

Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Board Meeting

April 16, 2025 5 p.m.

Bayfield DNR Office
141 South Third Street
Bayfield, WI 54814

Lake Superior Commercial Fishing Board Meeting Minutes

1. **Establish Quorum:** 4 of 5 Board members present
2. **Call to Order:** Craig called the meeting to order at 5:00
3. **Roll Call Present:**
 - Board Members: Craig Hoopman, Maurine Halvorson, Bill Bodin, and Jessica Resac
 - Public: Mark Halvorson, Cliff Halvorson, Frank Halvorson
 - DNR: Brad Ray, Dray Carl, Miranda Westphal, Jack Luessman (online), Brad Eggold (online), Ryan Propson (online), Bob Stroess (online)
 - Absent:** Bryan Bainbridge (Board Member)
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Bill motion, Jessica second, motion carries
5. **Approval of the Minutes from October 16, 2024:** Bill motion, Jessica second, motion carries
6. **Board Member Position Elections:** Bill motion, Jessica second, motion carries. There were no changes to the positions of Board members after elections.

Current Membership: Craig Hoopman, Chair
Maurine Halvorson, Vice Chair
Bill Bodin, Secretary
Jessica Resac, Member
Bryan Bainbridge, Member
7. **Discussion Items - Public comments welcome**

(Underlined agenda items are actionable by the Board)

 - a. 2024 Commercial harvest summary (DNR Staff)

Dray gave a presentation covering the 2024 Lake Superior commercial fisheries harvest. Chub and Siscowet harvest was similar to the 2023 season. Lake whitefish harvest and effort was similar the past two season. Cisco harvest and effort were similar to the most recent seasons although only 60% of the quota was harvested. Lake trout harvest was in line with the previous six seasons although effort was the highest in the time series. For 2024, 48 % of the WI-1 and 87% of the WI-2 lake trout quotas were harvested.
 - b. Rule update – 2026 Cisco quota (DNR Staff)

Brad Ray gave a brief update on the Lake Superior cisco rule. Board members had questions on the quota limits for the nest few seasons. Brad informed that the 2026 and 2027 quotas may be the same or similar to current quotas. Any changes will be due to the 2024 year class. Currently, for 2025, the cisco allocation is 89,000 pounds per license. Brad expects that 2026 cisco quotas will be ready for the October 2025 meeting.
 - c. My Wisconsin ID update (DNR Staff)

Brad Eggold gave a brief overview of the recent change for the EFHRS login from WAMS to MyWisconsin ID. There was some feedback from Board members on the difficult of having to authenticate logging in to EFHRS while on the water, when cell signals are not reliable. Brad explained that DNR understands these difficulties, but the change was mandatory from Dept of Administration. It was suggested that fishers carry paper logbooks onboard as back up to stay compliant with regulations in case and EFHRS login isn't feasible.
 - d. Commercial licensing Go Wild update (DNR Staff)

Miranda gave a brief overview of the progress of transitioning commercial licenses from DNR staff processing licenses and feed to the DNR Go Wild licensing system. The update is progressing as planned at this time. It is planned to have the online commercial licensing in place for the 2026 season. The board expressed the convenience of having the crew remain on the license from year to year. This idea was presented to the developers but the feasibility of this is not yet known.

e. **Discuss DNR vacancy left by Scott Sapper's Retirement (DNR Staff)**

Brad Ray explained that Scott will actually be taking leave until the end of the year and that would prevent hiring his position until after that time. Brad Eggold contributed to the conversation by explaining the lack of budget to hire in the interim. The Board expressed concerns about commercial sampling through the end of the year. Brad Ray explained that other staff would be able to sample and collect necessary data this season.

8. Old Business

Bob Stroess commented on temporary crew cards. He reminded Board members that the paper crew cards need to be turned in at the end of the month and to email him with questions.

9. Board Member Concerns

None at this time.

10. Comments and Announcements

a. **Thank you to Scott Sapper for his years of service and dedication**

Board members unanimously heralded Scott's long and successful career with the DNR. They commented on Scott's dedication to the Lake Superior fisheries and successful and productive relationships with fishers. The Board congratulated Scott on his retirement.

b. **Welcome to the new Bayfield warden, Trevor Raatz**

The Board welcomed Trevor Raatz to his new position. Trevor will be covering Bayfield west to Superior.

c. **Warden Ryan Propson new position**

Ryan Propson bid farewell to the Board. He has taken a new position within the department. The Board thanked Ryan for his service and wished him well in his new position.

Next Meeting date: Tentative mid-October 2025 at the Bayfield DNR office

Upcoming Agenda Items: Presentation on cisco/herring stock status and 2026 quota, Go Wild commercial licensing update.

11. Adjournment: 5:50 pm