

Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum
Lakeshore Technical College, Cleveland, WI
Wells Fargo Room
6 to 9 PM
April 26, 2018

NOTES

6:00-6:10 Welcome and introduction

6:10-7:00 Milwaukee Harbor Mapping – Brennan Dow UW-Milwaukee

- The Milwaukee harbor has changed over time, Development has changed the available habitat.
 - Many species in the harbor and comparable species to Michigan drowned river mouths.
- Side scan sonar survey.
 - Collected habitat data from many spots - inverts, *Hemimysis*, substrate, temperature, macrophages.
 - Bloody Red Shrimp *Hemimysis* found in high abundance in places. Found in fish stomachs. Can be hard for fish to catch them, especially for Round Goby.
- Temperature throughout the sites were similar through the year, so some interior sites still have influence of Lake Michigan water.
- Fish spawning habitat and spawning fish were found, some building nests from pea gravel but can also use quagga mussel shells.
 - Smallmouth Bass, sunfish.
 - Spawning timing can be effected by changes in water temperature from upwelling events. Nests can be silted by fine sediment moving through the south shore area.
- Future work is possible for northern harbors –
 - grant submitted to map: Port Washington, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, and Two Rivers.
 - Better understanding of the available habitat would help direct future restoration work, habitat creation, and public support for harbors/waterways.
- John Janssen - Mapping activities through NOAA and related to proposed sanctuary (which has now been withdrawn by Governor Walker).
 - Mapping activities, not just about shipwrecks. Also geology, fisheries, habitat.
 - National Marine Sanctuary could bring resources to the area that would help not just shipwrecks but also other stakeholders.
 - Showed some results of 2017 mapping. These will be available as an online map in the future.

7:00-7:10 Citizen Science opportunities in fisheries – Titus Seilheimer WI Sea Grant

- Outlined some available programs that anglers could participate in to collect fisheries information.
 - Mainly through Michigan Sea Grant, with Wisconsin Coordination from Wisconsin Sea Grant.
 - <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/great-lakes-angler-science-fishing-for-answers/>
 - Salmon Ambassadors (paper version)
 - <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/explore/fisheries/salmon-ambassadors/>
 - Results from 2014-2017 now available
 - Great Lakes Angler Diary (mobile app) <http://www.glanglerdiary.org/>
 - Currently able to report any sport fish, fin clip, and other information.
 - IOS version should be available this summer and be simpler.
 - Can log location of bait balls with app, although this is likely the last season for that options because it was not used (1 bait ball reported in 2017).
 - Michigan Huron Diet Study <http://MichiganSeaGrant.org/diet>
 - Study led by Brian Roth, Michigan State University
 - Collect current data on diets of sportfish species.
 - Seeking funding from stakeholders
- Queried group about LMFF citizen science work group. There was interest, so Titus Seilheimer will share invitation to LMFF and others. Then work on when to schedule a meeting. Maybe call in evenings. Not necessarily an in person meeting yet.
 - Could lead up to a whole meeting to LMFF with Dan O’Keefe and others presenting on citizen fisheries science.

7:10-7:20 Break

7:20-8:00 Predator-Prey Ratio in Lake Michigan - Nick Leger WI DNR

- Predator Prey Ratio.
- Nick gave a similar talk at a recent GLFC meeting: <https://youtu.be/8yTQBVm7ZQs>
- Science behind the SCAA models for Chinook Salmon and Alewife. What goes in and what comes out? How they predict biomass, and what the ratio means.
 - Chinook get big fast, so eat a lot of alewife.
- How do auxiliary indicators compare? Provide support for trends in PPR. Recent years have large fluctuations in indicators, which indicates instability in the ecosystem.

8:00-8:40 WI DNR updates - Brad Eggold WI DNR

- Stocking numbers proposed for 2018. Keeping similar to 2017 numbers, but trying to get more yearling coho.
- Private / public partnership for a private hatchery to grow remaining steelhead that Kettle Moraine can’t grow due to water and infrastructure issues.

- Large mesh gill net study is with the secretary, may have another meeting in the future about updated study framework.
- Net pens. Where are they being used?
 - Still clipping chinook but not CWT. Root and Kewaunee getting CWT for study specifically about net pen survival.
- Green Bay catch composition study.
 - Looking at fishing effort and bycatch in southern Green Bay.
- Smallmouth Bass in Green Bay/ Door Lake Michigan.
 - Some concern about too much fishing, especially in the Mink River. Changing season for Mink River?
- Lake Michigan charter boat reporting. Trying for funding to fund electronic based reporting system for charter captains.

8:40-8:45 Discussion, questions, and next Steps

- Presentations on many topics are available from Great Lakes Fishery Commission – Upper Lake Committee meeting
 - <http://www.glfc.org/2018-lake-committee-videos.php>
- Topics include: [Sea Lamprey status](#), [Yellow Perch and Nearshore Species](#), [Lower Food web Dynamics](#) (this is a good one to watch), [mass marking Diets](#), and [Lake Trout](#).

Attendance

Hickey
 Maas
 Wincek
 Hirt
 Dow
 Stackhouse
 Strege
 Fetterer
 LeClair
 Haasch
 Aschenback
 Kleeman
 Kleinert
 Seger, Shawn
 Seger, Glenn
 Welsch
 Gulash
 Hendricksen
 Rennpferd
 Habermann
 Eggold
 Donofrio
 Schmidt
 Legler