

Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum Meeting

April 15, 2019

Citizen Science – Titus Seilheimer Wisconsin Sea Grant

- Huron/Michigan Diet Study – Brian Roth, MSU
 - Lake Michigan 1,344 stomachs in 2017, mostly Chinooks
 - Chinook, Coho – Mostly alewife by weight
 - Lake trout, Rainbow – Mostly alewife, but other food sources are also important. Lake trout eating gobies, and rainbows eating inverts
 - Brown trout – Mostly alewife, but most diverse diet
 - Lake Huron diet is very different from Lake Michigan. Fewer alewife in diet and most diversity of species consumed.
- Salmon Ambassadors – 2013-2017, focused on Chinook fin clips, paper-based reporting
- Great Lakes Angler Diary – 2017-Present –
 - Sign up at glanglerdiary.org for this App-based citizen science option
 - Few Wisconsin anglers participating in this citizen-based science program despite presentations at multiple LMFF meetings and club meetings up and down the shoreline.

Salmon and Trout Public Meetings (Brad Eggold WI DNR) – **bolded text indicates consensus from the group**

- Timeframe?
 - **May**
 - The sooner the better before the fishing season starts. One now, one at the end of the year. Too many meetings = people stop showing up.
 - Suggestion that in future years when we are evaluating stocking, have the big meeting in April instead of May
- Weekday/Weekend?
 - **Weekday** okay – 6-9PM
 - Would moving to weekend meeting bring in more diverse crowd?
 - Weekdays because charters are fishing weekends
 - No one opposed to weekday
- Location?
 - One at one place, one at the other
 - **Cleveland** is good – pains everyone equally
- Discussion of content for the meeting?
 - Recovery goal for lake trout in Lake Michigan [population model in progress]
 - Max of 4 agenda items for a night meeting. Be creative in distributing information ahead of meeting [GLFC videos] -> Allows people to come prepared with some background.
 - Flyer or informational packet emailed around before the meeting
 - Content

- Update zebra and quagga mussels – did they peak and start to decline? [Could be part of plankton/zooplankton talk]
 - Info from DNR's tournament monitoring – comparing tournament data to other data, size of various species, could compare across years
 - CWT study – Kewaunee and Root – fall returns
 - Update on funding model – impact of lack of fee increase
- **WDNR will evaluate the list of potential topics and create a draft agenda that shows which topics would be handled via handout and which topics would be part of the meeting. This draft agenda would go out to the LMFF group in the next two weeks for input.**
- Type of meeting?
 - **Q&A period** better than breakout – everyone hears same thing at the same time
 - Questions after presentations are leading towards a particular answer – can guide thoughts of the audience. But still lean towards group Q&A vs. breakouts
 - Send email comments/suggestions for a week after the meeting. Would like to see the comments in a document to know they are being read and not deleted
- **Monday, May 20** with backup of Wednesday, May 29 –Centennial Hall at LTC in Cleveland

Salmonine Stocking Strategy (Brad Eggold WI dNR)

- Glfc.org – search for salmonine
 - Strategy: http://www.glfc.org/pubs/lake_committees/michigan/LMC%20-%20PPR%20Strategy%20November%202018_Final.pdf
- GLFC Lake Michigan Lake Committee
 - <http://www.glfc.org/lake-michigan-committee.php>

Guide Reporting (Scott Hansen WI DNR)

- History of the fishery in Wisconsin and how management has changed.
- Green Bay fishery is increasing.
- There is an ongoing debate about the current DNR code and statutes regarding inland guide reporting. Is the current code and statutes sufficient so that rules created to capture this information enforceable? DNR is currently working on this issue.
- Sport fishery has no size limit, so smaller fish are kept. Because of handling through the ice, returned fish may have lower survival.
- Harvest through guided trips are only part of the harvest.

Trawl Study Update (Tom Meronek WI DNR)

- History of the study from the WI DNR perspective
- Memorandum of Understanding and how it changed over the project
- Final report submitted to WI DNR by Wisconsin Sea Grant

Commercial Fishing Discussion (All)

Discussion of proposed gill net study and how changing food web is affecting different stakeholders.

Lake Trout status in Lake Michigan?

- We should have Chuck Bronte and Matt Kornis USFWS present at a future meeting.

Highlights from GLFC Lake Committee Meeting

- Videos of most talks are available here: <http://www.glf.org/2019-lake-committee-videos.php>

Attendance: 50 stakeholders from commercial, recreational, stream, and charter fishing, along with agency representatives from WI DNR and US FWS.