

Terms of Reference

For the

Lake Sturgeon Task Group

of the

Lake Michigan Committee

Membership and Participation:

Chairman: The Lake Michigan Committee (LMC) selected Rob Elliott of the USFWS Fishery Resource Office in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Steering Committee: To help facilitate organization of the Task Group and its duties, a steering committee composed of the following individual is established:

- Rob Elliott - chairman (USFWS)
- Ed Baker (Michigan Dept of Natural Resources)
- Fred Binkowski (UW Milwaukee GLWI)
- Ron Bruch (Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources)
- Marty Holtgren (Little River Band of Ottawa Indians)

Members: The Steering Committee, in consultation with the LMC, will establish the size and composition of the Task Group, recognizing that all governmental agencies represented on LMTC may have at least one representative on the Task Group.

Resource Persons: The Task Group may invite any number of individuals from governmental agencies, universities, or other organizations to provide needed expertise.

Agency Commitment: The level of agency commitment will reflect the magnitude and urgency of the issue(s) to that particular agency. All LMTC member agencies are encouraged to participate, but it is recognized that some issues addressed by the Task Group may be of lower importance to some agencies.

Function and Scope: Task Groups will conduct specialized assignments as requested by the Lake Michigan Committee. The Task Group chairman will consult with the LMTC chairman and/or the LMC to establish clear work objectives, timelines, and establish a product-reporting format.

The overall goal for the Lake Sturgeon Task Group (LSTG) will be: To develop and recommend a lakewide rehabilitation plan for lake sturgeon in Lake Michigan that is consistent with the Fish Community Objectives. The rehabilitation plan should utilize existing agency rehabilitation plans as

a starting platform. A propose outline for the plan should be provided to the LMC by October 1, 2003.

Objective 1. (Immediate need) Review current sturgeon-stocking proposals within the basin relative to their compatibility with stocking issues identified by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust sponsored workshop and other pertinent documents. The LMC requests a short assessment of these proposals prior to initiation of 2003 culture or stocking activities.

Objective 2. (Immediate need) Review rehabilitation research needs with particular emphasis on “applied” rehabilitation projects that would be eligible for funding by the Great Lakes Fishery Trust. The GLFT is currently funding most identified lake sturgeon research projects, and is interested in considering projects that are more aggressively oriented toward specific rehabilitation projects (“directed”) grants. If such projects can be identified and proposed by June 2003, the GLFT will consider the desired approach in its July funding cycle.

Objective 3. (Long-term) Identify and recommend lake sturgeon management and research issues and priorities.

Objective 4. (Long-term – lower priority) Develop and recommend lake sturgeon public information and education initiatives.

Coordination: The Task Group chairman will coordinate activities and present progress reports to the LMTC pursuant to timelines established by the LMC.

Frequency of Meetings: Task Group will meet as often as deemed necessary by the Task Group or the LMC.

April 2003