

Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Board Meeting

October 14, 2025 5 p.m.

Bayfield DNR Office
141 South Third Street
Bayfield, WI 54814

Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Establish Quorum:** 3 of 5 Board members present
2. **Call to Order:** Maureen called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.
3. **Roll Call Present:**
 - Board Members: Craig Hoopman (phone), Maurine Halvorson, and Jessica Resac
 - Public: None
 - DNR: Brad Ray, Bob Stroess, online: Miranda Westphal, Karson Cisneros, Jack Luessman, Trevor Raatz, Dray Carl
 - Absent:** Bill Bodin (Board Member) and Bryan Bainbridge (Board Member)
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Jessica motion, Craig second, motion carries
5. **Approval of the Minutes from April 16, 2025:** Jessica motion, Craig second, motion carries
6. **Discussion Items - Public comments welcome**
 - (Underlined agenda items are actionable by the Board)
 - a. Herring/cisco stock update and 2026 quota: quota will be the same 89K per license for 2026 talked about the process and the timeline for long term quota setting process.
 - b. Go Wild License Update (DNR Staff) Miranda gave a presentation about Go Wild licensing. Sent paper license applications out and will be able to buy license in Go Wild some paperwork needs to be mailed in to fill out information. Be able to add crew cards as a receipt. Will need to buy each license individually. Manage license through GO Wild to add remove crew, boats, ports etc. Hopefully ready to go by end of year. Only need first and last name. (NOTE to self: ask about crew cards needed to be carried on the boat.) Forms being updated.
 - c. EFHRS trap net programming Functionality of not having ability to close and open trap nets again. Just keep them in and note in comments. You can enter all data leaving actual weight empty and submit weight the next business day.
 - d. Discuss *Guide to Wisconsin Commercial Fishing Regulations*
Bob Stroess gave an update on the current round of regulatory housekeeping and introduced the new commercial fishing regulation guidebook. NR25 regulation changes to Lake Superior commercial fishing regulations include updating out of date or misplaced references, updating coordinates on closures, and removing culturally insensitive place names. The new guidebook for commercial fishing regulations is for law enforcement, fisheries staff, and fishers to better understand regulations so that everyone is on the same page. The guidebook will be updated every 2 to 3 years, and updated versions sent to fishers.
 - e. Fishing Agreement
Brad Ray provided a brief update on the upcoming 10-year fishing agreement negotiations. The DNR is looking for stakeholder input on the agreement with the goal representing stakeholders during round of negotiations. The Board requested that fishers be present to represent themselves during negotiations. The Board's opinion that a Board member, or any licensed fisher, should have a seat at the table.
7. **Old Business**
 - a. The Board inquired into hiring the vacant fishery biologist position at the DNR. Brad explained that with current state budgets, hirings are being delayed. For next season, sampling will be status quo with available staff sampling on-board as time allows.

8. **Board Member Concerns**

The Board inquired into Lake Trout quotas for the 2026 season. Quotas will remain status quo since the current model run set quotas for the 2024-2026 fisheries. There will be a model update in 2026 with a quota recommendation presented to the NRB in October 2026.

9. **Comments and Announcements**

- a. Welcome to the new Great Lakes Specialist, Karson Cisneros. Karson is based out of Madison and will be working on Great Lakes regulatory and policy issues.
- b. Brad Eggold, DNR, retired after a long career with the WI DNR.

Next Meeting date: April 15, 2026, at 5 pm at the Bayfield DNR office

Upcoming Agenda Items: Fishing Agreement negotiations, hiring update in the vacant DNR fisheries biologist position

10. **Adjournment:** 6:25 pm