

Lake Erie Committee
Cleary International Center
Windsor, ON
March 20-21, 2006

Executive Summary

Attendance: Roger Knight (OH DNR), Mike Morencie (OMNR), Kurt Newman (MI DNR), Rick Hoopes (PFBC), Bill Culligan (NYSDEC), Jeff Tyson (OH DNR), Kevin Kayle (OH DNR), Andy Cook (OMNR), Brian Locke (OMNR), Beth Wright (OMNR), Roger Kenyon (PFBC), Chuck Murray (PFBC), Jim Markham (NYSDEC), Don Einhouse (NYSDEC), John Dettmers (GLFC), Gavin Christie (GLFC)

1. Establishing TACs

After extensive and serious discussion about the model estimates of percid numbers, input form constituents, and the policy the LEC uses to make decisions regarding the total allowable catch (TAC), consensus was reached on allowable harvest limits. For walleye, the LEC agreed that the TAC will be 9.886 million fish, allocated among jurisdictions per the usual formula. For yellow perch, the TAC will be 16.48 million pounds, allocated among management units and jurisdictions per the established formulas.

Pursuant to these discussions, the LEC also recognized that it should continually seek to improve research to address gaps (e.g., M, R, etc.) in using the models.

The LEC asked Brian Locke to set up a workshop with the Quantitative Fisheries Center to include appropriate Lambda weighting factors and to properly include extra data from the Ohio central basin gillnet surveys into the model. This element will incorporate vetting of additional data under the auspices of the STC with participation of WTG and YPTG members. Any changes to existing procedures and model coding will be well documented to facilitate transparency. Could this be incorporated into a separate document? Document following the review in June.

The LEC agreed to regular, approximately every other month, conference call to check in with each other. The LEC also will plan a June 2006 meeting for LEC members only. This meeting is tentatively scheduled for the third week of June.

2. Sea Lamprey

Christie asked the LEC for its perspective regarding how well control efforts are proceeding. He summarized the estimates of 2005 spawner abundance, 2005 wounding rates, and the treatments scheduled for 2006.

The LEC reported that Markham and Kayle's modeling efforts with lake trout demonstrate that sea lamprey wounding is contributing to lack of lake trout restoration, but other factors also are involved. Culligan mentioned that the LEC has expressed concern about spawner abundance and wounding rates for the past several years, and it remains concerned about these high levels of both these metrics.

3. Public Statement Concerning TACs

The LEC agreed to the statement to be read at the open meeting about walleye and yellow perch TACs.