



Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee

Established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to improve and maintain fishery resources of Lake Huron through better communication and partnership.

Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee **Jay's Sporting Goods, Inc., Clare, Michigan** **Wednesday, April 13, 2016** **Approved Minutes**

Attendees: Bryan Darland, Dennis Gulau, Wendy Johnson, Jim Johnson, Ken Merckel, Jerry Lockhart, Terry Walsh, Jim McJohacaz, Ed Retherford, Jim DeClerck, Jim Dexter, Alan Seiferlein, Doreen Campbell, Lance Campbell, Neal Godby, Tim Cwalinski, Todd Wills, Brandon Schroeder, Donna Wesander, Nick Popoff, Lindsey Henski, John Novak, Larry DesLoover, Craig Milkowski, Dave Fielder, Julie Shafto, Judy Odgen, Tom Hamilton, Ed Eisch, Roger Greil, Thomas C. Pleger, Sydney Hank, Tim Hank, Fred Sterns, Ron Young, Jim Baker, Aaron Switzer, Gene Kirvan, Leo Mrozinski, Bob Kettner, Kent Herrick, Gary Boersen, Ji He, Randy Terrian, Todd Grischke, Frank Krist, Ed Roseman, Dick Barch, Ken Pletcher.

Welcome and Introductions: Frank Krist called the meeting to order. Attendees introduced themselves.

Steelhead net pen decisions and resulting stocking changes in Lake Huron (Todd Grischke):

The objective of the net pen study was to determine if holding steelhead in pens within a harbor produced a return fishery (return to anglers). The results of the study showed that at Van Etten Creek and Harbor Beach both the direct plants into Lake Huron and the net-penned fish had equal returns and therefore survival improvement with pens was insignificant. At Harrisville, penned steelhead returns were significantly lower than the direct plants. In conclusion, Fisheries Divisions recommendations are that acclimation pens did not provide a significant improvement in return of steelhead. Since return to creel was not improved, the use of acclimation pens for steelhead should be discontinued. Penning did provide some outreach and education opportunities.

Harrisville did not receive a plant of steelhead prior to the study beginning in 2010. During the net pen study, 30,000 steelhead were allocated to Harrisville. Since the study is completed, 10,000 will continue to be stocked in Harrisville, 10,000 will be stocked in Port Austin and 10,000 will go to Lexington.

The Van Etten Creek allocation of 40,000 steelhead during the study will be split with 20,000 being stocked in the creek and 20,000 being stocked at Rea Road. Committee members discussed stocking 20,000 steelhead at Van Etten Creek. It was questioned why these fish could not be all planted in the Au Sable River. Tim Cwalinski clarified that Van Etten Creek is part of the Au Sable River confluence, and discussed dispersal. The issue of which locations or location to stock these fish will be reviewed again next year.

Jim Dexter, Fisheries Division Chief, Capital Outlay:

Jim discussed Capital Outlay. Fisheries Division has been asking the legislature for years for funding support for our hatcheries. Currently, the legislature appears to be supporting the request. If the Capital Outlay requests are approved, improvements will be made to the Thompson State Fish Hatchery, the Manistee Weir and upgrades to the muskellunge program.

The *Little Manistee Weir* on the Little Manistee River in Manistee County is the sole egg collection facility for steelhead eggs that are hatched and reared at Wolf Lake and Thompson Hatcheries, as well as serving as the primary Chinook salmon egg collection weir. The weir is approaching 50 years of age and has critical infrastructure deficits that need to be upgraded.

Thompson State Fish Hatchery is one of two steelhead production facilities in Michigan and is the oldest of the six hatcheries in the fish production system. Steelhead is the sole salmonid species raised in Michigan Hatcheries where demand by the public and fishery managers is significantly higher than production capabilities. Currently, approximately 1/3 of the steelhead produced cannot be grown to optimal size due to insufficient water supplies and antiquated facilities. Hatchery improvements are needed to ensure all steelhead produced are healthy and reach a size conducive to optimal survival, thereby improving fishing opportunities in many communities suffering from the decline in the salmon fishery. Improvements will ensure that Thompson Hatchery can continue to be a productive element in the steelhead management program in Michigan well into the future.

Hatchery production of muskellunge and walleye fingerlings has historically been unable to meet demands for stocking by public groups and fishery managers in Michigan. The planned improvements will allow additional production of 15,000 muskellunge fingerlings (10 percent increase for the UP) and 250,000 additional walleye fingerlings (40% increase for the UP when compared to the past three years).

Atlantic Salmon Program Overview:

Lake Superior State University (LSSU) Atlantic salmon program (Roger Greil, Aquatic Research Laboratory Manager):

Roger discussed the history of stocking the upper great lakes with Atlantic salmon. In 1873 the Michigan Fisheries Commission was established. In 1909 Atlantic salmon were stocked in the St. Marys River. The State of Michigan was involved with Atlantic salmon from 1972-1982 with a 0-2% return. Wisconsin put some effort in for a few years, realized how tough the species was, and quit. Minnesota from 1980-1991 stocked 700,000 fish. They saw 0.1-5% return. So, why were these efforts abandoned? The problems encountered were poor returns, angler interests, the cost of needing more rearing space and holding the fish for over a year to reach the necessary size. Raising Atlantic salmon is tough!

Lake Superior State University (LSSU) and Edison Sault Electric Company formed a partnership in 1977. The east end of the electric plant would become LSSU's Aquatic Research Lab. Currently, Cloverland Electric Cooperative operates the hydroelectric facility and the partnership is critical for the success of the project.

LSSU maintains a research lab for hands on fish production training and experience for undergraduate students. In addition, the hatchery facilities provide the University with exposure since very few fish production facilities are operated by undergrads in the US. Their goal was not to stock fish or create a fishery but to train students. Several agency representatives present at the meeting received a degree from the program.

The Aquatic Research Lab is 3,500 square feet and provided with gravity fed water from the St. Marys River. The Lab is the sole source of eggs for both the DNR and LSSU. Atlantic salmon from LSSU have been harvested in all five of the Great Lakes!

The early days were a learning experience on what Atlantic salmon could tolerate – water supply, run off, densities, containers, and percent of total gases. These fish do not adapt, you must adapt to them. There have been ups and downs but good numbers have been produced for the past consecutive 6 years.

The adult returning fish begin to enter the river in June and the adults are obtained the last 3 days of October and placed in tanks to mature. The eggs are then generally taken from November 5 until November 15 or so. The goal is to obtain eggs from 100 pairs of fish with a one to one ratio of males and females. The yearling fish are released around the first week June when the water temperature is at least 46.4 °F. The most successful size for stocking has been between 6.7 to 8.6 inches long.

The fish are stocked as yearlings which are 1 year old. The bulk of the fish return after stocking as 2 or 3 year olds. The 2 year olds have spent 1 year in the lake while 3 year olds have spent 2 years in the lake. The 2 year olds range in size between 15 to 25 inches while the 3 year olds range in size between 24 to 36 inches. The 4 and 5 year olds are usually smaller than the 3 year olds.

The return of LSSU Atlantic salmon to the creel averaged 5.5% after the alewife collapsed in 2004, which is nearly 10 times the return to creel for steelhead during the same period. The return of Atlantic salmon to the St. Marys River has been as high as 8%. Some writers have noted that the St. Marys River Atlantic salmon fishery is one of the best Atlantic salmon fisheries in the world.

Michigan DNR Atlantic salmon program (Todd Grischke and Aaron Switzer, Manager Platte River, Oden and Harrietta State Fish Hatcheries)

Fish Production: Currently, the size of the yearling Atlantic salmon at the Platte River Hatchery is about the same size as the Lake Superior State University fish. This is very encouraging and the returns from these fish in the next two years should improve significantly. The 2016 growth is exceptional due to the warm weather. The fish are almost too big for what can be accommodated in the available space. The fish are in excellent condition and some are exceeding 7 inches in length this year.

Atlantic salmon are very sensitive to density in the raceways and gases in the water supply. When we started looking at how many raceways and what numbers per raceway, our original calculations were off and now the densities are too high. We moved some fish outside due to density, and almost immediately bacterial issues appeared.

If no other problems are encountered the following are the Atlantic salmon stocking projections for 2016:

St. Marys River	45,409
Au Sable River	47,279
Thunder Bay	37,978
Lexington	37,525

We are holding these fish and coordinating with local biologists on stocking the fish when the receiving waters approach a target temperature of about 50 °F. These projected stocking numbers are below the targets of

50000/50000/40000/40000, but bacterial issues and stressors were encountered. The targets are closer this year than last year, but we want to get better and hit our targets. Next year, the fish will be marked by hand instead of having the adipose fin removed by the machines in the marking trailer. When the fish are optimal size for processing in the trailer, the water temperature in the raceways is high and the fish are more susceptible to stress.

Question: Since the weather was an important factor in raising the fish to a larger size is there any improvements that can be made at the hatchery to enable good growth and less disease problems each season?

Answer: Installation of boilers would assist in accelerating the growth of the young fish and installation of an ultraviolet disinfection system on the Brundage Creek water source would reduce disease problems. Since Brundage Creek water is used throughout the hatchery, a new disinfection system would reduce disease concerns for all the fish raised in the hatchery. This would be an excellent investment.

Management Goals and Atlantic Salmon Workgroup discussions, recommendations: The DNR has typically been releasing Atlantic salmon less than 6.5 inches in length during April; however, survival has been poor. Lake Superior State University grows their fish to between 7 and 8 inches and releases them the first week of June when the water is warmer, resulting in much better survival. The DNR will attempt to stock later with larger fish at all stocking sites this spring to better approach the method used at LSSU.

At the Lake Superior State University Aquatic Research Laboratory, a hydroelectric generating bay is empty and available for the DNR to use as an acclimation pen before releasing approximately 45,000 Atlantic salmon into the St Marys River. The Department is addressing some concerns such as holes, logistics, practical complications, and installing blocking nets to minimize fish escapes. The DNR dive team from Charlevoix screened in holes, installed nets above the water, and chained nets to the bottom during March and the final set up looks good! If successful, the DNR fish should continue to grow and be acclimated to the River. Since both the LSSU and DNR fish will be released at the same time, this experiment should provide a good comparison of survival.

Discussion of the life history of round goby, efforts to develop an effective method to survey goby and the results of the 2015 Lake Huron forage survey (Ed Roseman, USGS Great Lakes Science Center)

2015 Prey Fish Survey Results:

Prey fish survey objectives are to estimate the annual abundance and biomass for common species, and examine trends in abundance.

The acoustic mid-water survey for 2015 was conducted September 8-29, with 26 transects, and 37 mid water trawls.

- **Alewife:** none were encountered and have been low for the last decade
- **Rainbow smelt:** Young of the year were up slightly and yearlings and older were down slightly
- **Bloater chubs:** Young of the year increased 9 times with a small increase in yearlings and older fish. Lake wide density and biomass of chubs are stable but since mid-water surveys are relatively new there is no long time series to compare with.

2015 Fall Bottom Trawl Survey was conducted from October 14-28 with all the usual sites in the Main Basin being sampled.

- **Alewife:** Are rare in Lake Huron.

- **Rainbow smelt:** Young of the year rainbow smelt were down slightly from 2014 and yearlings and older smelt remain at very low levels.
- **Bloater chubs:** Young of the year bloater are down from 2014 but remain at high levels. Yearlings and older are down from 2014 but remain at high levels.
- **Slimy and deepwater sculpins:** remain at very low levels.
- **Ninespine stickleback:** Abundance is up slightly from 2014 but the overall abundance remains low.
- **Trout-perch:** Abundance remains at very low levels
- **Round Goby:** Reliable survey methods are being developed

Overall, alewife are almost absent from the surveys. Rainbow smelt are low in the main basin, higher in North Channel. Bloaters are the dominant prey type. Benthic species remain low. Prey fish sizes are small. Full reports are available online, at the Great Lakes Fishery Commission website

http://www.glfcc.org/lakecom/common_docs/Compiled%20Reports%20from%20USGS%202016.pdf .

Diet Study: USFWS, MDNR, USGS, MSU are proposing to do another diet study in 2017-2018. Bags and tags would be provided. A total of 6717 fish stomachs were obtained and used in the 2009-2011 Diet Study. Since Lake Huron is constantly changing there is a need to conduct another study. Frank indicated that the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee would assist and get the word out.

Round Goby Life History: Round goby are present in all Great Lakes, some inland lakes and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Round goby like rocky habitat with large amounts of interior space. Their diet consists of quagga and zebra mussels, small fishes, fish eggs, and small benthic invertebrates. Round goby eggs are deposited in a nest on the underside of stable surfaces. They have a lengthy spawning season, with multiple spawning events during each season. The males guard the nests and are aggressive. There are high fertilization and survival rates. In the Great Lakes goby mature in 1 year. Newly hatched larval goby suspend in the water column during the nighttime.

Sampling Round Goby: The Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Huron Technical Committee asked the question this past winter: Are we effectively sampling round goby? There is now an assignment to assess the effectiveness of our existing program to sample abundance, biomass, distribution, and population dynamics. We will be examining sampling protocols from other systems (species) for innovative sampling techniques that improve estimates. The approach will be to confer with agencies involved in fisheries assessment and monitoring to determine sampling techniques and locate round goby collections. Review will cover all the results from the different agencies including gear summary of; nighttime larval fish nets; minnow traps for nearshore, rivers and fish in rocky and weedy habitats; limitation of seines for nearshore rocky and weedy habitats, bottom trawls nearshore and offshore. An extensive literature review will be conducted. The review will also include work done in the Old World native habitat of the goby along with related research in other areas.

Some proposals for project funding have been submitted. The goal is to identify and evaluate approaches that provide more accurate and reliable goby abundance estimates. New innovative and advanced technologies will be explored including: fixed-point video, automatic still photos, eDNA, robotic counting of gobies, and other specialized techniques. Evidence is mounting that round goby are a major forage fish species in several of the Great Lakes and inland waters and accurately measuring abundance and learning goby habits are crucial to the management of these waters.

Law Enforcement annual report (Craig Milkowski and Larry Deslover, Law Enforcement Division):

The Commercial Fisheries Great Lakes Law Enforcement Unit includes a Unit Supervisor, four Commercial Fisheries Specialists, and one Investigator. The unit has numerous vacancies even though many candidates have been graduating from CO training the past couple of years. The Commercial Fisheries Unit conducts maritime security; aquatic invasive species and aquatic disease; complaints and violations; state border patrol; training and education; and public contacts and inspections.

Maritime security: is provided at many events around the State and the Unit is involved in disaster responses and training such as the Enbridge Pipeline mock disaster in the Straits of Mackinac.

Complaints, violations and inspections: Complaint and violation investigations are conducted for the State commercial fishery and Tribal commercial fisheries in the 1836 and 1842 Treaty Waters. In addition, there are a large number of contacts and inspections for these same programs. Fish wholesale operations are included in the work.

Aquatic Invasive Species and Aquatic Disease: Complaints and investigations in this area are increasing because of growing efforts by individuals to import illegal non-native live plants and animals for bait, food, pets and gardens. The DNR works with several other agencies to deal with the multi-jurisdictional regulations including USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

State Border Work: The DNR Law Enforcement works with other agencies including the US Coast Guard and State Police to investigate border crossing violations and other border work.

Training and Education: The Unit Officers provided training at the Department's 22 week police academy in fish ID/enforcement, as well as commercial fishing, aquatic invasive species and bait industry enforcement

Law Enforcement New Staffing update: 44 Conservation Officer Recruits were hired January 2015 and 35 successfully completed the 22 week police academy along with 18 weeks of field training, 3 specialized break out training weeks, the probation process and are now assigned to the field.

24 Conservation Officers started the academy in January 2016 and 23 of those are still in the process. Upon successful completion of all the required training they will be assigned to the field during mid-fall of 2016. Depending on funding, Law Enforcement's future plan is to hold promotional interviews to increase the size of the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit from the current staffing level of 5 officers to that of 9.

Comments: Several Advisors indicated that it is about time that some of the new recruits that have been graduating over the past few years be assigned to the Great Lakes Enforcement Unit.

Craig and Larry discussed a sample of activities from 2015.

Final preparations for the Sea Grant Spring Lake Huron Workshops (Brandon Schroeder, Michigan Sea Grant):

2016 Lake Huron Regional Fisheries Workshops will be held in Bay City, Thursday, April 19; Uby/Bad Axe, Thursday, April 21; Cedarville, Tuesday, April 26; and Alpena, Wednesday, April 27.

These are excellent opportunities for anyone interested in the fisheries of Lake Huron to learn more, provide comments and ask questions. The workshops are free and registration is desired but not required.

Strategy for Reducing Lake trout stocking in Lake Huron (Todd Grischke):

The *Strategy for Reducing Lake trout stocking in Lake Huron* was distributed by Todd Grischke, see attached*. The Lake Huron Technical Committee, composed of biologists and managers from Michigan, the Tribes and Ontario, was asked to define parameters to use for evaluating the need to reduce or eliminate lake trout stocking in Lake Huron. The following 3 criteria were recommended

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- Survival rate of stocked lake trout year classes
- Production (recruitment) of wild lake trout
- Abundance of wild adult lake trout

These criteria will be evaluated separately for 6 regions of Lake Huron. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission will be compiling an implementation strategy soon to reduce/eliminate lake trout stockings in the near future. When will anglers see this? Lake trout are reared in Federal hatcheries. Prescribed fish for 2016 and 2017 are already in the system. Therefore, 2018 is potentially the earliest a change could be implemented.

Question and Answer: Will the Consent Decree language be a part of these discussions? The Tribes have representation on the Lake Huron Technical Committee and they are very much a part of this discussion.

Fisheries Division Manager Updates:

Jim Dexter, Fisheries Division Chief – Jim extended his thanks to Frank Krist for his leadership, this meeting is great, as 47 participants, great presentations, and great participation demonstrates. Jim also, thanked Brandon Schroeder for his excellent work on the workshops and topics! A joint meeting with Lake Michigan will take place **June 22**. The agenda will include potential Lake Michigan Chinook salmon stocking cuts. Chinook salmon stocked in Lake Huron will be part of the discussion. Jim also thanked Todd Grischke for his work as Basin Coordinator. Todd is moving soon to his new position as Assistant Fisheries Chief. Great work by all staff! This basin has gone through the ringer, but has made some great changes, and the staff and communities have really pulled together.

Todd Grischke, Lake Huron Basin Coordinator – Lake Huron Fish Community Objectives are in draft form. A working session will take place the end of April and the beginning of May. We will come out of that discussion with a timeline on working with those fish community objectives. Working with this committee has been a lot of fun, and I appreciate all of your support. As I move into the Assistant Chief role, I will continue to attend some committee meetings. A proposal to target a 50% reduction in cormorant nest pairs in Saginaw Bay was completed by Wildlife and Fisheries, and communicated to USDA. This was a long process, and at our last meeting we agreed to move forward with our proposal of a 50% reduction in nest pairs in Saginaw Bay. Then we got news of a federal lawsuit affecting cormorant control. We are waiting to see what control will mean for 2016 and beyond.

Ed Eisch, Fish Production Manager – Celebrated the 50th anniversary of the salmon stocking program in the Great Lakes. Good turnout with Dr. Tanner present. Quality of Life agencies (DNR, DEQ and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) came out recommending that Great Lakes net pen aquaculture not be permitted. For details of the outcome and process see this link, http://www.michigan.gov/mdard/0,4610,7-125-48096_48099_71766---,00.html

Jim Dexter mentioned the Capital Outlay process for upgrading hatchery infrastructure and the documents are being prepared to move that project forward.

Jim Baker, Southern Lake Huron Unit Supervisor –

- Fishing pressure on Saginaw Bay and southern Lake Huron has been almost non-existent since mid-March due to the lousy weather. The few boats that have gotten out on the bay have done fairly well on walleye, but have been hampered by the consistently muddy water.
- Trout and salmon fishing at Lexington, Port Sanilac and Harbor Beach has just barely gotten underway, again due to the consistently lousy weather. The lake off Lexington was muddy out to 80 feet of water as of the middle of last week.
- Walleye tagging on the rivers is completed for this year. Thanks to the crew from the Lake St. Clair Research Station for bringing their shocking boat up and helping us out. In total, we tagged 1,923 on the Tittabawassee, 750 on the Kawkawlin, 150 in the Au Gres, 127 in the Shiawassee, and 50 in the lower Rifle. Three hundred of the 3,000 fish carry reward tags. In total, our two crews spent 13 days to get the tagging done.
- The cold weather has caused the walleye spawn to be a drawn-out affair this year. The peak of the spawn was last week, which actually matches well with when it would fall in a year with “average” spring weather.
- All 5 of our walleye ponds are filled, and the fry will be going in tomorrow (4/14) and Friday (4/15). The Sanford Pike Marsh is also up and running and stocked with adult fish. (We put adult pike into the marsh and then just let Nature do the rest. In 6 weeks we’ll have lots of little pike to plant.)
- We’ve done one early lake survey, on Holloway Reservoir in Genesee and Lapeer counties, to look at the walleye population. The crew got enough walleyes for a decent assessment, but they said if they never see another channel catfish it’ll be too soon!

Fish plants have started:

- The upper Rifle received small steelheads from Thompson Hatchery on Monday (4/11).
- Steelheads from Wolf Lake went into the Chippewa River on Tuesday (4/12).
- Today(4/13) the Pigeon and Pinnebog get steelheads from Wolf Lake and the upper East Branch Au Gres will get steelheads from Thompson.
- Tomorrow (4/14) Wolf Lake is planting steelheads at Lexington, Port Austin, and the Tawas River.
- Monday (4/18) Marquette Hatchery is planting lake trout at Harbor Beach.
- There will be more plants coming, but those are the ones currently scheduled.
- Our field crew is pretty depleted right now; we have one unfilled vacant technician position, one tech on medical leave after shoulder surgery, and one assigned to hatchery truck driving for Wolf Lake. Thanks to the Wildlife Division for loaning us some bodies to help out with all our assorted projects.
- ***But other than that, there is nothing much going on.***

Aaron Switzer, Northern Lower Peninsula Hatchery Manager – We had a good walleye egg take. Platte has been experimental, but looks like we will have a good hatch. We are ready to get rid of fish at the hatcheries!

Nick Popoff, Aquatic Species and Regulatory Affairs Unit Supervisor – Natural Resources Commission meets tomorrow, we have one order up for action; Bait Fish Order, with some changes regarding restrictions due to VHS. Industry needs to test at certain times of the year, and zones are going away. If you collect your own bait, you would only be allowed to use that bait in the water you collected it in. At the May Natural Resources Commission

meeting, Fish Order 200 will go up for information. Chumming for steelhead in some Lake Michigan Rivers is controversial so this issue will be discussed.

Donna Wesander, Charlevoix Research Station– Charter season is just getting started. Boats are still getting inspected. Law Enforcement Division has been a great asset again in tracking down delinquencies. They helped with over 40 contacts. Currently, we have 100% compliance.

Todd Wills, Lake Erie & Lake Huron Great Lakes Research Station Manager –

- The Alpena Fisheries Research Station is transitioning from a major information sharing time of year over to the field season. Much work has been spent over the past few months preparing data and summaries for regular meetings such as the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Lake Committee meetings and the Sea Grant Lake Huron fishery workshops. Field season is just around the corner, and the spring Lake Trout survey will begin soon.
- Staff have also been very busy preparing for the R/V Tanner delivery, with frequent site visits to Andersen Boat Works in downstate Douglas to monitor build progress and meet with the builders and marine architect. The vessel is nearing the final stages of completion, with the fine "fit and finish" details such as electronics installation and cabinetry work being completed. We are also awaiting delivery of some of the last pieces of deck equipment, like the hydraulic winches and deck crane.
- We are excited to take delivery of the Tanner and work the new vessel into our survey schedule. This field season will be a learning experience for everyone, as we learn the capabilities of the new vessel and equipment. It is an exciting time for our large vessel program, as the R/V Channel Cat out of Lake St. Clair was repowered this winter. The Channel Cat visits Saginaw Bay each year for the fall trawl survey. The new Tanner and repowered Channel Cat will bring much improvement to our Lake Huron survey programs.

Tim Cwalinski, Senior Fisheries Biologist – The stocking period has begun but with snow holding on, we are trying to hold off as much as possible. Tim mentioned the Northern Inland Lakes Citizen Fishery Advisory Committee which Frank Krist also chairs along Tim. That Committee covers similar issues as this Committee and the focus is on Black, Burt, Mullett, Crooked and Pickerel Lakes but participants from other lakes often attend. The Committee will meet this coming Monday April 18, 2016. If you are interested in attending or receiving the minutes, contact Frank. Inland lake surveys are starting soon as are the walleye ponds.

Neal Godby, Senior Fisheries Biologist –Field surveys are beginning with much instream habitat work planned. Groups are excited to be involved. A reminder that Atlantic salmon photos showing all the fins of a fish are very important for documenting the success of the program. Please keep the data coming.

Ed Roseman, USGS – Last fall we collected a bunch of cisco eggs, fertilized them, and brought them back to our wet lab. We had a good hatch and our experiments are underway. If you are in Ann Arbor stop in, take a tour, and see what is happening. Our large vessels crew in Cheboygan just received new equipment to help with trawls. Vessel crew vacancies are open for recruitment.

Adjourn

Remaining meeting dates for 2016

- Wednesday June 22, 2016 at Jay's Sporting Goods Inc. in Clare
- Wednesday October 12, 2016 at Jay's Sporting Goods Inc. in Clare

***The handouts may be obtained by emailing Frank Krist at krist@speednetllc.com.**