

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee

Terms of Reference (26 January 2000)

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee reviews three-five page letters of intent to recommend proposals for financial support under the U.S. Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act. The Review Committee may subsequently request full proposals and peer reviews. Recommendations are forwarded to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Additional information may subsequently be requested by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who makes the final selection. The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Proposal Review Committee operates under the guidance of the Council of Lake Committees of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission.

Membership

The Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act provides that the Review Committee shall consist of representatives of all State Directors and Indian Tribes with Great Lakes fish and wildlife management authority in the Great Lakes Basin. The USFWS shall be represented by an observer. The Council of Lake Committees appoints the Chairman of the Review Committee, to serve a renewable term of two years.

Decision-making Process

- 1) Letters of intent are submitted by research institutions, management agencies, or Indian tribes.
- 2) Letters of intent are reviewed by one or more of the Lake Committees and ranked as high, medium, and low.
- 3) The Review Committee considers only letters of intent that have previously been reviewed, and ranked by one or more of the Lake Committees.
- 4) The Review Committee may subsequently request full proposals and peer reviews for selected letters of intent.
- 5) At least annually, the Review Committee recommends proposals that should be funded. Proposals recommended by the Review Committee will be forwarded to the appropriate Director or Indian tribe for letter of support.
- 6) The Review Committee meets at least annually, in conjunction with a meeting of the Council of Lake Committees.
- 7) Review Committee recommendations are forwarded to the Chair of the Council of Lakes Committees, who advises the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the recommendations.
- 8) Decisions are made by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, majority and minority opinions are provided to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 9) Entities or individuals represented on the Review Committee may submit proposals, however individuals associated with the proposal or with the

- submitting entity shall recuse themselves when the proposal is being considered by the Review Committee.
- 10) Members of the Review Committee shall respect intellectual property rights associated with letters of intent or proposals, and will not share letters of intent or deliberations of the committee. Lake Committee reviewers are similarly expected to handle letters of intent and proposals in confidence. The Chairman may respond to queries from a proponent regarding Review Committee advice to the USFWS on decisions regarding his or her letter of intent or proposal.
 - 11) The Review Committee advises the CLC regarding the Terms of Reference and the project review process.

Criteria for Evaluation

- 1) Proposals must be submitted in the manner and form prescribed by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 2) Proposals must be consistent with the goals of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, as revised in 1987, the Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries, the 1980 Joint Strategic Plan for the Management of Great Lakes Fisheries, the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and joint ventures established under the plan (see Appendix 1).
- 3) Not less than 25% of the cost of implementing any proposal may be paid in cash or in-kind by non-Federal sources.
- 4) Federal funds received by a state or local government may not be considered as a non-Federal source.
- 5) Proposals are based on results of the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study (see Appendix 2).
- 6) The Review Committee may recommend for funding only proposals that are consistent with Fish Community Objectives and related rehabilitation and assessment plans of the Lake Committees.

Appendix 1

Agreements and Legislation Referred to in the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act

Convention on Great Lakes Fisheries (1954) The Convention established the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, charging it with sea lamprey control and with advising the U.S. and Canada on issues and needed measures for Great Lakes fish.

<http://159.189.64.123/pubs/conv.htm>

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (as revised in 1987)

<http://www.ijc.org/agree/quality.html>

The Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/ch67.html>

A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries (as revised in 1997)

Operating under the Strategic Plan, fishery management agencies develop fish community and related environmental objectives for each lake, identify independent and collaborative plans for achieving these objectives, report on progress (annually and in state-of-the-lake reports), make recommendations to management agencies and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, and share data, particularly through compatible, automated information systems. Most notable, management agencies agreed that consensus must be achieved when management will significantly influence the interests of more than one jurisdiction.

<http://159.189.64.123/fishmgmt/sglfmp97.htm>

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan and joint ventures established under the plan. <http://northamerican.fws.gov/nawmphp.html>

Appendix 2

Summary of Recommendations from the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study

Numbering is for reference only and does not indicate priority.

1. Develop and adopt aquatic community and habitat goals and objectives to support ecosystem management.
2. Fully implement the Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries.
3. Conduct comprehensive and standardized ecological monitoring.
4. Standardize fish community assessment data and establish comprehensive fishery databases.
5. Develop offshore capabilities.
6. Fish community assessment program.
7. Fish community modeling.
8. Coordinate State and Native American tribal harvest monitoring and management: measure commercial and recreational fish catches.
9. Evaluate ecological effects of stocking and revise stocking strategies, as necessary, to be consistent with proposed aquatic community and habitat goals and objectives.
10. Ecological information clearinghouse / geographic information system.
11. Identify, inventory, protect and rehabilitate significant habitats.
12. Develop and implement action, restoration and/or enhancement plans for exploited, and/or declining indigenous aquatic species.
13. Develop and implement action / restoration plans for forage fish.
14. "Close the door" on nonindigenous species introductions.
15. Implement and expand effective sea lamprey control.
16. Great Lakes Fishery Commission line item funding for sea lamprey control efforts in the St. Mary's River.

17. Fund implementation of the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's basin-wide Sea Lamprey Barrier Plan.
18. Prevent or delay the spread of ruffe.
19. Determine the impacts of hydroelectric facilities and dam operations on fishery resources.
20. Increase involvement in the binational program to restore and protect Lake Superior and expand this mechanism to Lakes Huron, Erie and Ontario.
21. Establish uniform tissue and sediment contaminant levels used by various agencies for ecosystem health.
22. Broaden the scope of current state antidegradation policies, regulations and strategies.
23. Develop and implement an action plan to analyze contaminant level effects on aquatic resources.
24. Participate in Remedial Action Plans, Lakewide Management Plans, and the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program.
25. Salmonine egg viability.
26. Establish an isolation or quarantine facility.
27. Develop and epizootic epitheliotrophic disease (EEDV) diagnostic test.
28. Fish health.
29. Fish genetics.
30. Lethality of sea lamprey attacks.
31. Develop aquatic resource education programs.
32. Conduct a cormorant fishery predation study.