

Meeting Minutes
GLFHC Conference Call
6-26-06

Great Lakes Fish Health Committee
Conference Call Agenda
June 26, 2006 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

1. American Eel Presentation – 45 minutes - OMNR
2. VHS Updates – 10 minutes each
 1. OMNR – Lisa Miller-Dodd
 2. MI DNR – Gary Whelan
 3. ODW – Dave Insley
3. Committee Logistics – Gary Whelan – 20 minutes
 1. Potential late July – Aug Meeting
 2. Annual Meeting Items
4. Agency Updates – 5 minutes or less each
 1. MN DNR
 2. WI DNR
 3. IL DNR
 4. IN DNR
 5. MI DNR
 6. OMNR
 7. ODW
 8. PA FBC
 9. NY DEC
 10. DFO
 11. USFWS
 12. GLFC

National Fish and Wildlife Initiative Item will be handled on a future call.

Attendees

Rick Nelson
Rob McGregor
Darryl Bathel
Sue Marc
Al Kaas
Andy
Gary
Rod
Lisa
Sue
Ken
Alistair Mathers OMNR

1.--American Eel Item (Lisa)

Import did not go through this year.

(Alistair presented on ppt). Cultured by Southshore Trading in New Brunswick-(1-20 g). Background-eels found throughout eastern seaboard and lower gl. Adults may end up anywhere to spawn; have no homing.. Northern stocks live, spawn once and die after 20 yrs. May grow over a meter in length. LO and SLR eels represent over 25% of spawning stock. Important benthic predator and eats gobies. Its decline in recent yrs is reason for need to reintroduce. Decline began in 1990s. Reasons for decline are numerous and were highlighted. US marine fisheries does coordinate mgtmt and Canadian agencies planning. Stocking is the only option left to improve eel fishery.

Proposed disease testing explained and included histo and extensive virology on multiple cell lines. Lisa added that we do have 3 yrs history, but locations of collections are varied from yr to yr.

Comments and questions were fielded. Fish disease concerns center on pathogens encountered in bay of Fundy. Impact of commercial harvest not thought to be a factor. Reality is that those eels that migrate to LO are same population as those migrating to various loci on eastern seaboard and have been exposed to similar pathogens. Stocking will take place above major turbine barriers and will result in continued mortalities as eels migrate. Very expensive to modify turbines to accommodate eels passage. FHM's have previously been used to screen pathogens.

Gary asked if anyone had reservations about stocking eels this fall. Stocking to take place in August.

All were in agreement that stocking may proceed after '06 inspections are completed.

Bootlaced vs elvers--probably need to use bootlaced for now.

2.--VHS updates

OMNR-nothing new from LO. LSC-drum, smb bg are positive. YP from LE was negative. Muskie from detroit river underway. Algae related drum dieoff are unknown for VHS.

MI- gobies in lake michigan are dying but cause is unknown. Large mudpuppy die off in LE. Smb, gizz shad, rock bass, redhorse are vhs positive st clair. Giz shad were mortality. Nothing in Huron to date.

Ohio- morts are over. Ken phillips from lacrosse sampled nets (multiple loci on LE) –8-10 sampled spp. were positive. Positive fwd, wae, wb, smelt, yp, smb, em shiner, trout, perch. Yp and fwd did show signs of disease. Confirmed by Winton.

Most important clinical sign seems to be ascites, and hem is less apparent.

3.-Committee Logistics

request for recommendations for VHS from CLC are expected. What should we do to manage it. Transfers, imports, bait, open water egg collections, etc. iodophor treatment is considered effective for egg trtmnt.

July 27 is possible date for vhs meeting if CLC sends request. Need to start developing recommendations. Currently writing briefing statement. Allison explained that CLC requested meeting will be October, but dave said that we need earlier meeting to develop strategies before fall sampling.

Faisal challenged some salmonids in lab- found 25% mortality. Chin, LT, SHD.

APHIS wants to have conference call with gary next week.

Ken Stark-Annual Meeting–jan 30-31, cont ed on 2/1. In state college.

Illinois (Larry)-illinois river-asian carp-fish kill. Bloody fluid in abdomen. Then following week found more moribund fish downstream.

Sue-EED update. Did not isolate EED from 2006 LT sample from bayfield hatchery. Ron Hedrick needs 45K to conduct eed surveillance project and sue would like to see us find a way to get fundung.