

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Forum**  
**Lakeshore Technical College, Lake Michigan Conference Room**  
**Cleveland, WI**  
**January 26, 2017**

**NOTES**

6:00-6:10 Welcome and introductions

- Todd Kalish (WDNR)
  - Communication in the future. Wisconsin has a rich history of progressive conservation.
  - Big changes happening right now in the lake (arguably bigger than ever)
  - DNR committed to interacting in innovative ways.
  - How can we be creative (communication/management)?
  - Short v. Long term goals and holistic views.

6:10-7:50 Brown trout allocation

- Brad Eggold (WDNR) – Brown Trout stocking – Lake Michigan
  - Brown trout, how did we get here. Based on feedback in past to get more discussion about this issue.
    - Wild Rose strain of brown trout (called by some German browns) are no longer being propagated
    - Problems with extended domestication, limited new genetics
    - Thunder River, a very old hatchery, was closed.
  - Harvest history. Who catches what?
  - Harvest v. Stocking.
- Discussion
  - Are there fish (esp brown trout) missing from creel? What about times of the year without creel?
  - Is creel good enough? Better catch estimates?
  - Can the DNR look at different strains browns, better strains. -> shore and stream anglers (better creel)?
  - Crowd source data collection.
    - Great Lakes Angler Diary is an available tool.
      - [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/mobile\\_app\\_lets\\_great\\_lakes\\_anglers\\_share\\_data\\_with\\_biologists\\_okeefe16](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/mobile_app_lets_great_lakes_anglers_share_data_with_biologists_okeefe16)
    - Angler reports to support other data, like creel.
  - Guide reporting needed? Could provide information on fishery in the times without creel.
  - Value/cost of browns? Caught multiple times, so makes up for higher hatchery costs?
  - Natural reproduction of browns and other species? Manage without that?

- Concerns over forage base, role of different species in predation on a lake wide scale.

Question concerning the feasibility of DNR to add back Wild Rose Strain brown trout in the future.

- Brad Eggold (WDNR) - Brown trout allocations by port
  - Data options for scenarios.
    - Limitations, need to have same data for all counties.
  - Allocation
    - Directed effort is selected based on creel. Asked what they fishing for.
    - Species specific harvest rate / number stocked. By county
    - Forage base (could be added in the future)
  - 75% to equal distribution to every county, remaining 25% based on parameters.
  - Timeline is coming fast.
    - Brown trout will be stocked in March 2017
- Discussion.
  - General support of allocation model, but with the need in the future to continue to improve the variables and data quality.
  - Some need in future to try different data collection. Confidence on creel? Use an app to collect data.
  - Clarification: Directed effort is from the creel. When surveyed and anglers report they were fishing for “brown trout”.
  - Other variables available? How to make them to work?

7:50-8:00 Break

8:00-8:50 Updates

- Lake Trout Emergency Rule (Brad Eggold WDNR)
  - Meeting at LTC before LMFF meeting
  - Changes to lake trout bag
  - Role in lower forage compared to other species?
- Whitefish (Tom Meronek WDNR)
  - Ongoing discussion on whitefish issues in GB.
  - Boundaries, etc. guide reporting.
- Guide Reporting (Tom Meronek WDNR)
  - Lake whitefish guides on Green Bay are reporting their catch this winter.
  - Could serve as model for expanded guide reporting in Great Lakes (walleye, muskellunge, brown trout).
- Announcement
  - Chuck Madenjian (USGS) will present on Lake Michigan forage surveys at the - Wisconsin Federation of Great Lakes Sport Fishing Clubs. 2/18/17 at the Sheboygan Outboard Motor Club. Meeting starts at 8:30am.

8:50-9:00 Wrap up

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Fishing/lakemichigan/LakeMichiganFisheriesForum.html>

## Attendance

Names listed below started for the Lake Trout Emergency Rule meeting and kept out for forum meeting. Some on the list left before the forum meeting.

# Lake Michigan Fisheries For

First Name	Last Name	
Randy	Hemb	
Dan	Mitchell	
BOB	HAMMEN	
Mike	LeClair	
Tom	Kleiman	
Jim	Nirt	
Glenn	Seeger	
Troy	Mattson	
Bret	Cook	
STEVE	STACKHOUSE	
JOHN	POLLOCK	
Scott	Haberman	
Alan	Cochran	
MIKE	NORTON	
Georgel	Ga Halaban	

# Lake Michigan Fisheries For

First Name	Last Name	
Forrest	Bignell	
ERIC	Geisthardt	
Ryan	Glasford	
Jim	WIERZBA	
Scott	Meyer	
SANDERS	Konia	
Tom	Heger	
Al	Johnson	
David	Snell	
John	Anderson	
LEE	HAASCH	
Mark	Holey	
Chuck	Bronte	

# Lake Michigan Fisheries For

First Name	Last Name
Terry	Brace
Jason	Retten
Scott	Sprangers
Tiger	Ihlenfeldt
Brian	Ebbesen
Paul	Nougk
JERRY	FETTERER
DAW	WELSCH
Scott	Cudworth
John	HANSON
Bob	Winick
JASON	Woda
Arnie	ARREDON
RYAN	BAKER
NICK	HERMAN