whitefish harvest.

Tony Grabski made a point of order to ask for a motion to reject with a friendly request that the DNR make this winter creel data readily available. Tyrone Larson seconded the motion.

10:50 James Baumgart stated that he was the representative to the fisheries team for 2 years, and that he had heard that there were substantial ice sport fishing catch. James stated that the biologists wanted mandatory ice fishing reporting for Whitefish at one time.

David Sorensen reiterated the question and answer to the author indicated that there is data, but it does not appear to be readily available.

David Tupa indicated that he has struggled to search the DNR website to find this data.

Bob Winick indicated that Sea Grant Michigan has an online reporting application, and that it might be a good idea for everyone to have some sort of online reporting to help all parties get more data here in Wisconsin.

Tom Meronek [Fisheries] indicated that there were public meetings about online reporting for charter fishing in the summer of 2018.

Tyrone Larson commented that there is a HIP for hunters, and he asked how hard would it be for fishermen to get those questions as well when they buy their licenses? Chris Groth [Law Enforcement] proposed a rough guess for discussion sake that the price would be at least 70,000 USD to do something like that.

The chair mentioned that we could suggest an off-the-shelf online survey option like Survey Monkey.

Eugene Altways asked if more data is better? Ibby Tshaye [Fisheries] stated that more data is always better.

Tomas indicated that more than harvest data is needed, and that background information is needed as well: how many people fished, where, access points, etc … Tom indicated the commercial fishermen provide all of the data so it puts their harvest in context.

Chris indicated that much like the commercial fishers data, the data is only good when we apply it to a scientific model with context.

David Tupa thanked Charlie Henrieon for having his data collection because it helps everyone not just the commercial fisheries. Charlie indicated that Sea Grant is conducting ride a longs with commercial fishing boats that will allow them to record additional harvest data.

Robert Winick asked if there was functionality available to add to the older Pocket Ranger mobile application? Chris Groth indicated that the department is currently developing a replacement for pocket ranger.

11:05 The chair called the vote [motion to reject with a friendly request that the DNR make this winter creel data readily available]. The motion to reject passed unanimously.

| ACTION | Request to department to make winter creel data for Green Bay Whitefish easier to locate on the WI DNR website. |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Secretary John Rennpfeld | TBD |

D. Resolution 020318 (Ashland County) & 040218 (Bayfield County) Lake trout and salmon stocking stocking in the Apostle Islands

Chair Dale Maas

| DISCUSSION | 11:06 The chair read resolution 020318, and 040218. |
| 11:09 Floor given to the author David Sorensen (committee member). |
| Dave provided a brief history of the fishery. He then clarified that he wants stocking because there are indications that an emergency rule may go in place again this year to close the fishery. |
| 11:12 Eugene Altways asked if we have the commercial, tribal, and sport harvest numbers on Lake Superior? Anecdotal numbers provided, nothing directly from the department. |
| Robert Winick wanted to know if there are any predator prey counts? |
| 11:15 Tom Meronek [Fisheries] provided a slide for Lake Trout quota data. |
| Eugene Altways asked what the department position is? The author [David Sorensen] interjected that he had been told that the department position is that certain parts are recovered. |
| 11:19 Eugene Altways & Tony Grabski asked for a motion to the resolution: they wanted to continue but the questions were getting too close to formal discussion instead of question, and answer with the author. |
| 11:20 John Blumcrutch made a motion to advance the resolution. David Tupa seconded the motion. |
| Robert Winick asked for the US Fish & Wildlife stance on this issue. David Sorensen indicated that he has been told that there is some support for this stocking. |
| David Sorensen indicated that there are a lot of stocking options happening on the Canadian side of Lake Superior but that those fish are not entering US waters for some reason. David stated that Atlantic Salmon would be a great option to stock that could be very successful. |
| Tom Meronek [Fisheries] provided WI DNR data that showed 80% of the Lake Superior zone WI-2 is harvested by |
commercial fisheries. WI DNR would have to divert stocking from other areas, and other resources from other hatcheries to do this stocking. Department data indicates that only 450 successful catch per 100,000 stocked. It was clarified that data for stocking Lake Superior Zone WI-1 is near Duluth, WI-2 is Apostle Islands area.

David Sorenson indicated that some of the complications involve tribal ability to move harvest from zone-to-zone which affects DNR management, and stocking.

The chair pointed out that the department slide seems to indicate any stocking would subsidize commercial fishing, or Tribal fishing.

Mariya Robinson asked for a break out of tribal, and non-tribal commercial from the 80% harvest numbers on the slide.

Chris Groth [Law Enforcement] stated that non-tribal commercial fishers get 8,060 fish in total, while tribal commercial gets 48,000 fish in total.

Eugene Altwies asked if it is clear that the DNR does not support stocking, and that the issue is really a quota problem?

The chair stated that some of the discussion, and confusion is related to the verbiage of native vs non-native. The chair asked if that is influencing this issue? Tom Meronek indicated that the department data indicates that to make this stocking happen we [Wisconsin] have to make adjustments to the hatcheries, and that it's really a take from one to give to another situation, and that the Apostle Islands area does have native recruitment, and that the native recruitment without interference is the most successful.

Eugene Altwies asked if there are more, or better ways to enhance the natural recruitment? Tom Meronek indicated that Brad Ray [WI DNR Fisheries Biologists] is the best to answer that question, but he [Tom] believes that the Gull Island population is considered restored, and that segment of the fishery is performing as it should produce.

David Sorenson indicated that there is no data for the Devils Island recruitment area.

There was a quick flurry of cross talk amongst most of the committee, and discussion about why the hatcheries raise fish on one end of the state and ship to the other.

Tony Grabski indicated that there are apparently many issues related to the Lake Trout, but that there is limited questions around the Salmon section of the resolution(s). Tony would like to know if the author would entertain a friendly amendment to remove the Lake Trout section of the resolution since the Salmon question is easier to answer. The chair stated that less than 1/5 survival of salmon stocking in Lake Superior is a bad indicator. The chair stated that the Splake, and Brown Trout stocking was not the best based on available data. The chair asked the committee what would happen if the department, or US Fish & Wildlife were asked for Iron River hatchery Lake Trout? The chair followed that question asking if working in that way would be acceptable?

Tom Meronek stated that the Gulls Island goal is to get to natural recruitment only, and that there is little to no information for the other areas.

David Sorenson [author] stated that he has support, and that Bayfield sportsmen will pay for the cost of stocking if that is the issue.

James Baumgart noted that there was an investigation of illegal netting fish destruction indirectly affecting sportsmen opportunity to participate in the fishery. James stated that we need to stay aware of that, and we need follow up in our discussion with the facts of the matter. James indicated that we should work with the DNR, and sportsmen to help them get access, and opportunity to fish, and not snub either party. James stated that we cannot repeat this discussion every year, we need to put things in the proper place to support the sportsmen of Lake Superior so they have opportunity, and their concerns are resolved.

Eugene Altwies stated that he would like to support the resolution, but he would like to see the Lake Trout, and the Salmon questions separated into 2 resolutions to make answering them, and voting on them easier. He wanted to support the fishing opportunity effort, but the resolutions are not worded in a way that he can support at this time.

David Sorenson stated that he wants this [resolution] to advance so he can apply some pressure statewide to get some attention on the problem in Lake Superior.

The chair indicated that we do have the option to amend the resolution. The chair asked if the votes would go the same way if all the information were provided (history, DNR data, stocking plans, etc…)?

David Sorenson indicated that the problem is not cost, allotment, etc…. David stated that the problem is that eggs from Gulf Island are taken from Gulf Island, and put in the hatchery, and that they cannot go back to Gulf Island. The chair indicated that Gulf Island is considered successfully recovered area, and that he understands that to be the reason why stocking is not done on Gulf Island.

11:55 Tony Grabski made point of order. Discussion stopped to determine how to divide the motion, or friendly amend accord to Roberts Rules of Order.

11:57 The chair clarified that we have a motion on the floor that we have to resolve, and then we have to make a motion to divide. But he indicated that there are other questions, and the key question is not resolved through this process.

David Sorenson [author] stated that he wants all, or nothing.

The chair asked the committee if it wanted to call the question? Tony Grabski, and Eugene Altwies asked to call the question.

The chair called for a vote on the question. 5 votes in support. 5 votes opposed. 2 members abstain. The motion failed on a tie.

The chair made a point to note that 2 members are not present in the room because they are in a different committee
at this time (brings voting to 12 votes total instead of a possible 14).
12:02 Tony Grabski asked if a motion to divide is possible. Upon checking Roberts Rules of Order the motion was
disallowed due to resolution failing.

ACTION
Letter to Bayfield County Sponsor [Patrick Quaintance].

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Secretary John Rempferd

DEADLINE
TBD

E. Motion from the committee floor Committee Member Eugene Altwies

DISCUSSION
12:03 Eugene Altwies made a motion that the committee, WDNR, and author work together to find a working
direction, not committee question/resolution to increase the sport fishing opportunities of Lake Trout, and other
species on Lake Superior. The motion was seconderd by David Tupa.
Tony Grabski stated that there is need to do something, and stocking does influence tourism, and fishing effort. Tony
stated that it behooves us to do something positive.
Eugene Altwies would like to know if there are other areas in Lake Superior that Lake Trout populations are not
considered restored? Eugene would like to know if we can move to make that restoration work?
David Sorenson replied that the Apostles are a large area, and that there are other sections that could benefit from
stocking, and restoration efforts now that Gull Island is considered restored. Dave Sorenson stated that Bear Island,
Devils Island, and Sand Island need help [Fisheries], and there is no data to give stakeholders, and that is a good
direction to work towards.
Eugene Altwies asked if there is any WDNR data about those other islands? Fisheries could not provide that
information at this time because they do not know if it is available, or exists as the specific area is under the
responsibility of different WDNR employees.
The chair indicated that we do not have enough information to address some aspects of this, and that we need more
information, and need to query Wisconsin Conservation Congress Chair Donde about this.
12:14 The motion is called, and passed unanimously.

ACTION
Advance Committee Question

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
Chair Dale Maas

DEADLINE
TBD

F. Recess NA

DISCUSSION
12:14 the committee recessed for lunch.

ACTION
NA

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
NA

DEADLINE
NA

G. Return from Recess NA

DISCUSSION
13:00 the committee returned from lunch.

ACTION
NA

PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE
NA

DEADLINE
NA

H. Resolution 510218 Develop a Great Lakes Strain Muskelunge Management Plan Chair Dale Maas

DISCUSSION
13:07 The chair read the resolution to the committee. No citizens present to represent the resolution.
The chair reminded the committee of it's scope.
Eugene Altwies asked what a genetically pure strain is considered? The chair responded that is would be a strain that
should have, or does have the genetics suitable for the fishery.
The chair asked if there is a plan for Muskellunge management for Lake Michigan? Dan Meronek [Fisheries]
presented a slide explaining the current Muskellunge management plan for Lake Michigan. Dan explained that the
plan has been in effect since 2011, and that there are currently 45,000 Great Lakes Strain Muskellunge in hatchery
A rearing for Lake Michigan, and Green Bay waters. The department [WI DNR] has requests out for 10,000 Great Lakes Strain fingerling for inland waters [that connect to Lake Michigan], and that current brood stock cannot provide the additional 10,000. The department [WI DNR] has a plan in development to meet the additional need; however, the plan is 3 to 5 years away from producing eggs. Once new brood stock are available in the inland lakes, and rivers, the stocking will get converted over.

The chair asked department staff if the strains stocked inland will persist after the change over. Tom Meronek explained that the Muskelunge above the first lock, or dam are the genetic strain native to Lake Michigan.

The chair asked if there is a reason why the DNR only gets eggs from the Fox River? Tom Meronek indicated that once VHIS became an issue for the hatcheries that the Fox River became the source, and that Lake St. Clair was no longer an option for stocking. Tom explained that the Muskelunge are raised in ponds, and not at the Wild Rose hatchery because that hatchery connects to inland waters.

The chair asked if there are intentions to update the management plan? Tom Meronek said the current plan is set, and there is no need, or intention to update the plan at this time.

David Tupa motioned to reject the resolution due to rearing capacity limitations, and an existing management plan. John Blumreich seconded the motion.

Tony Grabski asked if stocking what is available is a viable issue. Tom Meronek [Fisheries] clarified that the Lower Fox River brood stock are Lake Michigan strain. Tom also clarified that Green Bay was stocked originally from lake St Clair. New brood stock are still in development, but are sourced in the new plan from Lower Fox River.

Tony Grabski asked about Wisconsin River strain stocking? Tom Meronek stated that those fish are stocked in the Menominee River above the first dam/lock.

Eugene Altwies asked if there are any hybridizations occurring? Tom Meronek clarification is that Fox River strain is Lake Michigan Strain (originally from Lake St Clair).

John Blumreich stated that stocking should happen further upstream, and that there are indications from southern Wisconsin that fish can head 60 downstream after stocking.

1:20 The vote was called on the motion. Unanimous vote to accept the motion. The resolution was rejected.

| ACTION | Liaad Kari, Dale, and Tony the rejection letter.
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| Secretary John Rempferd | TBD |

**I. Administrative**

**DISCUSSION**

Tony Grabski requested permission from the chair to head back to the Deer & Elk committee since all of the actionable items from the agenda were complete. The chair approved, and requested that any Great Lakes committee members in Deer & Elk that have completed their business in that meeting please return to the Great Lakes Committee.

| ACTION | NA |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
| NA | NA |

**J. DNR Updates**

**DISCUSSION**

1:22 Iyob Tsehay [Fisheries] briefed the predator prey balance in Lake Michigan.
1:59 Tom Meronek [Fisheries] briefed research in Green Bay, the salmon and trout stocking strategy, UW Stevens Point research related to spawning site homing, movements of Lake Whitefish, Walleye, Muskelunge, Lake Sturgeon in Green Bay, the Request for Stomach Contents Research presentation by Lukas Koenig in Green Bay/Lake Michigan, the catch Composition Study Zones 1 and 2 with an emphasis on Green bay Waters (Commercial Fishing paying for the LTP staff to make this happen), the Lake Michigan Commercial Fisherman’s Lake Whitefish loop tagging, and Mark Recapture Study (Commercial fishing paying for the tags so this can happen, a lot of the work happening off of the commercial fishing boats).
2:40 Chris Groth [Law Enforcement] briefed the status of the Wardens, and enforcement which included: wardens are getting back out of parks, the Department is hiring 5 wardens in 2018, hopefully they will come on board in October, that the department is currently down 23 authorized warden positions, and that wardens are currently beta testing the new Pocket Ranger. Expectations are that the new Pocket Ranger application will go live in the Fall 2018.

| ACTION | NA |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE |
K. Are WCC representatives on DNR species committees knowledgeable about and considering Great Lakes impacts

| DISCUSSION | 2:45 The chair brought forth the topic. |
| ACTION | NA |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | NA |

Chair Dale Maas

L. Allowing the use of live bait caught on one of the Great Lakes to be used on the same lake (no transportation of bait between lakes)

| DISCUSSION | 7:48 David Zielke addressed the agenda item, stating that this originally went to the Mississippi Committee. This has been to committee 4 times, and it keeps passing overwhelmingly, but the rule has not moved forward. Dave is asking for the committee to support getting this moving forward. Eugene Altwiecs went to retrieve a member at deer and elk so we can hold quorum to take action.  
2:54 The chair tabled the topic until Eugene could return with one of the members floating back, and forth from the Deer & Elk Committee.  
3:02 Eugene returned with Tony Grabski.  
3:14 The chair returned the committee to agenda item 2D with a quorum present.  
David Tupa made a motion to support the resolution to allow live bait on Great Lakes waters up to the first dam, or lock with a daily use restriction. [catch the bait, use it that day, and dispose of it on that water before end of day]. The motion was seconded by David Sorenson.  
Chris Groth [Law Enforcement] stated that there is some concern over Gobies; that people are already using Gobies as bait [illegal at this time], and it is an existing issue.  
Eugene asked how passing something will help this issue? David Zielke wanted support to get this issue advanced. John Blumreich stated that we are not trying to write a new question, it’s a statement to state "hey please move this on".  
The chair clarified that this has been on the questionnaire, and the position is that it passed statewide, and was presented to the DNR, and NRB. At that point the committee & WCC scope ends.  
3:27 In light of DNR clarifying the bait, VHS, and laws David Tupa retracted his motion. David Sorenson retracted his seconding of the motion.  
Tom Meronek [Fisheries] provided a slide explaining that there is a task force on hold to address this issue. |
| ACTION | None |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | NA |

Chair Dale Maas

M. Commercial Fishing Update

| DISCUSSION | NOTE: This update was provided in the middle of the previous topic while committee members were gathered from the Deer & Elk Committee.  
2:54 Charlie Henriksen provided an update on commercial fishing in the Great Lakes. Charlie stated that a successful trawling study has been happening out of Two Rivers under supervision of Sea Grant. The study is working well, and the rule may become a permanent rule but there are a lot of things to discuss with the DNR, within the commercial fishing community.  
The commercial fishing board is not sure how they want to handle a new proposal of trawling in lower Green Bay. There is discussion about the gill net study out of Sheboygan. What is known of right now, this study is not moving forward at this time. |
| ACTION | None |
| PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE | DEADLINE | NA |

Charlie Henriksen. Commercial Fishing Board
N. Trawling in the lower bay of Green Bay

**DISCUSSION**

3:02 The chair brought forth the agenda item. The chair would like the committee to get proactive on this topic. The proposal is to trawl grids in Green Bay zone 1 for Whitefish 24 hours a day, with a goal of catching Whitefish with an alternative means. There is concern for any by catch in this situation. There is concern about trawling at night, and how far the long line behind the boat the trawl drags. The chair asked all present if they know if the proposal is due to efficiency, or if this is driven by some other issue? Charlie Henriksen answered that trawling will be easier, cheaper, and faster.

Discussion indicated that there is concern within the commercial fishing community about using this method in this location.

Eugene Altwies proposed that we wait (commercial fishers are meeting again in September) until it is an issue and convene the committee to address the issue.

The chair proposed that if this becomes a big deal at the commercial fishing board, maybe we (Great Lakes Committee) could hold a meeting, or at least a conference call to take action.

Tony Grabski asked how expensive this is going to be to convert over for trawling. Charlie answered that the fishermen in question already have the equipment required.

The chair stated that we are considering this as information for now.

**ACTION**

Convene the committee after the Commercial Fishing Board meeting in September 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE</th>
<th>DEADLINE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair Dale Maas, Co-Chair Tony Grabski, Secretary John Rempferd</td>
<td>1 October 2018</td>
</tr>
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III. MEMBERS MATTERS

**DISCUSSION**

3:31 The chair began members matters.

James Baumgart: None

Maliya Reijnen: None

David Zielke: Thanked the committee, and DNR for hearing his bait issue.

David Sorensen: Wants to know if he can get more Lake Superior area delegates on the committee? The chair pointed out that there already are more Lake Superior area delegates and that they did not attend. David wants support to stop the tribal fishers from gill netting, and he wants to move tribal fishers to trap nets. David also wants help to stop the Lake Trout emergency rule that is about to go into affect on Lake Superior. The chair recommended calling the WCC Chair to garner support.

John Rempferd: None

David Tupa: Thanked everyone who showed up since the committee barely had a quorum. He expressed desire to have the unexcused removed. Dave thanked the DNR for their support, and information. Dave asked the committee members to get vocal, and educate people about the Great lakes.

John Blumreich: Stated that we got DNR input several days prior to the meeting to review. He would like that to happen again.

Tony Grabski: Thanked the chair, and committee members for the consideration that he could move back, and forth between two committees. Thanked the DNR for the information, and the rules clarification on how to divide a motion.

Robert Wincek: Thanked everyone for attending. Robert informed the committee that the EPA is pursuing mandatory E15; told us that it will wreck our marine engines. There is a form online to write to the EPA to say no. Robert stated that there is a petition on the NRB wait list to create a state sport fishers board. Robert is looking for a state legislator to sponsor a bill to bring this petition forward to create a state sport fishing board.

Eugene Altwies: None

Tyrone Larson: Thanked the staff, and committee.

Chris Groth [Law Enforcement]: Clarified that the liaisons are not supposed drive an issue, they are supposed to facilitate, and help answer questions in a reactive manner. The liaisons were told to let us (WCC) run the show.

The chair reminded the committee that the option to critique the meeting is under the members resource on the WCC page. The chair wants members who contribute, ask questions, and provide feedback. The chair stated that the previous committee liaison retired, and that the retirement complicated communications this year; there will be improved communication in subsequent year. The chair reiterated that we cannot act on anything that is off the agenda.

3:48 The chair asked the committee to set the following years committee meeting, he asked to continue the tradition of second Saturday of August. The committee set August 10th 2019 as the meeting date for 2019.

Chair Dale Maas: Each district was sent a letter of request under Dales signature requesting help:

The wall of fame trailer is now 9 years old. We [WCC] have a goal to update the trailer, and make it readily available to delegates, and for events to hit the DNR R3 goal. The WCC goal is to add 2 more trailers so we can have regional trailers. The organization needs donations of items, and cash for this project. The WCC cannot handle cash donations, but asks that we work through the friends of the WCC since they legally can do so.
Please contact Dale if you have anything, or historic memorabilia related to hunting, and fishing. Dale asked the committee to reach out to sporting clubs. The goal of all of this is to turn the trailers into walk through displays so presenters can pull up, open the gate, and door, plug the trailer in, and begin educating. Major donors can get a decal on the side. OHEC already put up 10 grand for this. WCC has cost, and OHEC has some more cost to finish, there is an estimated 10,000 USD need. Dale needs the delegates to find away to leverage this more, and get more people exposed to these trailers as the public enjoys the current trailer.

**ACTION**
Committee members need to reach out for trailer support.

### IV. ADJOURNMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEETING ADJOURNED</th>
<th>4:01 David Tupa motioned to adjourn. David Sorenson 2nd. Unanimous approval.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUBMITTED BY</td>
<td>John R. Rennpferd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>08/28/2018</td>
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</tbody>
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