



Lake Erie / Lake St. Clair Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee

Established by the Department of Natural Resources to improve and maintain the fishery resources of Lake Erie, Lake St. Clair, and the St. Clair and Detroit Rivers through better communication and partnership.

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Belle Isle Nature Zoo
April 14, 2014

Welcome

Bob Neely welcomed everyone and introduced Jim Francis, the latest basin coordinator for Lake Erie.

Review the agenda and meeting minutes from October 2012

Jim Francis reviewed the minutes. There were no changes.

Law Division updates and questions

Lt. Wade Hamilton gave a presentation on the unit he heads and what they do. This includes detectives, undercover operations and Great Lakes commercial fishing enforcement. For local commercial fishing issues, people should call Officer Larry Deslover (989-370-0117). Lt. Hamilton also gave a brief overview of the LED strategic plan development. Bob Neely will send out questions and members should send comments directly back to Lt. Hamilton.

One comment was that while undercover operations are good – having officers visible is beneficial because it is a deterrent.

Introductions

Bob Neely had everyone in the room introduce themselves.

Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System (GLATOS)

Chris Vandergoot, Supervisor for the Ohio DNR Sandusky Fisheries Station, gave a presentation on why population estimates are conducted on Lake Erie, the origin of the jaw tag program, and the progression to acoustic telemetry. He discussed providing data for management including fine scale movements of walleye, spawning site fidelity, habitat selection, temporal structuring, and estimating fishing and natural mortality.

Fisheries Division Updates

Jim Dexter, Chief of Fisheries could not be present so Jim Francis gave the update. He presented an overview of the regulation changes in the new fishing guide and ways the new license dollars are being spent.

St. Clair River Area of Concern (AOC) habitat restoration projects

Melanie Foose from DEQ, Office of Great Lakes showed the 10 habitat projects that are either on-going or completed on the St. Clair River. These projects are meant to compensate for impairment to the ecosystem. Once completed, these projects will help fulfill the requirements for this river to be delisted as an Area of Concern.

Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC) habitat restoration projects

Mary Bohling of Michigan Sea Grant showed the habitat projects on the Detroit River. These projects are also being used to delist the Detroit River as an Area of Concern. Mary also provided information on the Lake Erie Regional Fisheries Workshop to be held on April 17, 2014 in Monroe.

Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie fisheries report

Todd Wills from the Lake St. Clair Fisheries Research Station presented the survey work they do on fish, people, and habitat. Todd also mentioned the new electroshocking boat that they are building for better sampling ability. They are also initiating a new program, this August the crew will be trawling in Lake Erie to capture age 0 walleye which will be additional information to be used in the walleye models.

The number of participants in the Angler Diary program has declined and Todd stated they are looking to recruit more volunteers for the program.

Committee member round table

Members gave updates on recent fishing experiences and club news.

Open discussion, future meeting topics, and locations.

Members asked questions and proposed future topics.

- Lake St. Clair is over populated with predators so the 2 northern pike limit and combination limit doesn't work here—Lake St. Clair should have separate regulations; the bag limit on muskies is too low, there are too many muskies in Lake St. Clair;
- Invasive species regulations—how boats are trailered away from the boat launch.
- Define “possession” and other terms in the fishing guide.

The next meeting will be in September at the same location.

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Attendees:

Name	Affiliation
Bob Neely, Chair	Lake Erie
Dan Boileau	Downriver Walleye Federation
Rick Kretzschmar	National Professional Anglers Association
Dennis Eade	Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association
Robert Burns	Friends of the Detroit River/Detroit Riverkeeper
Gerald Sickon	Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Fishermen's Association
Mary Bohling	Michigan Sea Grant
Jeremy Geist	Clinton River Watershed Council
Bruce Curtis	Michigan Charter Boat Assn, Director
John Giszczak	Michigan Charter Boat Assn
Ralph Kandt	Wholesale Bait Dealers
Paul Sacks	Michigan BASS Nation
Dan Kimmel	Michigan BASS Nation
Dave Realt	The Bass Federation of Michigan
Ted Meyer	Shore Fisherman
Stan Bydlos	Lake St. Clair Walleye Association/MUCC District 8
Terry Picard	Lake St. Clair Walleye Association
Melanie Foose	MDEQ-Office of the Great Lakes
Michael Reed	Belle Isle Nature Zoo
Chris Vandergoot	Ohio DNR
Jim Francis, co-Chair	MDNR-Fisheries
Liz Hay-Chmielewski	MDNR-Fisheries
Mike Thomas	MDNR-Fisheries
Todd Wills	MDNR-Fisheries
Gary Whelan	MDNR-Fisheries
Lt. Wade Hamilton	MDNR-Law Enforcement
Larry Desloover	MDNR-Law Enforcement
Craig Milkowski	MDNR-Law Enforcement