

## **COUNCIL OF LAKE COMMITTEES**

Crowne Plaza Detroit Metro Airport  
Romulus, Michigan  
29 April 2003

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Attendees:** CLC – Brian Briedert (INDNR), Bill Culligan (NYDEC), Ken Cullis (OMNR), Jim Dexter (MDNR), Tom Gorenflo (CORA), Steve Hewett (WDNR), Neil Kmiecik (GLIFWC), Roger Kenyon for Rick Hoopes (PFBC), Bill Horns (WDNR), Roger Knight (ODNR), Steve LaPan (NYDEC), Dave McLeish (OMNR), Mike Morencie (OMNR), Bruce Morrison for Rob MacGregor (OMNR), Tammy Newcomb (MDNR), Kurt Newman (MDNR), Dave Reid (OMNR), Tom Trudeau (ILDNR), Jack Wingate (MNDNR). Unable to attend: Rick Hoopes (PFBC), Rob MacGregor (OMNR), Steve Scott (MDNR).

Presenters and observers, etc. – Bo Bunnell (OSU), Leon Carl (USGS), Jonathan Champion (NEMWI), Gavin Christie (GLFC), Mark Coscarelli (Public Sector Consultants), Marg Dochoda (GLFC), Tom Edsall (USGS), Mark Gaden (GLFC), John Gannon (IJC), Rob Elliott (USFWS), Dave Gesl (USACOE), Jim Galloway (USACOE), Chris Goddard (GLFC), Rebecca Hayes (USGS), Chuck Krueger (GLFC), Bob Lange (NYSDEC, retired), Bev Ritchie (OMNR), John Robertson (Wavelength, Inc.), GLFC Vice-Chair Roy Stein (OSU), Jay Wesley (MDNR)

#### **1. Call to Order, Self-introductions & Announcements**

David McLeish (OMNR) called the meeting to order announcing that Former Chair Bob Lange had retired from NYDEC, and that Dave (as Vice Chair) would be chairing this meeting. While Dave Reid (OMNR) will now represent OMNR on the Lake Huron Committee, Dave McLeish will continue to serve on the CLC bringing the Council's Ontario complement to five representatives. Attendees were invited to introduce themselves.

#### **2. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved with some minor shifts in scheduling.

#### **3. Approval of Executive Summaries for 2003 Lake Committee Meetings**

Executive summaries for the 2003 lake committee meetings were approved with an updated version from the Lake Ontario Committee.

#### **4. Findings from December Sturgeon Workshop**

Rob Elliott (USFWS) reported on findings from the December sturgeon workshop. One recommendation was that remnant stocks be protected from actions that would jeopardize their genetic integrity.

## **5. Disparate Sturgeon Regulations**

Chris Goddard (GLFC) reviewed the status of sturgeon fishing regulations among Great Lakes jurisdictions. The CLC's Law Enforcement Committee will be establishing Combined Enforcement Teams to enforce the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in the transport of angler-caught sturgeon between Ontario and Michigan in the St. Marys River and in Lake St. Clair. Jack Wingate clarified that anglers are not permitted to take sturgeon in Minnesota waters of Lake Superior. Dave Reid (OMNR) reported that an internal OMNR committee is reviewing Ontario's sturgeon regulations.

## **6. Responses of Great Lakes Fish to Climate Change**

John Casselman (OMNR) reported on the responses of warm-, cool- and cold-water fish populations to changes in temperature.

## **7. U.S. Cormorant Control Regulations, Canadian Update**

Bob Adair (USFWS) reported on the proposed rule regarding cormorant management, welcoming comments. Steve Hewett (WDNR) wondered why Pennsylvania was the only Great Lakes state apparently not authorized to undertake management action.

Dave McLeish (OMNR) reported that Ontario is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a 5-year cormorant study and has not yet decided on the question of cormorant management. Any management action will need to be scientifically defensible, i.e., based on evidence of negative effects on fish populations preyed on by cormorants.

## **8. Basin-Wide Overview of Sea Lamprey Damage**

Mark Ebener (GLFC) reported on sea lamprey induced mortality, marking rates in each of the Great Lakes, and seasonal difference in sea lamprey growth, including research questions related to damage.

## **9. Basin-Wide Overview of the 2002/03 Sea Lamprey Control Program**

Gavin Christie (GLFC) reviewed the 2002/03 sea lamprey control program, including the decision process for prioritizing use of funds.

## **10. USGS Science Delivery and Large Vessel Research**

Leon Carl (USGS) proposed a memorandum of understanding between the USGS and other fishery agencies for the deep water fishery science program. The MOU would address safe vessels, staffing, and products.

The CLC discussed the "white paper" prepared by Dr. Leon Carl, in which he requested a memorandum of understanding between the CLC and USGS whereby CLC would suspend its large-vessel initiative for more than one year while USGS implemented actions to address

deficiencies in the large-vessel program identified in the blue-ribbon panel report. The CLC concluded that Dr. Carl's proposal should not be regarded as an acceptable federal response to the CLC's letter to Secretary of Interior Gail Norton, in which the CLC Chairman transmitted the report of the blue-ribbon panel and requested that the Department of Interior undertake the actions recommended by the panel to resolve the problems identified. The CLC also discussed the development of a letter to Dr. Carl, to be signed by all CLC members, in which the CLC affirmed its commitment to the course of action recommended by the blue-ribbon panel. The letter should assure Dr. Carl that the CLC did not hold him responsible for the deficiencies of the large-vessel program and urged him to work with the CLC to strengthen the remaining programs within the Great Lakes Science Center. The CLC also agreed that Dr. Carl's "white paper" should be acknowledged at the end of the CLC letter to him. The CLC also discussed the need to promote a consistent message and mobilize strong support for the large-vessel initiative from their agencies and state/tribal governments. The CLC also requested that a chart of key contacts be circulated to its members.

## **11. FY 2004 Coordination Activities Program Preproposals for Sponsorship**

The CLC met *in camera* to discuss CLC sponsorship of proposals for GLFC Coordination Activities Program funding. Marg Dochoda will advise PIs on status of preproposals sponsorship. Dave McLeish will write Marg to advise officially re preproposals which the CLC is sponsoring.

The CLC suggested that Kilby and Wilson submit their research proposal *Establishment of a forensic DNA database for rainbow trout* to the Restoration Act or the GLFC's Fishery Research Program. (Preproposals are next due in December 2003).

The CLC declined to sponsor

Gauthier et al. *A Workshop to Catalyze a Great Lakes Benthic Habitat Mapping Program* and  
Millard and Koops' *Ecopath with Ecosim Great Lakes Training Course*.

The CLC agreed to sponsor

Dempsey and Regier's *An Ever-new Story: an Ecosystemic Approach to Self-Sustaining Integrity of Great Laurentian Basin Fish and Fisheries from 1955 to 2005*;  
Ebener and Arts' *Whitefish Research Coordination Workshop Meetings*; Morrison and Mohr's *Great Lakes Lake Whitefish Modeling Review*, and  
Newman and Morencie's *A Data Sharing Protocol to Support a Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*.

[The Great Lakes Fish Health Committee will sponsor

Marcquenski's *Preparation of Materials for Agencies' Use in Briefing Anglers, Baitfish Operators, and fish Farmers on Heterosporis and Containment Measures.*]

[The Lake Michigan Committee will sponsor

Dexter's *Team-Building* and

Clapp et al.'s *Short-Term Analysis of Lake-Wide Forage Fish Biomass Data from Lake Michigan*.

It declined to sponsor

Barnes and Dartnell's *Publication of Maps and Perspectives of Selected Lake Trout Spawning Areas in Northern Lake Michigan*.]

[The Lake Ontario Committee will sponsor

Casselman and Cairns' *Publication of "International Eel Symposium", American Fisheries Society*.]

## **12. GLFHC – Recommended Actions to Contain *Heterosporis***

The Chair of the Great Lakes Fish Health Committee wrote to the CLC Chair recommending management actions to slow the spread of *Heterosporis*. The CLC asked that each CLC member be cc'd on the hard copy of the letter and that it be posted on the CLC's and the GLFHC's web pages. Each agency will report at the CLC's October meeting on its response to the GLFHC's recommendations. The CLC asked the GLFHC to monitor and report on range extensions of *Heterosporis*.

As recommended by Tammy Newcomb (MDNR), the GLFC will consult with the GLFHC on whether it is safe to transfer sea lamprey (for the sterile male program) from Lake Ontario where *Heterosporis* is found in low-density patches.

## **13. Lodge Study to Compare Impacts of Exotics v. Cost of Prevention**

Marg Dochoda (GLFC) will advise David Lodge (NDU) of the CLC's support for his study to contrast the impacts of exotics v. cost of prevention, and the willingness of its members to assist. She will append to the letter a list of CLC members with contact information.

## **14. Status of IJC Reference on Exotics**

John Gannon (IJC) reported on the status of the International Joint Commission's request for a reference on exotics. No funding would be provided until a reference was issued.

## **15. Status of Asian Carp Barrier & Regulations**

Chris Goddard (GLFC) updated the CLC on the status of the Asian carp barrier and each jurisdiction's regulations on possession of live fish. Mike Morencie (OMNR) advised that Ontario hoped by 2004 to regulate possession of live Asian carp. Tom Trudeau (ILDNR) advise of a number of situations whereby Asian carp could circumvent the electric barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Shipping Canal: a handful of culverts may connect to the old canal system; there is a little known creek; and there may be sheet flow from the DesPlaines River during flood conditions.

## **16. Status of U.S. National Aquatic Invasive Species Act**

Jonathan Champion (Northeast Midwest Institute) reviewed the status of the U.S. National Aquatic Invasive Species Act. In response to Chris Goddard (GLFC) he advised that screening will be more protective than previously when new species are proposed for import. Marg Dochoda (GLFC) noted that ten years ago 8,000 protest postcards were sent to the Dept. of Interior when it proposed a “clean list” approach for imports; she was pleased to hear that the aquaculture industry was now at least somewhat supportive of advance screening of species proposed for importation.

## **17. Status of Environmental Objectives**

The CLC will advise the GLFC that CAP grants and financial support for environmental objectives meeting / travel are appreciated and are being utilized by lake committees to produce environmental objectives. As environmental objectives near completion, the CLC will be better able to determine the kinds of support needed to realize environmental objectives, e.g. a GLFC habitat committee.

People developing environmental objectives for lake committees were urged to make use of GLFC offers of support, to consider attending related workshops and initiatives on other lakes, and to work together to identify and address common information needs. (The proposed Task Force of Technical Committee Chairs might be an appropriate forum for coordination.)

## **18. USACOE Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Act**

John Robertson (Wavelength, Inc.) reported on the status of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Act. Several CLC members will be asked to help screen proposals. Proposal size will likely be limited by availability of matching funds.

## **19. Restoration Act Proposals for CLC Approval**

Jack Wingate (MnDNR) reported to the CLC on the Restoration Act proposals that the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee is recommending that the Director of the USFWS select for funding:

*Adlerstein’s Analysis of Tagging Data to Quantify Lake Trout Migration in Lake Huron;*  
*Argyle’s In situ Determination of the Depth and Thermal Habitat Used by Chinook Salmon;*

*Clapsadl’s The Diet of Steelhead Trout in the Open Waters of Lake Erie;*

*Dettmers and Sparks’ Potential Impact of Steel-Hulled Barges on Movement of Fish*

*Across an Electric Barrier to Prevent the Entry of Invasive Carp into Lake Michigan;*

*Ebener’s Lake Huron Lake Whitefish Distribution;*

*Janssen’s and Wattrus’s Lake Trout Reproduction at the Mid-Lake Reefs, Lake Michigan;*

*Johnson’s Otolith Microchemistry for Percid Production Dynamics in Lake Erie;*

*Seelbach’s A Geographical Information System for Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat; and*

*Krueger’s Quality Control of Proposal Development and Review Process.*

Bo Bunnell (OSU) arranged for peer review of proposals, which were then reviewed by members of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee, i.e. Chair Jack Wingate (MNDNR), Brian Breidert (INDNR), Bill Culligan (NYDEC), Tom Gorenflo (CORA), Bill Horns (WDNR), Neil Kmiecik (GLIFWC), as well as Bob Adair (USFWS), Bo Bunnell (ODNR), Chuck Krueger (OMNR), and Bruce Morrison (OMNR).

## **20. Restoration Act Reauthorization and Funding Requests**

Bob Adair (USFWS) reported on the status of a report to Congress detailing Restoration Act accomplishments. The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act will be considered for reauthorization for FY 2005. He emphasized that grants are for projects as well as research, agreeing with Tammy Newcomb (MDNR) that it is often possible to identify management actions that resulted from Restoration Act research. Adair added that \$500,000 can buy more management-influencing research than management projects directly.

## **21. Review Process for Restoration Act**

Jack Wingate (MnDNR) & Chuck Krueger (GLFC) reviewed a proposed process to obtain peer reviews of proposals and to assess and communicate completion of projects funded by the Restoration Act.

## **22. Canada – Ontario Agreement: Opportunities for Coordination, Partnership and Leverage with U.S. Funding Outlets**

Bev Ritchie (OMNR) reported on opportunities afforded by the Canada-Ontario Agreement for coordination, partnership and leverage with U.S. funding outlets such as the Restoration Act.

## **23. Safety Inspections of U.S. State and Tribal Vessels**

Upon receipt of the U.S. Coast Guard's letter to its Marine Safety Offices specifying an inspection regime for non-federal fish management and assessment vessels, the CLC Chair and individual agencies, as appropriate, will write letters of appreciation to the U.S. Coast Guard. CLC members will alert their respective agencies to the inspection opportunity. For agency reference, the Secretariat will post the US Coast Guard letter and a list of Marine Safety Offices on the CLC's web page.

## **24. Proposed: CLC Task Force of Technical Committee Chairs**

While the CLC would welcome technical assistance and the opportunity for inter-lake exchange, there was concern regarding increasing the need for cross-border, out-of-lake-basin travel. The proposed task force could make use of conference calls, web conferencing, and perhaps the Habitat Committee monies that the GLFC set aside for environmental objectives travel. Another option to increase opportunities is to schedule all lake committees to meet together and in concurrent sessions in one week and in one location.

Dave McLeish (OMNR) and Mark Ebener (GLFC / CORA) will e-mail for CLC consideration a more detailed plan for the proposed Task Force of Technical Committee Chairs, including terms of reference and proposed task (s).

Bob Lange will talk to CLC members re bringing to the October meeting the proposal to co-schedule lake committees. Lake committees will discuss this proposal at their summer meetings.

### **25. Proposed: BOTE-Sponsored Technology Transfer Sessions for Lake Committee Meetings**

The CLC welcomed input from BOTE for a technology (and an expert speaker) to schedule at each year's common sessions of lake committee meetings. Vendors would be welcome to set up tables.

### **26. Status of CLC's Stocking Database and Protocol**

The CLC Chair will write a note thanking Chuck Bronte and Jessica Richards (USFWS) for updating and posting the stocking database. Marg Dochoda will forward to CLC a copy of the CLC protocol governing its database in order that they and Chuck Bronte may update contacts and procedures.

### **27. Revolving Fund for Support of Agency Travel**

Bob Lange (NYDEC) will draft a proposal for CLC consideration in October 2003 for a revolving fund of contributions to support agency travel associated with the Joint Strategic Plan.

### **28. Future Meetings**

The CLC will meet Tuesday, 21 October 2003 and 20 April 2004 at the Detroit Metro Airport. The Restoration Act Review Committee will meet 19 April 2004. Bill Horns (WDNR) requested a less dense agenda—particularly in October--in order to have more time to discuss items.

The Upper Lakes committees will meet the week of 22 March in Ann Arbor, MI. Depending on outcome of October discussions, the Lower Lakes Committees may also meet that week in Ann Arbor.

The Lower Lakes Committees will meet the week of 29 March at a location to be determined by the LEC during its 16, 17 June 2003 meeting.

### **29. Officers**

Jack Wingate (MNDNR) will serve as CLC Chair and Dave McLeish (OMNR) will serve as Vice Chair through the April 2005 meeting.

### **30. Other Business**

#### **a. USACOE Navigation Study**

Several news articles on the status and prospects of the St. Lawrence Seaway were brought to the attention of the CLC.

#### **b. Rapid Response to New Invaders: the Great Lakes Panel's Planning Initiative**

Bill Horns (WDNR) expressed concern that jurisdictions will be coerced to respond to new invaders in scientifically unsound but politically popular ways. He asked for discussion of the issue during the October meeting.

#### **c. Artificial Reefs: Fish Habitat, Fishing and Esthetics**

The CLC supports resolutions by Great Lakes United and others that call for stricter definitions of materials acceptable for construction of artificial reefs. The CLC will discuss further during its October meeting but there was support for environmental objectives to address artificial reefs, in particular the choice of materials, and legitimate fish habitat and angling opportunities. The CLC might be willing to sponsor a proposal that evaluates habitat and angling benefits of artificial reefs in the Great Lakes.



