

Terms of Reference

For the

Lake Superior Technical Committee

Committee Name: Lake Superior Technical Committee (LSTC)

Function and Scope: The LSTC shall conduct work assignments as requested and prioritized by the Lake Superior Committee (LSC). The LSC will consult with the LSTC to establish and maintain clear work objectives, prioritize tasks, and establish a product-reporting format. The LSTC may invite resource persons as members see fit. The LSTC may also form internal “working groups” (ad hoc or permanent sub-committees) as the members deem necessary to fulfill their ongoing, technical advisory responsibilities.

Membership and Participation:

Chair: A chair may be selected from any LSTC member agency, and in no particular sequential order of agencies. A chair will be expected to serve a term of three years. At the expiration of the term of service, the LSC will solicit a volunteer from the LSTC member agencies to serve as chair, or if agreed upon by the LSC, the existing chair may serve for an additional specified timeframe. If there are no volunteers among LSTC members to serve as chairman, the current vice-chair will assume the role of chair and a new vice-chair must be provided by the next member agency in the rotation (*see Rotation of Chair/Vice-chair*).

If a chair is unable to complete a three year term, the LSC will request a volunteer from the member agencies to serve as chair. If there are no volunteers from LSTC member agencies, the vice-chair will assume the role. The three-year rotational schedule will reset whenever a volunteer or vice-chair assumes the duties of chair, and the next agency in rotation will provide a new vice-chair.

This selection process is intended to distribute the workload among all participating agencies, while at the same time providing an opportunity to individuals and agencies to serve as the chair of the LSTC if so desired.

Vice-chair: The vice-chair will be provided by the next member agency as specified in the *Rotation of Chair/Vice chair* section below. The role of the vice-chair is to assist the chair of the LSTC and serve as chair *pro-tem* as appropriate. If the current chair cannot continue in that role, and/or if there are no volunteers among LSTC member agencies to assume the role of chair, the vice-chair will assume the role of chair.

Member agencies: Member agencies shall be signatory to the “*Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*”.

- A single representatives from the following State and Provincial fishery management agencies;
 - * Michigan Department of Natural Resources
 - * Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 - * Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 - * Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
 - * Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission
 - * 1854 Treaty Authority
 - * Chippewa – Ottawa Resource Authority

- A single representative from each of the constituent tribal bands participating in each of tribal entity listed above.

- A single representative from each of the following agencies /research organizations;
 - * USFWS Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office – Ashland
 - * USFWS Sea Lamprey Control
 - * USGS Great Lakes Science Center
 - * DFO Sea Lamprey Control
 - * DFO Fishery Management/Research

Resource Persons: The LSC or the LSTC chair may invite any interested individuals with needed expertise to attend meetings and participate in LSTC activities, but these individuals shall not participate in consensus decision-making.

Rotation of Chair/Vice-chair:

Vice-chairs will rotate after the annual lake committee meetings in March coinciding with the change of chairmanship of the LSTC (e.g. every three years), in the following order (rotation beginning March 2018):

- * USGS
- * OMNRF
- * USFWS
- * MI DNR
- * GLIFWC or GLIFWC member tribe
- * 1854 Treaty Authority
- * WDNR
- * CORA member tribe
- * MN DNR

* DFO

Agency and member commitments: To ensure accomplishment of Lake Committee objectives and assignments, agencies are expected to commit appropriate personnel and resources to LSTC activities in their annual agency work plans. All members and resource persons are expected to participate in LSTC assignments in an equitable manner, and in a manner conducive to their expertise and their agency's interest in a particular issue.

Consensus: Consistent with terms of *A Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries*, the LSTC shall operate under a consensus format. In this regard, there is no formal voting mechanism. The LSTC is encouraged to work toward consensus, but if consensus cannot be achieved, the LSTC shall present the varying opinions or positions to the LSC for resolution.

Frequency of Meetings: The LSTC is encouraged to meet at least twice annually. More frequent meetings or conference calls may be needed to address issues that require urgent and/or timely action.

Adopted by the Lake Superior Committee: October 13, 2017